

IMMIGRATION POLICY UPDATES

FEDERAL

CLOSED SOUTHERN BORDER

On March 20th, the CDC enacted Section 362 of the Public Health Service Act to restrict non-essential travel along the southern border. Migrants that do not have proper documentation will be immediately returned to Mexico. This leaves asylum seekers without a way to file a claim, effectively eliminating asylum at the southern border.

PUBLIC CHARGE AND COVID-19

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that testing, prevention, and treatment for COVID-19 would not be used against immigrants in a public charge determination. Additionally, if an individual lives in a jurisdiction where social distancing is taking place or works for an employer that shuts down, the individual can submit a statement with their application.

REMAIN IN MEXICO HEARINGS SUSPENDED

The Department of Justice is postponing all hearings for migrants in the Remain in Mexico program until April 22nd. Individuals with a hearing date before then must still present themselves at the designated port of entry on their previously scheduled date to receive a new hearing date, putting an undue burden on asylum seekers.

TAKE ACTION

Click here to join RAICES in telling the ICE Field Office Director to release all immigrants in detention

#FreeThemALL

COVID-19 REACHES IMMIGRATION DETENTION

Four immigrants held in detention and five detention employees have tested positive for COVID-19. This follows warnings from advocates that detention centers are hotbeds of transmission for communicable diseases. Detainees are unable to practice social distancing and still do not have access basic sanitary supplies.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

ICE announced that they would be adjusting their enforcement in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing enforcement on public safety risks and individuals subject to mandatory detention based on criminal grounds. Despite this statement, immigration raids have continued across the country.

TAKE ACTION

Click here to join the Ignation Solidarity Network in telling your members of Congress to protect asylum seekers' due process rights.



STATE

MISSOURI LEGISLATURE

Legislators will return to Jefferson City next week with the intent to pass the supplemental budget for fiscal year 2020 and the federal reimbursement allowance bill. Legislative action beyond that has stalled for the time being.



St. Francis
community services