

Human Rights First

Discrimination, Detention, and Deportation: Immigration & Refugees

<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/press-release/after-two-years-biden-must-end-migrant-protection-protocols-and-bring-asylum-seekers>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

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Areas of Focus

Current Initiatives

WASHINGTON Today marks the second anniversary of the Trump administrations so-called Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), also known as Remain in Mexico, which forced thousands of people seeking refugee protection in the United States to wait in grave danger in Mexico for their asylum hearings. Human Rights First has tracked horrific human rights abuses against people forcibly returned to Mexico under the policy, including at least [1,300](#) public reports of kidnapping, rape, torture and murder.

For two years, MPP has delivered people seeking U.S. refugee protection to grave dangers by stranding them in Mexico, said **Eleanor Acer, Senior Director for Refugee Protection at Human Rights First**. The Biden administration should take swift action to rescind MPP, transfer asylum seekers subjected to this horrific policy into safety in the United States, and end other Trump administration policies that endanger people seeking refuge. In order to restore U.S. global leadership on human rights and refugee protection, the Biden administration must uphold U.S. refugee law and treaties at home, and rescind policies that expel people seeking asylum or separate their families. Lives are on the line.

While the Department of Homeland Security [suspended new admissions](#) to MPP last week, thousands stranded in Mexico still need to be brought to safety in the United States. People with [pending](#) MPP cases include about 7,200 Cubans, 4,300 Hondurans, 2,400 Guatemalans, 1,600 Salvadorans, 1,500 Venezuelans, and 1,200 Nicaraguans. Human Rights First recommended in its [blueprint](#) to the Biden transition that it take action to restore the United States as a leader in refugee protection, and continues to urge a swift [end to MPP](#).

Human Rights First [urges](#) that the Biden administration and agency leaders take steps to:

Over the last two years, Human Rights First has extensively documented the illegality, chaos, and human damage caused by the Trump administrations MPP policy. These include reports issued in [March 2019](#), [August 2019](#), [October 2019](#), [December 2019](#), [January 2020](#), [May 2020](#) and [December 2020](#), as well as its [tracking](#) of public reports of kidnappings and other attacks based on interviews <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/sites/default/files/MPP-aYearofHorrors-UPDATED.pdf> conducted by Human Rights First with asylum seekers, attorneys, and humanitarian workers, as well as reports by journalists and other human rights groups.

Every day the Trump administrations dangerous, illegal MPP policy remains in place, the U.S. government is putting the lives of people seeking safety in the United States at risk, said **Kennji Kizuka, senior researcher for refugee protection at Human Rights First**. U.S. asylum policy should protect refugees, not send them to danger. The end of the inhumane Remain in Mexico policy cannot come soon enough. We look forward to a swift end to MPP so that asylum seekers no longer face horrific attacks like those we tracked over the past two years.

Human Rights First's recommendations for ending MPP are outlined in this [guide to ending MPP](#) and December 2020 [report](#) addressing the damage inflicted on asylum seekers by the Trump administrations MPP and Title 42 expulsion policies. People seeking refuge in the U.S. can be received swiftly and safely despite the ongoing pandemic, as leading public health experts have explained in their [recommendations](#).

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