

MIGRANT JUSTICE PLATFORM



A UNITY BLUEPRINT
FOR ACTION ON IMMIGRATION

In June of 2019, a **Blue Ribbon Commission** comprised of 20 individuals, from various grassroots organizations, backgrounds, and communities, convened to launch the development of a policy blueprint for use by the next administration to immediately repair harms and reverse failures caused by the current and previous administrations. The result is the Migrant Justice Platform, a roadmap of **Executive and Legislative actions** that come from grassroots voices from across the United States and abroad, and parts ways from the “single-bill” strategy that has defined immigration politics for two decades. **It is a unity blueprint for a new conversation that must include impacted communities, remedy past mistakes, and see the whole of the global crisis.** As such, this document is intended as a launching point for an open-source project that centers and elevates grassroots voices and experts on various aspects of necessary action on immigration.



About the Migrant Justice Platform
and Blue Ribbon Commission

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A VISION TOWARDS JUSTICE

There always has been and always will be migration, within national boundaries, and across national borders. People migrate for a myriad of reasons, often by choice, but more often outside of any individuals' control. The question is how, as a global community do we choose to understand, to manage it.

We know what we must defeat. We know what is unacceptable, unlawful, and immoral: to concede to white supremacists; to create migrant prison camps to deter families from seeking asylum; to militarize law enforcement and grant police extra-legal authority to arrest; or to ban individuals based on their religion or country of origin.

But our vision must see beyond what is wrong. We must imagine policies that celebrate, defend, and encourage the experiences and nationalities of those who already exist in the United States. Policies that build the social and public institutions to uphold the principles of equality and pluralism. Policies that ensure working people from around the world can thrive together.

Such a vision would help us see that U.S. labor policy cannot conflict with immigration policy, but rather that a unifying agenda is one that improves the lives of all working people, across race, gender, class, and nationality. And more than that, it would finally acknowledge how immigrant workers have subsidized key sectors of the U.S. economy, just as they have in major economies worldwide.

A vision toward justice recognizes our shared planet, climate and histories – whether you live in the United States or not. And whether you are an immigrant worker in France, the United States, or Saudi Arabia, you have the same human rights, and the same worth, as anyone else in any one of those countries.

Finally, it is a vision that sees the borderlands not as a threat, or as the separation between two worlds, but as a place of encounter, where two worlds meet, trade, interact, and embrace one another. It is a vision free of U.S. interventions, arms-trafficking, and heavy-handed trade agreements.

Now is the time in history for a policy reset – a deliberate and thoughtful change of course for U.S. policy on immigration, one rooted in the communities already living and working across the United States, grounded in the principles of solidarity and self-determination, and the values of compassion, creativity, and courage.

In such a vision, there is no room to exclude or discriminate people based on race, class, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, HIV/AIDS, national origin, or political opinion. On the contrary, **we imagine a bold commitment to the social and public institutions that safeguard these principles, bring us together, and keep us on the right path.**

This blueprint is an exercise in political imagination, to take a collective step toward building this vision of migrant justice. We must learn to co-exist and thrive together, there is no other path. If you do not see it yet, it is because our job is to build the force possible to make it happen.

FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

THIS ISN'T OUR FIRST RODEO, AND THERE ARE GIVENS - FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS - WITH WHICH WE APPROACH THIS WORK AND THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS BLUEPRINT.



1 WE DON'T BELIEVE SOME MUST SUFFER FOR OTHERS TO ADVANCE. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.

2 WHITE SUPREMACISTS HAVE IMPLEMENTED THEIR PROGRAMME FROM THE WHITE HOUSE. OUR AGENDA MUST RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.

3 MIGRANT WORKERS SUBSIDIZE THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. THAT'S NOT UP FOR DEBATE.

4 IMMIGRATION IS NOT ONLY A DOMESTIC POLICY ISSUE. WE ARE HERE, BECAUSE YOU ARE THERE.



1. We don't believe some must suffer for others to advance. We are in this together.

Donald Trump has bluntly made the case that protecting immigrant or refugees' rights implies taking from others. But the notion that advancing the civil rights of some requires taking from others has been made for decades. In an effort to bring the GOP to the negotiating table, President Obama through policy and rhetoric lent credibility to a pernicious narrative that there are "good immigrants" and bad ones, targeting "felons, not families." But after 5 million criminalizing deportations in less than 10 years, it should be clear that we cannot deport our way to the negotiating table in Congress.

