

# Center for the Victims of Torture

## Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://www.cvt.org/AsylumRefugeeAdvocacy>

### Policy Issue Resources

CVT's core policy initiatives focus on advocating for access to fair asylum and refugee systems for survivors of torture seeking protection in the United States. To do this, CVT's Policy team uses multiple strategies to shine a light on the experiences of asylum seekers and refugees before Congress and before the public.

A staggering number of refugees and asylum seekers are torture survivors. While our clinicians work to heal their wounds, our policy team advocates for just and humane systems through which refugees and asylum seekers and the survivors among them can seek protection in the United States, consistent with their fundamental human rights and the United States legal obligations. The policy team's public education and advocacy emphasize the real-life experiences of CVT's clients.



#### CVT AT THE BORDER - [Video Playlist](#)

##### Update from Tijuana

Andrea Creamo, senior policy counsel, visited the U.S. Southern border with colleagues, assessing ways to alleviate suffering among those seeking refuge from torture and persecution. In [this video](#), she describes the difficult conditions experienced by refugees and asylum seekers who have been affected by the Remain in Mexico policy.

In May 2019, Andrea Creamo spent a week in El Paso meeting with asylum seekers in El Paso detention facilities. Read her [article here](#) and check out her daily video logs [in the playlist](#).

#### EIGHT FACTS ABOUT REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Over more than three decades, CVT has witnessed extraordinary healing, courage and resilience among clients, while at the same time we have seen confusion and misunderstanding from many in the public about the lives and challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers. To help clarify misconceptions and shed light on the realities of the lives of torture survivors, CVT has published eight facts that we hope will help dispel some of the myths about who refugees and asylum seekers really are. Read all [Eight Facts about Refugees and Asylum Seekers](#) [here](#).

**Partnerships:** Check out this [summary](#) of CVT's asylum advocacy partners.

#### [Letter to the Biden Administration](#): Strengthen the CAM Program

Sept. 21, 2022

CVT joined 100+ organizations [in this letter](#) urging President Biden and his administration to reform and strengthen the Central American Minors (CAM) Refugee & Parole Program for families in need of reunification in the United States. The authors write, Since the expansion of the CAM Program one year ago, out of all the newly eligible families only a few hundred have been able to apply. And as far as we are aware, not one has reunited through the CAM Program this year.

#### [Letter to DHS](#): End Mistreatment of Religious Migrants

Aug. 22, 2022

CVT joined more than 160 organizations [in this letter](#) calling on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to end mistreatment of religious migrants and asylum seekers by U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP). The authors write, For years, advocates and the media have repeatedly raised concerns about the seizure of religious headwear and other articles of faith, as well as the denial of religious diets by CBP, noting that these abuses have been allowed so long they seem to be standard practice.

#### [Letter to Congress](#): Do Not Allow Codification of Title 42

July 15, 2022

CVT signed onto [this letter](#) to congressional leaders, with concerns about amendments to a spending bill that would codify use of Title 42, a policy used under the Trump administration to keep asylum seekers out of the U.S. under the guise of public health. The authors write, Keeping Title 42 in place puts refugees at risk, exacerbates chaos at the border, and serves no legitimate public health goals.

#### [Letter to USCIS](#): Support Stateless People in the U.S.

July 14, 2022

CVT joined human rights organizations [in this letter](#) to Ur Jaddou, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, reminding him of promises made, but not yet kept, by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The authors write, "Stateless people continue to live without a pathway to legal status, experience indefinite immigration detention, face financial insecurity, and suffer separation from family members, without recourse in U.S. immigration law."

#### [CVT Statement](#): CVT Welcomes the End of Remain in Mexico Policy

June 30, 2022

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The CAM program should not inhibit or interfere with the rights of children to seek refuge and protection at the border.”

Read the letter from 100+ immigrant & refugee rights organizations

CVT issued [this statement](#) as the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Biden administration has the right to end the Migrant Protection Protocols, also known as the Remain in Mexico policy, which forced asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for their asylum hearings. CVT has been fighting against this cruel, Trump-era policy for a very long time. It is long past time that the Remain in Mexico policy ends and asylum seekers are no longer forced to wait in Mexico, sometimes for years, while their asylum processes move ahead at an often-glacial pace, said Scott Roehm, CVT Washington director.

