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President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear President Obama and Secretary Johnson,

We, the undersigned attorneys, law firms, and legal service providing organizations ask that the Department of Homeland Security designate Guatemala and issue a new designation for El Salvador and Honduras for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Through our experience educating, representing, and providing legal services to youth, families, and individuals from these countries within detention centers, shelters, and in communities across the country, we know that there are not enough legal resources to help these families seek protection under current laws and TPS is the only way to ensure this population is safe.

The widespread violence and government inability to provide protection to citizens in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras has been well documented, and as such, any deportations to these countries, regardless of someone's ability to successfully navigate the complicated asylum system here in the United States, is both irresponsible and inhumane. Since 2014, the United States has implemented a deterrence strategy towards these countries by focusing resources on detention, electronic ankle monitors, and now, raids that have placed the immigrant community across the country into a state of fear. These tactics have been unsuccessful in curbing the flow of children and families to our borders, not because they are undaunted by our immigration laws, but because they are truly fleeing for their lives.

The Department of Homeland Security has the ability to respond to urgent humanitarian crises by extending temporary protections, and shielding from deportation, individuals who are fleeing country conditions such as those in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. We applaud the recent developments to expand the US refugee admissions program for individuals in these countries, but this program expansion does nothing to address those that have already made the arduous journey to the United States.

The United States has a responsibility to not return children and families to the extreme violence that runs rampant in these countries. The detention and deportation strategy has failed to provide the protection that these individuals need, and it is due time to respond to this crisis with the fair and humane solution that it deserves. We, the undersigned, urge that you immediately stop the detention and deportation of children and families seeking protection from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala and designate Temporary Protected Status to individuals from these countries.

Thank you,

- Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), Texas
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
- The Advocates for Human Rights, Minnesota
- Immigrant Justice Corps, New York, NY
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)
- Chicago Legal Clinic, INC, Chicago, IL
- Dixie Hanson, Guardian Angel, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Moorpark, CA
- Steven Larin, Senior Director of Legal Services & Immigration Policy, Nationalities Service Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Greater Reading Immigration Project (GRIP), Reading, PA
- Barbara Hines, Retired Clinical Law Professor, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX
- Ian Philabaum, Project Coordinator, CARA Pro-Bono Project, Dilley, TX
- The Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), Washington, DC
- Miriam Marton, Director, Tulsa Immigrant Resource Network, University of Tulsa College of Law, Tulsa, OK
- Lauren Aronson, Assistant Professor, Director Immigration Law Clinic, Louisiana State University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA
- Karla McKanders, Associate Professor, University of Tennessee, College of Law, Knoxville, TN
- Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition, Washington, DC
- Grassroots Leadership, Austin, TX
- Denise Gilman, Director, Immigration Clinic, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX
- Friends of Broward Detainees, Miami, FL
- National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NKASEC), Los Angeles, CA
- We Belong Together, National
- Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR), Atlanta, GA
- Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, Portland, ME
- Elora Mukherjee, Associate Clinical Professor of Law, Columbia Law School, New York, NY
- Jennifer Moore, Professor of Law, University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, NM
- Elizabeth Keyes, Director, Immigrant Rights Clinic, University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD

- R. Andrew Free, Managing Attorney, Law Office of R. Andrew Free
- Lee Teran, Clinical Professor of Law, St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, TX
- Law Office of Helen Lawrence, Oakland, CA
- Streefland Law Firm, Minneapolis, MN
- Maria Baldini-Potermin & Associates, PC, Chicago, IL
- Andrea Crumrine, Law Student, University of Minnesota Law School
- Melissa Martinelli, Attorney, Martinelli Immigration Law PC, Cambridge, MA
- Elissa Steglich, Clinical Professor, Immigration Clinic University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX
- Nancy Rhodes, Managing Attorney, Alabama Justice Gap, LLC, Alabaster, AL
- Michael M. Emminger, Esq., Managing Attorney
- Antonia House, Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow, Make the Road New York, Brentwood, NY
- Emily Puhl, Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow, Brooklyn, NY
- Kate Lewis, Paralegal, Catholic Migration Services, Brooklyn, NY
- Jillian Blake, Managing Attorney, Blake & Wilson Immigration Law, PLLC, Alexandria, VA
- Margaret Hennessy, Associate Attorney, Breitman Immigration Law Firm, Bloomington, MN
- Maureen Alger, Partner, Cooley, LLP, Palo Alto, CA
- UnLocal, inc, New York, NY
- Monique R. Sherman, Pro Bono Counsel, Cooley LLP, Palo Alto, CA
- Denise Brennan, Professor and Chair, Georgetown University, Department of Anthropology, Washington, DC
- Colectiva Legal del Pueblo, Seattle, Washington
- Law Office of Emily Love, P.C., Evanston, IL
- Teague Immigration Law Office, Asheville, NC
- Doug Thie, Attorney, Forsythe Immigration Law Firm, Charlotte, NC
- Brian J. Hoffman, Esq., Founder & Principal, Brian J. Hoffman, LLC, Wooster, OH
- Carmel Capati, Attorney, Apeiron Law Group, Madison, WI
- The Chavarria Law Firm, Dallas, TX
- Jeanne M. Santos, Paralegal, Siskind Susser PC, Memphis, TN
- Nicole Wilson, Managing Attorney, Blake & Wilson Immigration Law, PLLC, Alexandria, VA
- Myriah Heddens, Legal Assistant, Immigrant Law Group, PC, Portland, OR
- Americans for Immigrant Justice, Miami, FL
- Elise S. Damas, Director, Pathway to Citizenship, CARECEN, Hempstead, NY
- Maria Cristina Morales, Esq., Partner, Nadine Gedeon, P.A., Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Virginia Raymond, Lawyer, Law Office of Virginia Raymond, Austin, TX
- Vanessa Dell, Staff Attorney, Make the Road New York, New York, NY
- Susannah Volpe, Associate Attorney, Walker Gates Vela, Austin, TX
- Casa Esperanza, Bound Brook, NJ
- Nadine Gedeon, Attorney, Nadine Gedeon, P.A., Hollywood, FL
- Christina Xenides, Senior Managing Associate Attorney, Youman, Madeo & Fasano LLP, New York, NY
- Nancy Peterson, Attorney At Law, Nancy A Peterson, St Paul, MN