Starting now, we cannot make this same mistake. Recent arrivals, individuals with prior convictions, Black and Brown immigrants, and border communities, at some time, have all been characterized as the expendable or “undeserving.” Going forward, our starting point must be the recognition of humanity in every individual; the guarantee of human rights and due process for all, with no carve outs or exceptions. We cannot compromise a peoples’ humanity and we do not turn our backs on our family members, friends, and neighbors. Never again.

2. White supremacists have implemented their programme from the White House. Our agenda must respond accordingly.

Donald Trump has gone far beyond advancing nativist rhetoric. Utilizing the power and reach of the White House and Executive branch of the U.S. Government, he has re-animated a white supremacist ideology and violence that terrorized communities of color for hundreds of years in this country. The Trump administration itself has committed and incited violence - carried out by state and non-state actors, that has caused deaths, destroyed lives and traumatized thousands. It has “normalized” a worldview that seeks to make non-white members of society disappear, promoting and enabling white supremacist groups and allies.

As in post-conflict areas, the next administration should implement a process akin to transitional justice: to understand the full extent of family separation policies, reaffirm truths, reunite families and communities, recognize the trauma inflicted by previous administration and their long-lasting effects, and reconcile our laws and policies with aspirations of advancing civil and human rights.

3. Migrant workers subsidize the global economy. That's not up for debate.

Immigrants did not structure the U.S. economy, or how capital flows across borders. Neither did north African migrants in Paris, the Oaxacan workers in North Carolina, or the South Asian workers in Saudi Arabia. Yet, the labor of immigrants is an integral part of the world economy. We are already a part of it. Not just a little. Major U.S. industries depend on and thrive with immigrant workers from around the world. Anyone involved in U.S. agriculture, textile, or construction knows this.

Now is the time that the United States - both its people and institutions - publicly acknowledge the realities in these industries and respect the humanity of all workers. If a country benefits from immigrant labor, that country has a moral obligation to recognize and co-exist with migrants as human beings, with full equality and civic participation.

4. Immigration is not only a domestic policy issue. We are here because you are there.

In the September #ClimateStrike, millions of young people around the world awakened, and awakened others, to the reality that our survival is inter-connected. Migrants know this and have lived it in very personal ways. Especially because our histories are often rooted in indigenous, rural, and migrating peoples who grew with their lands, who often fought to keep that land, and just as often lost that land and had to migrate elsewhere.

Our histories are shared - be they colonial, imperial, or interventionist histories. And modern as the world may seem, it's still the one we read about in history books - with nuclear powers throwing their weight around, former colonies dealing with unfair trade and foreign debt, and powerful companies willing to profit in human misery.

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION AT HOME

THE MASSACRE IN EL PASO WAS A TURNING POINT THAT
CALLS FOR DRASTIC MEASURES TO PROTECT ALL PEOPLE
LIVING AND WORKING IN THE U.S.

DIAGNOSIS For those communities targeted by Donald Trump and his administration, the white supremacist worldview behind his immigration agenda was clear even before the shooter in El Paso included it in his manifesto. With the full weight of the Executive Branch, the complicity of Congress, and complicit media, Donald Trump has re-invigorated a retrograde white supremacist political movement with a history of legalized terrorism against indigenous, African American, Asian, Mexican, Jewish, and other communities. President Trump did not invent the violence, but today, he has been an instigator.

But the president is not alone, the Executive Branch of the federal government has been weaponized to implement a nativist agenda framed by this white supremacist worldview - establishing a massive regime of immigrant concentration centers (counter to Congressional directives), blocking pathways to legalize or to adjust status for millions of undocumented and documented immigrants, stripping millions of individuals of legal status, including DACA, TPS, and DED beneficiaries and various visa holders and applicants, and even stripping U.S. citizenship from naturalized citizens, all of whom have been people of color.

President Trump has built on three decades of efforts by anti-immigrant hate groups, **facilitated by both political parties**, to criminalize the act of migrating and of working, making working people more vulnerable to exploitation, and utilizing local law enforcement as force multipliers for immigration enforcement nationwide. Importantly, these actions serve to exacerbate an already unjust system for migrant workers across industries nationwide, undermining workplace protections for all workers, and ensuring unscrupulous employers near-total control in the workplace, at times despite despicable abuses.