**CVT Statement:** Title 42 Court Ruling

May 23, 2022

CVT issued [this statement](#) in response to the court ruling on Title 42, which will keep the ban on asylum seekers in place at the U.S. Southern border under the false pretense of public health. For every day the Title 42 ban is continued, more and more lives are put at risk, writes Jessica Douglas, external relations officer, CVT Georgia. The U.S. must act now to restore a just and humane asylum system which reflects our values.



Apr. 26, 2022

**Letter to Elected Representatives:** End Use of Title 42

CVT joined 205 civil and human rights organizations in [this letter](#) urging elected representatives to support ending the use of Title 42, a public health law that was used by the Trump administration as an excuse to keep asylum seekers out of the U.S. The letter was organized by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the authors write, The misuse of Title 42 is one of the most urgent civil and human rights issues of our day, and we urge you to stand with immigrants and welcome all with dignity.

Apr. 25, 2022

**Letter to Department of Homeland Security:** Responsible Public Charge Regulations

CVT joined 1,070 nonprofits in [this letter](#) urging the Department of Homeland Security to quickly finalize responsible public charge regulations to protect families. The authors write, Safety net programs for health, nutrition, housing, and other basic needs help nearly half of Americans to make ends meet at some point in their lifetime. In an economy where, for millions, working full-time isn't enough to pay the rent, take the children to the doctor, or put food on the table, getting help doesn't make a person citizen or not a public charge. It makes them part of a typical family.

Apr. 21, 2022

**Letter to President Biden:** End the Use of Title 42

Dr. Simon Adams, CVT president and CEO, joined leaders of humanitarian and human rights organizations in [this letter](#) to President Biden, requesting termination of use of Title 42, a public health law that was used by the Trump administration as an excuse to keep asylum seekers out of the U.S. The authors write, Four decades ago, Congress unanimously committed to welcome those seeking refuge. The previous administration did its best to unravel that commitment; we implore you to ensure that this Administration and Congress do not finish the job for them.

Apr. 7, 2022

**Letter to President Biden:** Continuing Harms of the Muslim Ban

CVT joined more than 70 organizations in [this letter](#) to President Biden, reminding him that discriminatory effects of the Trump administration's Muslim Ban continue to harm refugees in the U.S. The authors urge action, writing With the increase in humanitarian needs from the crises in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Eritrea, and elsewhere, now is the time to ensure that the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is operating fairly, efficiently, and securely.

**Letter to President Biden:** Expulsions of Venezuelan Asylum Seekers to Colombia

Feb. 2, 2022

CVT joined more than 100 organizations in [this letter](#) urging President Biden to end use of Title 42 to expel asylum seekers from Venezuela, and the torture survivors among them.

**Rulemaking Comments:** End Family Separation

Jan. 25, 2022

CVT submitted [rulemaking comments](#) to the Department of Homeland Security, detailing ways to minimize the separation of migrant parents and legal guardians and children entering the United States. Beyond previous policies that were used intentionally to separate families, Andrea Carcamo, senior policy counsel, notes that these recommendations span many U.S. immigration policies and practices beyond the bordersome that have been in place for decades[that] also lead to the rupture of the parent-child bond. Those, too, must be addressed to ensure the U.S. treats asylum seekers and other migrants with dignity.

**Letter to the White House:** End MPP & Title 42 Policies

Dec. 17, 2021

CVT joined more than 240 organizations [this letter](#) opposing the Biden administration's restarted and expanded use of the Remain in Mexico policy and continued use of the Title 42 policy, both of which cause harm to asylum seekers at the U.S. Southern border. The letter was [covered here](#) in Reuters.

**Letter to DHS Secretary Mayorkas and USCIS Director Jaddou:** Rescind EADs Rules

Nov. 17, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to DHS Secretary Mayorkas and USCIS Director Jaddou, urging the Biden administration to rescind Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) rules that were put in place under the previous administration and which keep asylum seekers from working while their asylum cases are underway.

**Letter to Sec. Mayorkas:** Clarify Civil Immigration Enforcement Parameters

Nov. 4, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) urging the Department of Homeland Security to clarify its guidance issued in September on immigration enforcement issues including the number of people ICE officers arrest, detain and deport.

**Letter to Biden Administration:** Designate TPS to Cameroon

Oct. 25, 2021

CVT joined more than 200 organizations in signing [this letter](#) urging the administration to designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) to Cameroon in order to protect the more than 40,000 Cameroonian living in the U.S.