- Daniel A. Engel, Retired Law Firm Partner and Senior Deputy General Counsel of Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, Chicago, IL
- Joy Ziegeweid, Staff Attorney, Sanctuary for Families, Brooklyn, NY
- Sharon Powell, Managing Attorney, Powell Law, PLLC, Williamsburg, VA
- Kris Rasmussen, Attorney, Madison, WI
- Richard Breitman, Attorney, Breitman Immigration Law Firm, Bloomington, MN
- Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County, Boulder, CO
- Allison Mandeville, Legal Representative, Arab American Association of New York, New York, NY
- Jeanne Kildow, Attorney, Borene Law Firm, PA, Minnesota
- Allyson Page, Staff Attorney, New Orleans, LA
- Clara Cerrato, Spouse of Asylee Petitioner, Safe Haven, Pompano Beach, FL
- Kate Emminger, Attorney, San Francisco, CA
- Jacquelyn Lutz, Associate Attorney, Robichaud & Alcantara, P.A., Minneapolis, MN
- Isabella D. Fernandez, Law Student, Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland, OR
- Law Office of Helen Lawrence , Oakland, CA
- Susan Roberts, Attorney/Owner, Roberts Immigration Law Office, Ltd., St. Cloud, MN
- Rosmery Mejia, Washington, DC
- Crucita Flecha, Partner, Thompson Steward Flecha LLC, Columbus, OH
- Javier Coronado, Student, New Braunfels, TX
- Fani Cruz, Program Analyst, Catholic Charities USA, Alexandria, VA
- Law Firm of Cathy J Potter PLLC, Harlingen, Texas
- Christine E. Popp, Attorney-at-Law, Popp Law Office, Bloomington, IN
- Michael Shannon, Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow, Sanctuary for Families, New York, NY
- Terry Ann Rogers, Retired Attorney, Oregon
- Marcy Suarez, Community Organizer, Make the Road New York, Brentwood, NY
- Javier Guzman, Community Organizer, Make the Road New York, Brentwood, NY
- Ferman Law, PLLC, Burnsville, MN
- Christina L. Powers, Attorney, Law Office of Christina L. Powers, Pittsburgh, PA
- Tony Hausner, Chair, Safe Silver Spring, Silver Spring, MD
- Emma Wells, Immigration Attorney, Refugee Services of Texas, Austin, TX
- Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, Charlotte, NC
- Refugio del Rio Grande, Inc., San Benito, TX
- Jeri Flynn, Attorney, Jeri Flynn & Associates, APLC, Baton Rouge, LA
- Maureen A. Sweeney, Law School Associate Professor, Immigration Clinic, U Md Carey School of Law, Baltimore, MD
- Melissa Cuadrado, Clinical Fellow, St Mary's University CLSJ, San Antonio, TX
- Bernardo Kohler Center, Austin, TX
- David Walding, Austin, TX
- Barbara Erlandson, Attorney, Erlandson Law Office, LLC, Minneapolis, MN
- Rene Ramirez, B.K.C., Austin, TX
- Korean Resource Center ju, Los Angeles, CA
- Korean American Resource & Cultural Center, Chicago, IL