KEY TAKEAWAY The next administration must take immediate actions such as issuing an immediate moratorium on all deportations, expanding relief and work authorizations to as many people as legally permissible, launching a Workplace Relief Order for immigrant workers, ending immigrant detention, and dismantling the most problematic agencies at the Department of Homeland Security.

Remedies

SECTION A:

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION NECESSARY TO UNDO THE HARM

1. Implement a **Moratorium** to
 - a) suspend all ICE field enforcement, including detentions and deportations, checkpoints, raids, surveillance and use of facial recognition;
 - b) end the Muslim ban
 - c) establish end dates for federal contracts with municipalities and private immigration detention camps and prisons; and
 - d) end all immigrant detention, including family detention and
 - e) establish a process, to the fullest extent permissible under the law, to release people, including unaccompanied minors, held in DHS detention to their loved ones.

2. Immediately **provide reprieve to as many people permissible under the law** by eliminating family separation in all forms, including extending immigration status and work authorization (through parole (212F) or other means) to all undocumented immigrants currently in the country along with people unjustly deported under policies found to be unconstitutional or later rejected.

3. Establish a **Coordinated Inter-governmental Specialized Taskforce** to (a) carry out an audit, investigation, and sanctions for white supremacist-related activity within the White House, DHS, USCIS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and ICE leadership; and (b) initiate the dismantling of the DHS agencies responsible for family separations, millions of unlawful arrests, and exacerbating the national crisis of racist profiling.
4. Immediately **de-couple federal immigration enforcement** from local law enforcement, terminating all agreements that tap local and state resources (including 287(g), WSO, BOA, and IGSA) and shut off the CAP and Secure Communities deportation dragnet, ending the mining of local and state databases and “click and arrest” enforcement tactics; simultaneously, review eligibility of law enforcement funds for states with laws that encourage racist profiling and unlawful arrests, such as SB4 in Texas and SB168 in Florida.
5. Establish an **Access to Justice order** to (a) ensure legal representation for all immigrants; (b) rescind BIA decisions by any Trump Attorney General with ties to hate groups or with demonstrated contempt for the rule of law; and (c) re-establish an effective firewall between USCIS and any DHS enforcement agency. Additionally, immigration enforcement must comply with basic due process principles, including the right to fair hearings and prohibition on imprisonment without trial; to implement that rule: (a) announce a moratorium on all removal proceedings where the respondent is unrepresented; (b) release from immigration detention everyone who: i) is held under discretionary detention authority (ie held under 1226(a) or 1231(a)(6) for a bond that they cannot afford; ii) is eligible for parole (ie held under 1225(b) after having passed a credible fear interview); or c) has a substantial defense to the charges of removal or is eligible for any relief from removal).

6. Implement a **Workplace Relief order** to establish (a) comprehensive enforcement of labor, employment, and anti-discrimination laws in consultation with trade unions, workers' centers, and groups with deep experience with immigrant and other workers in precarious conditions; (b) withdrawal of anti-worker executive actions by the USDOL, EEOC, and NLRB; (c) effective firewalls between labor and immigration/border enforcement through existing MOU and new policies, including updating the INS Operating Instruction 287.4a that prohibits immigration and border enforcement in collective worker action and labor disputes; and (d) allowing working people to self-petition for temporary status and work authorization based on a labor dispute (including collective processes for designating workplaces, sectors and supply chains that currently trap workers in vulnerability).

SECTION B:

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE

1. **Restoring Institutional Integrity:** Instead of focusing resources on criminalizing and incarcerating the immigrant community, we must focus on enforcing workplace rights across the United States - wage and hour enforcement, better workplace protections for everyone in this country, and improved labor relations. Implementation and oversight of all labor migration related programs shall be transferred from DHS to U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). After decades of failure, addressing the rights of working people demands a wholesale scaling up of labor enforcement agencies and doubling-down on the missions, funding, and reach of the USDOL.
2. Re-establish and modernize the avenues for individuals to regularize their status: (a) establish various **opportunities to gain U.S. citizenship** for 11 million undocumented

community members, and for DACA, TPS, and DED holders; (b) expand relief options for Central Americans using NACARA's framework; (c) reserve and strengthen family reunification laws; and (d) increase the NVC visa cap.