**Rulemaking Comments:** DHS Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility

Oct. 22, 2021

CVT joined more than 630 organizations in endorsing these [organizational comments](#) in response to the Department of Homeland Security's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on public charge.

**CVT Statement:** Reinstatement of Remain in Mexico Policy

Oct. 18, 2021

CVT issued this statement denouncing the Biden administration's plan to re-start the Remain in Mexico policy, also known as MPP (Migrant Protection Protocols).

**Letter to President Biden:** Stop Expansion of ICE Detention

Oct. 8, 2021

CVT signed onto [this letter](#) to the president and Secretary Mayorkas, calling on the administration to halt expansion of ICE detention contracts.

**Letter to President Biden:** Your Administration Stands at a Precipice

Sept. 22, 2021

39 leaders of civil and human rights organizations, including CVTs Peter Dross, interim co-executive director, wrote [this letter](#) to President Biden expressing deep concern about the administration's commitment to a humane and just immigration policy. Read the [press release here](#).

**Letter to President Biden:** End the Embrace and Defense of Cruel Policies

Sept. 17, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to the Biden administration as it took steps that uphold barriers to people seeking safety in the United States. The administration filed a notice of appeal in a case (the *Huisha-Huisha* litigation), resisting an order to process protection claims of families with children who seek asylum.

**Letter to Congress:** Support Afghan Refugees

Sept. 17, 2021

CVT joined more than 170 organizations in [this letter to Congress](#), asking for support to ensure communities in the U.S. are fully ready to welcome Afghan refugees.

**Letter to Congress:** Reject Anomaly for ICE Detention & Removal Spending

Sept. 16, 2021

CVT joined more than 150 immigrant rights groups in sending [this letter](#) to Congress, asking them to oppose the White House's request for additional ICE and Customs and Border Patrol spending that could be used for further detention, deportation and border militarization in the next fiscal year.

**Letter to President Biden:** Parole Afghan Allies

Sept. 3, 2021

CVT joined 145 organizations in [this letter](#) to President Biden and his administration, with an urgent appeal to parole Afghan evacuees within 30 days.

**CVT Statement:** CVT Calls for Investigation of Stewart Detention Center

Sept. 1, 2021

CVT issued [this statement](#) in solidarity with partner organizations in demanding an investigation into continuing allegations of medical neglect at Stewart & calling for the immediate release of medically vulnerable immigrants.

**Letter to Biden Administration:** Action Needed on MPP

Aug. 30, 2021

CVT joined 107 organizations in [this letter](#) urging action to support people seeking humanitarian protection following the Supreme Court decision on MPP, also known as Remain in Mexico. The authors write, There is no lawful, safe, or humane way to carry out MPP.

**Letter to President Biden:** Resettlement Agencies are Ready to Help Now

Aug. 20, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) from resettlement agencies, weighing in to say they are ready with expertise, systems, networks and the will to help Afghan refugees now.

**Letter to President Biden:** Help Afghans in Need of Refuge

Aug. 20, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to the president from more than 300 organizations, urging him to open all humanitarian pathways to vulnerable Afghans

“

From the continuation of Title 42 expulsions to his administration's most recent failure to act with the kind of political and practical determination necessary to end MPP (Migrant Protection Protocols), the president's rhetoric increasingly rings hollow.”

-Scott Roehm, CVT Washington director

**CVT Statement:** Provide Protection to Afghans

Aug. 17, 2021

CVT issued [this statement](#) in response to the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and resulting humanitarian crisis, urging action to protect Afghans.

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There is no lawful, safe, or humane way to carry out MPP.”

**Letter to Congress:** Defund Hate

Aug. 17, 2021

CVT joined partners in [this letter](#) to Congress, urging action in FY2022 to reduce the United States' reliance on incarceration for immigration processing by significantly decreasing funding for ICE detention.

**Letter to President Biden:** Uphold the MPP Decision

Aug. 16, 2021

CVT joined coalition partners in [this letter](#) to President Biden, urging him to take measures to ensure that the MPP policy, also known as Remain in Mexico, never makes a return.

**Joint Press Release:** Divest from Detention; Invest in Communities

Aug. 17, 2021

CVT joined advocates in [this release](#): "130+ Groups Release Top Five Immigration Priorities for Biden Administrations Next Budget," urging the administration to divest from enforcement and detention and instead prioritize investment in communities.