- Nan P. Hundere, Attorney and Mediator, Nan P. Hundere, PLLC, San Antonio, TX
- Beckie Moriello, Managing Attorney, Raleigh Immigration, Raleigh, NC
- North Georgia Immigrant Justice, Sautee Nacoochee, GA
- R. Mark Frey, Attorney, Frey Law Office, St. Paul, MN
- Carlo Taboada, Attorney, Carlo Taboada Law Firm, PLLC, Dallas, TX
- Pio Celestino, Volunteer Coordinator, REFUGIO DEL RIO GRANDE, San Benito, TX
- Christopher N. Lasch, Attorney and Clinical Professor, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO
- Skyler Lightfoot, Afterschool Director, Austin ISD, Austin, TX
- Ana Sol Gutierrez, Maryland State Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates, Chevy Chase, MD
- Erin Welch, Associate Attorney, L&L Immigration Law, PLLC, Alexandria, VA
- John Washington, Lecturer, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- Cobb Immigrant Alliance, Atlanta, GA
- Labor of Love Campaign, Atlanta, GA
- Griselda Pince, Attorney at Law, Pince Law Firm, P.C., Austin, TX
- Hansen & Taylor, PLLC, Austin, TX
- Isabel Saavedra, Staff Attorney, Catholic Charities DC, Washington, DC
- HIPPOS INC, GA
- Michelle Rivero, Managing Attorney, Rivero Law Office LLC, St. Paul, MN
- Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors, Austin, TX
- Robyn Meyer-Thompson, Staff Attorney, Immigrant Law Center of MN, St. Paul, MN
- Sin Fronteras, Inc., California and Maryland
- Michael Sayre, Program Officer, GKI, Washington, DC
- Jay Brim, Attorney/Board Member, Austin Region Justice For Our Neighbors, Austin, TX
- Rev. Eric Vogt, Board Member, Austin Region Justice for our Neighbors (JFON) - An immigration ministry of The United Methodist Church, Austin, TX
- Jardyn Lake, Atlanta Organizer, Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Atlanta, GA
- Foundation Cristosal, Syracuse, NY
- Mary E. Baquero, Attorney, Baquero Law Office, PA, Minneapolis, MN
- Richard L. Baquero, Office Manager, Baquero Law Office, PA, Minneapolis, MN
- Claire Valentin, Staff Attorney, Children's Law Center of Massachusetts, Lynn, MA
- Savannah Latina Inc, Savannah, GA
- Empire Justice Center, New York
- Karen S. Boehk, Austin Region JFON Board Member, Austin Region Justice For Our Neighbors, Smithville, Texas
- Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network, Harrisburg, PA
- Denise Brennan, Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, Georgetown University, Washington, DC
- Jacqueline Brown Scott, Supervising Attorney, USF School of Law Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic, San Francisco, CA
- Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center, York, PA
- USF Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic, San Francisco, CA

- Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, San Francisco, CA
- Lydia Zepeda, Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- Equal Justice Center, Austin, TX
- Stacy Taeuber, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin Law School, Immigrant Justice Clinic, Madison, WI
- Sayoni Maitra, Staff Attorney, Sanctuary for Families, New York, NY
- Margaret Maroney, Attorney, Marion & Maroney LLC, Madison, WI
- Yvonne Marlier, Member of Immigration Justice team for UUPLAN, UUPLAN, Jenkintown, PA
- Vanessa Gutierrez, Directing Attorney, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Wenatchee, WA
- Dolores Street Community Services, San Francisco, CA
- Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Washington State
- Make the Road New York, New York, NY
- New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, Albuquerque, NM
- Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, Chicago, IL
- MMG Law LLC, Monona, WI
- Alianza Americas, Chicago, IL
- Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA
- Conversations With Friends (MN), St Paul, MN
- Catholic Migration Services, New York, NY
- Helen Harnett, Attorney, Immigration Attorneys LLP, Chicago, IL
- Rev. John R. Guttermann, Lead Organizer, Conversations With Friends (MN), St. Paul, MN
- Puentes: Advocacy, Counseling & Education, Seattle, WA
- Center for Legal Justice, Elkhart, IN
- Friends of Broward Detainees, Miami, FL
- Families for Freedom, New York, NY
- Legal Services for Children, San Francisco, CA
- Professor Irene Scharf, Director, Immigration Law Clinic, UMass School of Law, North Dartmouth, MA
- Megan Galasso, Attorney, Davis & Goldfarb, PLLC., Minnesota
- Immigrant Youth Coalition., California
- Jacquelyn M. Kline, Esq., Partner, Cambria & Kline, PC, Reading, PA
- Atlas:DIY, Brooklyn, NY
- UURISE - Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education, Vista, CA
- National Association for Bilingual Education, Denton, TX
- J. David McVeigh, Attorney, York, PA
- Ms. Claudia Lynch, Texas
- Rebecca Rook, Attorney, New York, NY
- South Texas Human Rights Center, Falfurrias, TX
- La Union del Pueblo Entero, San Juan, TX
- Berlin Sabillon, Legal Assistant, Austin Region JFON, Austin, TX
- Sheryl Griffin, Los Angeles, CA
- Bethany Caldwell, Social Worker, Grand Rapids, MI

- Lindsay Stewart, Los Angeles, CA