3. **Decriminalize working:** Reaffirm the rights of all workers by (a) repealing the 1996 law that criminalized working without status (Sec. 1324(a) of IRCA) and adopting a legislative fix to the Hoffman Plastics case to restore equality and the full right to organize and reinstatement for immigrant workers; (b) enacting the POWER Act, providing statutory protections for immigrant workers engaged in enforcing labor and civil rights protections.
4. End programs using future workers as a wedge against current workers (utilized to ensure more temporary, subcontracted, and low-wage workers), and instead allow future workers to enter and work with full rights and dignity, including **Transnational Labor Citizenship:** Access to join collective worker organizations in both their home countries and the countries where they work.
5. Ensure due process and **procedural fairness** by making the suppression of evidence standard in immigration equivalent to criminal law, and for example, amending the statute for T/U visas to remove government certification and cooperation requirements and ensuring requests for victims of abuse committed by DHS enforcement agencies, such as ICE or CBP, are expedited.
6. Support the **New Way Forward** bill, which will rescind the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA). IIRIRA was, signed into law by then-President Clinton which made detention and deportation mandatory for individuals with green cards and individuals who are undocumented for a long list of criminal offenses, even if the offenses occurred decades prior or the individual

has rehabilitated and has loved ones in the U.S. The 1996 law also dramatically expanded the range of immigration offenses that could be prosecuted criminally and ramped up criminal penalties for violations of immigration law. Repealing this law would end expedited removal and the mandatory imprisonment of asylum seekers. The Trump administration has taken full advantage of IIRIRA to separate immigrant parents from their children at the border, and to inflict round after round of raids on immigrant communities, including targeting the Southeast Asian refugee community pursuant to old state criminal convictions.

BUILD BRIDGES, NOT WALLS

PROSPERITY REQUIRES A DIFFERENT VISION OF THE
BORDERLANDS, FROM BORDER COMMUNITIES, TO REFUGEE
FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER

DIAGNOSIS Today, the Trump administration has made the border a symbol of hatred and a monument to his racist agenda. Even as thousands of children have been forcibly separated from their parents, and parents from their babies. Thousands of families traumatized, thousands still separated, and numerous lives lost because of a callous and unlawful refusal to accept refugee and migrant families, and refusal to provide due processing for asylum-seekers at the border, now exacerbated with over 50,000 people forced to stay in dangerous conditions in Mexico, under the new “Remain in Mexico” program, or MPP.

For decades, the border has been used as a catch-all for both political parties to advance their political agenda, not the needs of border communities - or those seeking asylum at the border. In each round of comprehensive immigration reform debates, border communities are consistently utilized as bargaining chips. Even when there is no progress on other pieces of legislation, the border becomes more and more militarized, as occurred excessively during the Bill Clinton administration.

The status quo at the border is the criminalization of immigrants and militarization of the border region. As border communities see on a daily basis, CBP functions as a paramilitary agency, viewing immigrants and asylum-seekers as an enemy, as opposed to the humanitarian and social service agency that it should be.

KEY TAKEAWAY This diagnosis demands deep change in Border agencies’ organizational culture, policy, and practices. Immediate actions must include establishing a **truth and reunification commission**, immediately utilize discretion to stop prosecuting entry and re-entry, de-militarize the border and rescind the national emergency declaration at the border, **re-launching U.S. asylum protections** as required by international law, ending MPP, and establishing **Welcoming Centers** with appropriate staff.

Remedies

SECTION A:

IMMEDIATE ACTION NECESSARY TO UNDO THE HARM

1. Rescind the declaration of militarization of the border. Rescind the executive action declaring the border as part of a national emergency including: (a) Withdrawing national guard; (b) withdrawing active duty military; and (c) disbanding Task Force North.

2. Establish a **Truth, Reunification, and Reconciliation Commission** that must include:
 - a) the immediate reunification of separated families;
 - b) national field hearings to expose and document the impacts of white supremacy and its connections to the Trump administration's border policies, document the full impact of Trump administration practices have had on immigrant and refugee families and on victims and survivors of white supremacist;
 - c) a group of experts to issue a report re-envisioning border economies in ways beyond border enforcement investments, including a comparative study of border regions with robust economies around the world and what can be learned;
 - d) an audit on U.S. failures to abide by international law with respect to refugees and asylum seekers and put in place measures to bring the U.S. into compliance with our humanitarian obligations and to mitigate the harms caused by these failures;

- e) mandate public reporting on migrant deaths in detention and field/border operations; and
- f) a thorough investigation of the deaths in the desert and in immigration detention during the Trump administration.