**Letter to President Biden:** Uphold U.S. Refugee Law

Aug. 6, 2021

CVT joined 173 organizations in [this letter](#) to the president, expressing concern about the administration's continued violations of U.S. asylum law and Refugee Convention obligations.

[\*\*Letter to Biden Administration:\*\*](#) Designate Ethiopia for TPS

Aug. 4, 2021

CVT joined 84 organizations in [this letter](#) to Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas and Secretary of State Blinken to designate a new 18-month TPS for Ethiopia.

[\*\*CVT Article:\*\*](#) Resiliency at the U.S. Southern Border

July 21, 2021

CVT published [this article](#) about the work to support the resiliency and secondary trauma needs of legal service providers working with asylum seekers. The article is also available [in Spanish](#).



[\*\*Letter to DHS:\*\*](#) Regarding Guzman Chavez

July 21, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to Secretary Mayorkas, urging DHS to avoid prolonged detention of asylum seekers with reinstated removal orders.

[\*\*Letter to DHS:\*\*](#) Stop Targeting Asylum Seekers Fleeing Torture

July 13, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to Secretary Mayorkas urging him to stop the DHS and ICE targeting of asylum seekers fleeing persecution and torture for detention and deportation.

[\*\*Letter to President Biden:\*\*](#) Welcome Afghans Fleeing Violence

July 8, 2021

As a member of the RCUSA coalition, CVT joined [this letter](#) to President Biden, with an urgent request to welcome Afghans fleeing violence and persecution, expedite family reunification petitions, and grant humanitarian parole applications.

[\*\*Coalition Letter to President Biden:\*\*](#) Immigration Detention Reform

June 30, 2021

As a member of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, CVT joined [this letter](#) to President Biden, urging prompt action to address civil and human rights violations in the U.S. immigration detention system.



[\*\*CVT Article:\*\*](#) Getting One Step Closer to a Humane Asylum System

Jun 29, 2021

Alison Beckman, MSW, LICSW, senior clinician for external relations, wrote [this article](#) about her visit to Casa Alitas, a migrant shelter in Tucson, in preparation for extending new forms of care at the Southern border.

[\*\*Letter to DHS:\*\*](#) Change Course on Enforcement

June 28, 2021

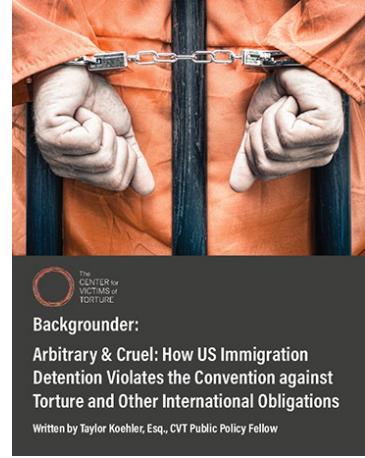
CVT joined [this letter](#) to Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas, urging DHS and ICE to change course on enforcement to protect families and communities and keep them whole.

[\*\*CVT Backgrounder:\*\*](#) U.S. Immigration Detention Must be Phased Out

June 25, 2021

CVT published [this backgrounder](#): Arbitrary & Cruel: How U.S. Immigration Detention Violates the Convention against Torture and Other International Obligations

and Other International Obligations



[\*\*Letter to Senate Appropriations Committee:\*\*](#) Funding Needed for Asylum Case Management

June 23, 2021

CVT endorsed [this letter](#) pushing for ORR funding for asylum case management/legal counsel and border shelter humanitarian assistance.

[\*\*Senate Resolution:\*\*](#) World Refugee Day Commitment

June 22, 2021

CVT supported [this resolution](#) from U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, committing to promote the well-being of refugees and displaced persons.

[\*\*Coalition Statement:\*\*](#) Border Welcoming Centers for Arriving Families

June 21, 2021

CVT signed [this statement](#) calling for a move away from ICEs reliance on hotels and for investment in the creation of NGO-run post-release Border Reception and Welcome Centers.

[\*\*Letter to DHS & ICE:\*\*](#) Release Transgender and HIV-Positive Asylum Seekers

June 16, 2021

CVT joined NGOs in [this letter](#) to DHS and ICE demanding all detained people who are LGBTQ or living with HIV be released from immigration detention facilities immediately.

