

December 8, 2020

The Honorable Joseph Biden  
President-Elect of the United States of America  
Washington, DC

Dear President-Elect Biden:

We, the undersigned 234 organizations, urge your incoming Administration to immediately grant a new Temporary Protected Status designation for Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador and include Guatemala as a consequence of the severe devastation caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America immediately after taking office in January 2021.

Under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the U.S. government can immediately provide protection for thousands of Central American immigrants who are unable to return to their home countries due to devastation caused by recent consecutive hurricanes and tropical storms which aggravated dire conditions in Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Nationals of those countries living in the U.S. are a key source of financial support to families in Central America and will also send goods to their loved ones in the region. They also provide support to multiple Central American community and advocacy organizations actively working with allies and communities on the ground that have been unable to rely on national governments which have been slow to respond. Temporary Protected Status is a life-saving tool. In 1998, the same Central American region was devastated by Hurricane Mitch which left at least 11,000 people dead and thousands missing. A new designation can help stabilize the region while the Central American governments work to provide emergency aid to those impacted by these storms, and already suffering the economic effects of the current global health pandemic, which has also negatively impacted public health and the regional economy.

On November 4, 2020 Hurricane Eta made landfall in the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua as a category 4 hurricane and weakened to a tropical depression before entering Honduras. Two weeks later, and only 15 miles apart, Hurricane Iota made landfall again in the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua as a category 4 storm. Both hurricanes impacted Central America with strong winds and heavy rains damaging critical infrastructure such as airports in Honduras, hospitals, schools, bridges, roads, and water systems. Remote communities, already suffering from the health and socio-economic fallout of COVID-19 are particularly vulnerable to the double burden of a pandemic and the devastation wrought by Eta and Iota. Initial reports of the impacts of both Hurricanes Eta and Iota on these countries estimate even greater devastation than what Hurricane Mitch caused.

The aftermath of these storms are emerging as a major humanitarian crisis in Central America. More than 4.9 million people from Panama to Belize are affected. The most severe impacts are being felt in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala, but also several areas in El Salvador. In all the affected areas, the communities most impacted are Black and Indigenous: Garifuna, Miskito, many indigenous groups who already suffer from historical patterns of exclusion and discrimination, resulting in disproportionate levels of poverty and geographic isolation. Besides the loss of life, thousands of families lost their homes and livelihoods in the midst of a deadly pandemic. It would be unconscionable to return Central Americans seeking relief from the hurricanes back to an emergency and humanitarian crisis in their countries from which it will take years to recover.

We stand in solidarity with communities in Central America and ask that your Administration join us in standing with them by using its power to grant immediate protection in the form of Temporary Protected Status to nationals of those countries living in the U.S. left vulnerable by the devastation and existing structural barriers to a timely, relevant, and sustainable recovery in Central America.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. Should you need additional information or have further questions please do not hesitate to contact Mony Ruiz-Velasco at Alianza Americas via email at [mruizvelasco@alianzaamericas.org](mailto:mruizvelasco@alianzaamericas.org) or phone at (773) 428-0164 or Laura Esquivel at Hispanic Federation at [lesquivel@hispanicfederation.org](mailto:lesquivel@hispanicfederation.org) or 202.210.2096.

Sincerely,

Adhikaar  
AFL-CIO  
African Career, Education & Resources, Inc.  
Alianza Americas  
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas  
America's Voice  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Humanist Association  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
Americans for Immigrant Justice, Inc.  
Arab Resource and Organizing Center  
Arkansas United  
ARTE Inc.  
Asylee Women Enterprise