3. **Eliminate obstacles to asylum enacted by the Trump administration.** Withdraw all third party safe country agreements, including those recently announced with El Salvador and Honduras, and undo Trump's executive orders and directives **related to the refugee and asylum process:** (a) close the hieleras and perreras (the temporary holding cages); (b) end MPP (remain in Mexico); (c) end the Zero Tolerance Policy; (d) end Metering; (e) end the Muslim Ban; (f) limit Immigration Judges' Discretion; (g) end expedited removal; (h) end catch and release; and (i) end temporary, expedited court hearings along the border.
4. Build **Welcoming Centers** at Ports of Entry with trained staff who possess professional backgrounds and relevant languages to work with survivors of trauma. Trump's failed wall panels must be repurposed as a Historical Memory Site, a memorial for all immigrants who died in ICE custody and while trying to cross to the U.S. during the Trump administration, as a reminder of our national responsibility and as an educational site.
5. Ensure **due process and procedural fairness** for refugees and asylum-seekers by (a) streamlining and expediting refugee admissions process and allow them to wait in the U.S. while their application is pending; (b) allowing refugee applicants to file the I-590 from any U.S. consulate; (c) raise the number of refugee admissions up to and beyond previous levels; (d) hire and place the necessary trained staff to humanely conduct credible fear interviews as well as professional

staff in the respective fields to ensure the health, education, and well-being of refugees; and importantly, (e) enact a policy to give unencumbered, immediate access to attorneys, non-governmental organizations, community members, elected officials and press at all immigration courts, detention centers, and places of custody.

6. **Immediately use discretion to stop charging unlawful entry/ re-entry as a crime.**

Also direct U.S. Department of Justice attorneys to settle pending civil rights lawsuits in a way that binds actors and allows court oversight. Reinstate BIA decisions withdrawn by the Trump Administration including: (a) asylum eligibility for victims of domestic violence; and (b) asylum eligibility for victims of gang related violence.

SECTION B:

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE

1. **Restore the Integrity of Institutions:** Restructure the border agency, currently CBP, with a humanitarian and social service mission. Use appropriations to change the priorities and culture of the agencies working in the region.
2. Enact a **stand-alone border de-militarization bill** to mitigate the harm of decades of failed enforcement policy and militarization, made even more extreme and harmful under the Trump administration. Such a bill should include accountability and oversight, such as applying the 4th and 6th Amendments to ports of entry.
3. Entry and re-entry to the U.S. should never be criminalized. **Decriminalize it** by repealing Sec. 1325 (criminal charge for entry), Sec. 1326 (criminal charge for re-

entry), and Sec 212(a)9 (bars) of the INA (discussed in the NEW WAY FORWARD bill above).

4. Additional legislative items, (a) add **gender** as a cognizable particular social group under U.S. asylum law; and (b) create a humanitarian or family-based immigration category of relief for separated family members who did not qualify for relief under the asylum laws, (c) expand opportunities and avenues for family reunification.

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WE ARE HERE BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE

LEADERSHIP ON THE GLOBAL MIGRATION HUMAN RIGHTS
CRISIS REQUIRES THAT THE UNITED STATES RETHINK ITS ROLE
ABROAD

DIAGNOSIS In the United States, we often view immigration as a domestic policy issue. However a view at other regions of the world would make clear that government responses to migration today are creating a global human rights crisis. With populations from North Africa in Italy and Spain, from Southeast Asia in the Middle East, and from Central American across the United States, migration is not the fault of the people that have to leave their homes.

Global migration will only increase with climate change. And the international community of nations has shown little leadership to address the issue on a global scale.

The United States has had an important role in establishing the status quo. In just one instance, the role of the U.S. in creating instability in Honduras is important to review. From funding the civil wars across Central America, to enabling the trafficking of military-grade weapons to flow southbound, to the very recent coup in Honduras and insertion of a government that waged an all-out war on its own population. It's clear there were many causes for the large-scale exodus from Honduras in recent years. U.S. foreign policy was a major one.

U.S.-based corporations have designed very efficient mechanisms to dilute their responsibilities regarding human and labor rights: from ensuring trade agreements that benefit U.S. companies at the expense of rural communities abroad, or through the temporary work programs that put workers in precarious situations with employers.

The example of U.S. foreign policy toward Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, and free trade agreements is notable. The US, through NAFTA, now being advanced as the USMCA, set strong standards for investment and intellectual property rights to

protect US businesses investing in Mexico, while relegating worker and environmental protections to mere side agreements.