[\*\*Letter to DOJ and DHS:\*\*](#) Interim Final Rule

June 8, 2021

CVT [signed this letter](#) to the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security expressing concern about reported plans to use an interim final rule to initiate new asylum processing.

[\*\*CVT Statement:\*\*](#) Redesignation of TPS for Haiti

May 25, 2021

CVT issued [this statement](#) as Haiti was redesignated for TPS. While we celebrate this good news, we must push back against the policies that continue to create hardships for the Haitian community, noted Andrea Crammo, CVT senior policy counsel.

[\*\*Letter to DHS:\*\*](#) Opposition to Expanded DHS Detention, Transfers & Increased Spread of COVID-19

May 25, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) calling out the fact that increasing the number of people in immigration detention poses a risk to public safety.

[\*\*Letter to Department of Justice:\*\*](#) Opposition to Harsh Fees

May 21, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to the Department of Justice and Executive Office for Immigration Review regarding the rule imposing fees on asylum applications.

#### **Rulemaking Comments:** Barriers to USCIS Benefits & Services

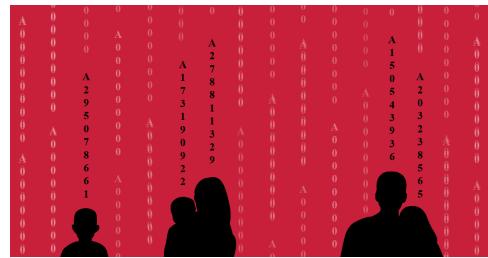
May 19, 2021

CVT filed [these comments](#) with steps USCIS must take to ensure that asylum seekers can gain meaningful access to asylum, work authorizations, and the benefits that come with them.

#### **CVT Article:** Remove the Word Alien from our Laws

May 6, 2021

Andrea Cramo, CVT senior policy counsel, and Ariel Zarate, MA, LSW, intern in the DC office and a mental health and psychosocial support technical advisor, wrote [this blog post](#) about the harmful use of the word alien in the U.S. immigration system.



#### **Explainer:** Expedited Border Screening and Adjudication

May 6, 2021

CVT worked with coalition partners to write [this fact sheet](#) that explains the flaws in the expedited processing of asylum requests at the U.S. Southern Border.

#### **CVT Statement:** Increased Refugee Admissions Cap

May 3, 2021

CVT issued [this statement](#) in response to President Biden raising the Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2021 from 15,000 to 62,500.

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The President has taken a critical step toward restoring not only U.S. leadership on refugee protection, but also the hope that vanished as the previous administration decimated this country's refugee admissions program. For our clients, refugee torture survivors from across the globe, healing often begins with hope. There has been precious little for far too long. Today is a day to be hopeful.”

- Scott Roehm, CVT Washington director



#### **Letter to Attorney General Garland and Secretary Mayorkas:** Restore Meaningful Access to Asylum

Apr. 15, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) urging creation of a welcoming, effective, and timely asylum system that enhances and does not sacrifice due process and compliance with U.S. refugee law and treaty obligations.

#### **Letter to the White House:** Phase out Immigration Detention

Apr. 2, 2021

As part of the recent #FirstTen to #CommunitiesNotCages Week of Action, CVT joined [this letter](#) to President Biden, Vice President Harris and Secretary Mayorkas, demanding that the administration begin the long overdue process of phasing out the use of detention from our immigration system.

#### **Letter to Departments of State and Homeland Security:** Improve Refugee Security Vetting

Apr. 2, 2021

Together with 18 organizations, CVT joined [a letter](#) to Secretaries Blinken and Mayorkas with recommendations for improvements to the refugee security vetting system. The letter outlines recommendations to ensure that refugee cases are not unfairly delayed or denied.

#### **Legislative Success in Georgia:** Maximize Global Talent in Georgia

Apr. 1, 2021

On the last day of the legislative session, [H.R. 11](#) passed unanimously out of the Georgia House of Representatives. With coalition partners, CVT Georgia drafted and advanced this legislation. A bipartisan House Study Committee will now work in the off-session to identify and remove barriers to full economic participation faced by immigrants and refugees in Georgia.

#### **Letter to Congress:** Immigration Detention

Mar. 31, 2021

CVT joined Amnesty International and 127 other organizations in [this letter to Congress](#), urging support for the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act.