Asylum Access  
Asylum-seekers Sponsorship Project  
Bay Area Asylum Support Coalition (BAASC)  
Bender's Immigration Bulletin (LexisNexis)  
Boston University International Human Rights Clinic  
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC  
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (CCIJ)  
Caminando Juntos - Presentation Sisters  
CASA  
Casa Mary Johanna  
Casareina  
Catholic Charities of SW Kansas  
Catholic Charities Tompkins Tioga  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.  
Catholic Migration Services  
Center for Latino Progress - CPRF  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Central American Black Organization  
Central American Resource Center - CARECEN DC  
Central American Resource Center - CARECEN Los Angeles  
Central American Resource Center --CARECEN San Francisco  
Centro Comunitario CEUS  
Centro Presente  
Centro Romero  
Chicago Community and Workers' Rights  
Chispa, LCV  
Church World Service  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Coalition of Latino Leaders-CLILA  
Columbia Law School Immigrants' Rights Clinic  
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County Inc.  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
COPAL Minnesota  
Corazon Latino  
CRECEN  
Culinary Union  
Desert Support for Asylum Seekers  
DIF Municipal  
Dolores Street Community Services  
Dreamer Fund

Durango Unido en Chicago  
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant  
El/La Para TransLatinas  
Equality California  
Equality North Carolina  
Erie Neighborhood House  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Family Action Network Movement  
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project  
Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Galeria de la Raza  
Grassroots Leadership  
Grupo Folklórico Nicaragüense Malinche  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
HANA Center  
Hartford Knights Corp.  
HIAS  
Hispanic Federation  
Hispanic Health Network  
Hispanics in Philanthropy  
Hispanos Unidos De Buffalo Inc.  
Hondureños Contra el SIDA  
Horizons Unlimited of San Francisco, Inc.  
Houston Migrant Outreach Coalition  
Human Rights First  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Illinois Dream Fund  
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigrant Legal Defense  
Immigration Hub  
Immigration Institute of the Bay Area  
Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA)  
Immigration Team of Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Indivisible Chicago Alliance  
Inmimex  
Institute for Policy Studies - Global Economy Project  
Instituto Familiar de La Raza  
Intercultural Counseling Connection  
International American Relief Society IARS

International Institute of New England  
International Refugee Assistance Project  
IRIS Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Svcs  
Jacqueline Batres Bonilla  
Jesuit Social Research Institute  
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Jon Wu Attorney  
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Legal Services for Children  
Lila LGBTQ Inc.  
Loisaida, Inc.  
Lost In Translation  
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Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Mano a Mano Family Resource Center  
Marigold Project  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Michigan Coalition for Human Rights  
Migrant Center for Human Rights  
Mission Housing  
Mission Neighborhood Centers  
Mission Neighborhood Health Center  
Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs  
MoveOn  
NAKASEC Virginia  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Lawyers Guild - S.F. Bay Area, Immigration Committee  
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Nebraska Appleseed  
Neighbors Link Community Law Practice  
Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala  
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New Sanctuary Coalition NYC  
Nicaragua Center for Community Acton  
NorCal TPS Coalition  
NWI Resist  
ONECA  
Open Immigration Legal Services  
Operation Exodus Inner City  
Oxfam America  
Pangea Legal Services  
Pax Christi Illinois  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights (PODER)  
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Quixote Center  
Rays of Freedom  
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Remi  
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Salvadoran Association of Los Angeles  
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San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center  
Secretaría de salud  
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Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)  
SHARE Foundation  
Sierra Club  
Silver State Equality-Nevada  
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St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Athol, MA  
Still Waters Anti-trafficking Program  
Strangers No Longer (Michigan)  
The Jus Semper Global Alliance  
The National Immigration Law Center  
The Women's Building  
Triangle Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Unite Here  
United Stateless  
United We Dream  
University of Maryland Carey Immigration Clinic  
University of San Francisco Immigration & Deportation Defense Clinic  
UNLV Immigration Clinic  
We Rise SF  
Welcoming Immigrants Housing Project

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club  
Win Without War  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Witness at the Border  
WOLA (Washington Office on Latin America)  
Women Working Together USA  
Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)  
Workers Center of Central New York  
Working Families United  
Yo'on ixim



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President Donald J Trump  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

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Welcoming Immigrants Housing Project  
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club  
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