Within this context, the **Trump administration represents the worst, and most unfeeling, element of global forces** willing to destroy the environment, annihilate ancient traditions, exploit families vulnerabilities, to profit from human misery. From his actions to remove the U.S. from the Iran and the Paris Agreements, literally putting the globe at risk, to his actions to extort concessions from Central American countries to intercept refugees headed to the US. To be clear, a country with mass graves of Central Americans is not a safe third country.

KEY TAKEAWAY The next administration must take immediate actions such as establishing a **Transnational Labor Citizenship Initiative** while re-engaging with the international community by re-entering the **Paris Agreement**, committing and supporting **international human rights mechanisms**, and making a **new commitment to the national sovereignty and self-determination** of other countries, which **must include the end of “Deportation Diplomacy,” and guarantees for due process and permanent residency** for asylum-seekers, and all TPS and DED beneficiaries.

Remedies

SECTION A:

IMMEDIATE ACTION NECESSARY TO UNDO THE HARM

1. Establish a **Transnational Labor Citizenship** Initiative to provide resources and create programs that enable workers to migrate or not migrate and emphasize

decent work in home countries. A plan must include (a) collaboration to advance the human and labor rights of migrants to the United States, and Central American Migrants in Mexico; (b) create opportunities and remove barriers in home countries and the United States for workers to exercise Transnational Labor Citizenship; (c) reinstate and expand the agency guidance and strategic enforcement of the joint liability provisions under the Fair Labor Standards act to hold accountable the U.S. employers for the abuses of its recruiters in another jurisdiction; and (d) set new executive policy with high standards for labor that sets a floor for the United States Trade Representative negotiations.

2. We must make a commitment to respect foreign sovereignty, and to **help build strong local, public institutions in neighboring countries** with a focus on education, dignified working conditions, and living wages.
3. We must recognize that climate migration exists, give refugee status to those affected by it, and **re-enter the Paris agreement** so people around the world are no longer displaced and forced to migrate due to climate change.
4. **Protect global human rights** by (a) rejoining the United Nations Human Rights Council and re-join other countries at the UN Global Compact Refugees and the UN Global Compact on Safe and Orderly Migration to advocate for a human and labor rights based framework on migration; (b) withdrawing from plan Merida. We must commit publicly to cooperating with outside human rights investigations of U.S. conduct including participating in hearings and providing information.
5. **End Deportation Diplomacy**, that imposes U.S. immigration and border enforcement to neighboring countries, including foreign policy, programs and

agreements which incentivize U.S. border enforcement in Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador.

6. Re-designate and extend **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** for all countries to which it had been denied during the Trump administration, including Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Sudan, and Nepal, Guatemala, Venezuela, the Bahamas, Yemen, Somalia, and Syria; reinstate the Central American Minors Refugee program; all up to and until resolving a permanent residency for all 13 TPS and DED countries.

SECTION B:

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE

1. We must enact **New Migration Pathways** between the U.S. and countries in the region that avoid the well-known exploitation of existing foreign temporary worker programs and protect the right to travel across the region.
2. We must recognize that some workers may want to fill jobs that are temporary, like in agriculture, and return to their home country every season. Some may want to stay. The law should provide a mechanism that allows for those options, and guarantees workers full rights. Policy shouldn't be driven by the desires of employers to have "cheap labor." Private labor recruiters should be banned from the process, and employers should be legally responsible for workers' transportation and other costs related to the labor from which the employers profit.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

There are no givens. Donald Trump's "election" in 2016 caught millions of people off guard (in the U.S. and abroad). It was both a wakeup call about the white supremacist backlash post-Obama and a jolt of urgency for too many who were content assuming others would ward off the forces of hate, greed, and fear. It's clear now, that's not the case.

It was never a given that communities would fight back, that individuals would storm the airports to defend refugees, that border activists would face jail time to provide water to people in the desert, that Jewish communities would use their bodies to block ICE vehicles. It wasn't a given - people had to make it happen.

This blueprint is an exercise to expand our political imagination - to make clear how much our political representatives have not done, and how much they can still do. The federal government has the authority and capacity to do everything in this document, and much more. But nothing is a given, unless we make it happen.

Like Greta Thunberg said recently, the social, political and cultural force that can turn this ship around may not exist just yet. The seeds to change course are everywhere, and they'll bloom if given a chance.