#### **Letter to President Biden:** Recent Asylum Statements and Actions

Mar. 30, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to President Biden, urging him to reverse the Trump administrations harmful policies against asylum seekers and to stop using rhetoric that bolsters the prior administrations inhumane messaging on U.S. refugee protections.

#### **Letter to DHS, ICE and the White House:** Concerns with ICE Detention System

Mar. 29, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) urging the Biden administration to turn its attention to the abusive ICE detention system.

#### **Letter to President Biden:** Sign a Revised Refugee Admissions Goal

Mar. 24, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to President Biden, urging him to raise the refugee admissions goal to 62,500 this fiscal year.

#### **Letter to Congress:** FY22 DHS Appropriations Bill

Mar. 15, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) calling on Congress to reduce ICE and CBP funding by 50 percent this year.

#### **Letter to Atlanta ICE Field Office:** Release Egidio Gonzalez Tacen

Mar. 15, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to Thomas P. Giles, Atlanta ICE Field Office director, calling for immediate action in the case of Egidio Gonzalez Tacen, who was at imminent risk of dying in ICE custody at Stewart Detention Center. Mr. Tacen was released.

#### **Letter to Departments of Homeland Security and State:** Wind Down MPP

Mar. 12, 2021

CVT joined more than 100 organizations in [this letter](#) to Secretaries Mayorkas and Blinken urging addition action to bring to an end the Migrant Protection Protocols, also known as the Remain in Mexico policy.

#### **Letter to White House:** Potential Title 42 Expulsions of Minors

Mar. 12, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, Ambassador Rice and Advisor Sullivan, expressing concern about use of the Title 42 policy to inhumanely expel 16- and 17-year-old unaccompanied children at the Southern border.

#### **CVT Endorsement:** Keeping Women and Girls Safe from the Start Act

Mar. 11, 2021

CVT joined civil society organizations in endorsing the [Keeping Women and Girls Safe from the Start Act](#), bipartisan legislation to strengthen current United States and international actors efforts to address gender-based violence perpetrated during humanitarian crises.

**Letter to President Biden & Vice President Harris:** Gender Equity & Equality

Mar. 10, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to President Biden & Vice President Harris, asking them to ensure gender equity and equality are key tenets of U.S. foreign policy.

**Letter to DHS:** End Expedited Removal and Immigration Detention

Feb. 16, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), calling on Secretary Alejandros Mayorkas to reject the use of expedited removal and immigration detention as it ends policies that effectively eliminated humanitarian protections at the border in violation of U.S. law and treaty obligations.

**Letter to DHS:** Disapprove ICE Agreements

Feb. 16, 2021

CVT signed onto [this letter](#) to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, urging immediate disapproval of agreements made between the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and ICE Council 118 American Federation of Government Employees (the ICE union), which put asylum seekers, immigrants in detention, workers and the public at risk of harm.

**Letter to Biden/Harris Administration:** Review All Cases in ICE Detention

Feb. 11, 2021

CVT joined over 120 coalition partners in [this letter](#) to leadership in the Biden/Harris administration, calling for a review of all individuals held in ICE custody and release those who do not meet stated enforcement priorities and those at heightened risk due to COVID-19.

**Letter to President Biden:** Rescind Remaining Harmful Asylum Policies

Feb. 9, 2021

CVT joined more than 90 faith-based, legal, humanitarian and human rights organizations in response to the presidents executive order on asylum [calling on the administration](#) to address remaining harmful policies.

**CVT Statement:** Restoring Refugee Resettlement

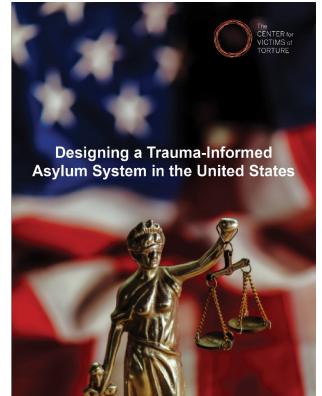
Feb. 5, 2021

CVT issued [this statement](#) in response to President Bidens Executive Order to restore and enhance refugee resettlement in the United States.

**CVT Report:** Design a Trauma-informed Asylum System

Feb. 4, 2021

CVT released [this report](#) outlining concrete steps the Biden/Harris administration should implement to build a genuinely trauma-informed asylum system. Download the [full report here](#) and an [executive summary here](#).



**Letter to President Biden:** De-prioritize Migration-related Prosecutions

Feb. 4, 2021

CVT joined [this letter](#) to President Biden, asking him to halt prosecutions for unauthorized entry and reentry violations, and de-prioritize the use of criminal prosecutions for migration related offenses.

**Letter to Atlanta ICE Office:** Implement New Civil Ommigration Enforcement Priorities

Feb. 4, 2021

CVT Georgia joined a coalition of Georgia immigrant rights and social justice organizations [in this letter](#), reminding the Atlanta ICE Field Office to abide by the new enforcement priorities announced by the Biden administration.

**Response to UN:** Questionnaire on Returning Asylum Seekers

Feb. 1, 2021

CVT, with Oxfam and RAICES, [provided answers](#) to a questionnaire from the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants regarding the return of asylum seekers to places where they face persecution.

**Letter to President Biden:** End Misuse of Title 42 Public Health Authority

Feb. 2, 2021

CVT joined 100 faith-based, legal services, humanitarian and human rights organizations, [calling on President Biden](#) to: uphold U.S. law, protect those seeking protection, and end the Trump-era Title 42 policy that misuses public health authority to expel asylum seekers and migrants.

**Letter to the White House:** DesignateDED/TPS for Cameroon

Jan. 28, 2021

Via the Leadership Conference, CVT joined [this letter](#) to President Biden, calling for an 18-month designation of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Cameroon in light of violence, unrest, COVID-19 and additional crises facing the country.

**Letter to the White House:** Release People in ICE Custody

Jan. 26, 2021

CVT joined partners in [this letter](#) calling for the immediate release of all people currently detained in ICE custody and cessation of all enforcement activity, deportations and transfers between immigration detention facilities and from local, state, and federal jails and prisons into immigration detention.

**Amicus Brief:** End MPP

Jan. 22, 2021

CVT joined an [amicus brief](#) submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court challenging so-called Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), detailing how MPP subjects individuals who are seeking safety to life-threatening danger in Mexico, how the policy blocks access to humanitarian protection in the U.S., and the risks confronted by refugees who are returned to the countries from which they fled.

**CVT Statement:** CVT Applauds President Bidens Executive Actions

Jan. 21, 2020

CVT issued [this statement](#) applauding President Bidens day one executive actions that will begin to dismantle cruel and discriminatory policies established under the Trump administration, and to chart a new course.

**Message to Biden/Harris Administration:** 2021 Immigration Action Plan

Jan. 20, 2021

CVT joined this news [release](#) from Immigration Hub, calling on the Biden/Harris administration to consider important reforms from the [2021 Immigration Action Plan](#).

## [CVT Explainer](#): Details on the Trump Administrations Final Efforts to Destroy Asylum

Jan. 7, 2021

Andrea Crammo, senior policy counsel, [writes about the four final rules](#) being implemented by the Trump administration in its last days in office, all of which are particularly harmful to asylum seekers.

### [Letter to President-elect Biden](#): Rescind the Anti-Immigration EO's

Dec. 18, 2020

CVT was among many signers of this [letter](#) sent to President-elect Joe Biden, encouraging him to follow through on quickly rescinding harmful executive orders and presidential proclamations and restarting immigration.

### [Op Ed Piece](#): What this Human Rights Day, and a new administration, mean for torture survivors

Dec. 10, 2020

On Human Rights Day, Curt Goering, CVT executive director, [writes in MinnPost](#), For survivors of torture like our clients, Inauguration Day cannot come soon enough.



### [CVT Article](#): The Necessity of Human Rights Year-Round, Including the Right to Seek Asylum

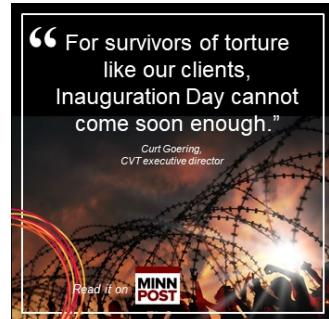
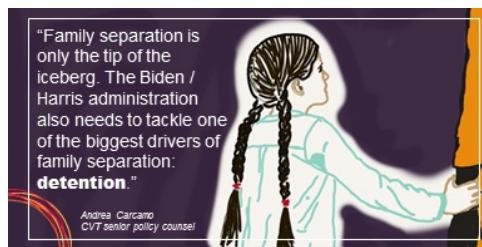
Dec. 10, 2020

This Human Rights Day, CVT [comments](#) on the ways that recovering better can apply to individuals not only living in the U.S. with COVID-19, but those who are stuck at the border, those who have been separated from their children, and those who have contracted the virus and have no way of receiving treatment due to detainment.

### [CVT Article](#): Immigration Detention Separates Families

Nov. 18, 2020

Andrea Crammo, CVT senior policy counsel, [writes](#) about how the U.S. use of immigration detention results in family separation, yet is often overlooked. This article is also available [on Medium](#) and [IMMPrint](#).



### [Priorities](#): Protect Immigrant Children

Nov. 11, 2020

CVT joined 15 childrens and human rights organizations in [announcing 10 priorities](#) for the next administration to restore the safety and well-being of immigrant children.

### [Letter to Secretary of State](#): Rebuild the Refugee Resettlement Program

Nov. 3, 2020

As part of Refugee Council USA, CVT signed [this letter](#) to Secretary Pompeo and Acting Secretary Wolf calling for a rebuilding of the refugee program and a clear path toward welcoming 15,000 refugees to the U.S. in FY21.

### [Partner Report](#): 2020 Labor Trafficking Roundtable Report

Nov. 3, 2020

CVT, in partnership with Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, published the 2020 Labor Trafficking Roundtable Report. This work group created recommendations to guide Georgias efforts to combat trafficking and support survivors. Read the [report here](#).

### [CVT Statement](#): Refugee Resettlement Cap of 15,000 is Shameful

Oct. 28, 2020

CVT released [this statement](#) in response to the presidents official refugee cap for Fiscal Year 2021 at 15,000. Curt Goering, CVT executive director, wrote, This is not what the American people want, nor what those fleeing persecution and danger must be afforded.



### [Letter to President Trump & Acting Secretary Wolf](#): Designate Cameroon for TPS

Oct. 26, 2020

CVT joined 80 other organizations in [calling for](#) immediate 18- month designation of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Cameroon in light of violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, civil and political unrest, economic and humanitarian strife, and the COVID-19 crisis in the country.

### [Rulemaking Comments](#): Asylum and Withholding of Removal Procedures

Oct. 23, 2020

CVT submitted [these comments](#) in opposition to the proposed rule as it would undermine due process by taking away asylum seekers fair opportunity to demonstrate their status as refugees before an immigration judge, and would do so by burdening asylum seekers in ways wholly unrelated to the merits of their claims.

### [Letter to UN](#): Endorsement of Letter on Unnecessary Surgeries in ICE-contracted Center

Oct. 23, 2020

CVT endorsed [a letter](#) from Congresswomen Tlaib, Ocasio-Cortez, Omar and Pressley sent to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet and others, calling for the launch of independent investigations into the recent allegations of human rights abuses committed by the Department of Homeland Security, its components and its private contractors. As the [news release](#) explains, The letter comes just over a month after initial [reports](#) of an ICE-contracted center in Georgia performing a staggering number unnecessary surgeries including partial or full hysterectomies and other gynecological procedures on immigrant women without their consent."

### [Statement](#): Investigation Needed

Oct. 22, 2020

CVT joined civil society organizations in [this statement](#) denouncing DHS border externalization in Guatemala and calling for an immediate investigation. The statement is available in [Spanish here](#).

### [Letter to Executive Office for Immigration Review](#): Allow Comments in Immigration

Oct. 8, 2020

CVT joined more than 80 organizations in [this letter](#) calling for a 60-day comment period on proposed rules which will negatively affect asylum seekers.

### [CVT Statement](#): U.S. Proposed Refugee Resettlement Number is Pathetic

Oct. 1, 2020

In response to the Trump administration's setting the U.S. 2021 refugee cap at an all-time low, CVT issued [this statement](#), stating: Since his first day in office, President Trump and certain administration officials have worked to dismantle the U.S. refugee resettlement program, and they've done so with intolerable prejudice for partisan ends.

**[Letter to Congressional Delegation:](#)** Conduct a Thorough Investigation

Sept. 25, 2020

CVT Georgia joined more than 90 Georgia leaders from the legal, medical, faith, immigrant and human rights communities in [this letter](#) to the Georgia Congressional delegation in decrying the long history of inhumane treatment of immigrants in ICE custody in the state.

"Since his first day in office, President Trump and certain administration officials have worked to dismantle the U.S. refugee resettlement program, and they've done so with intolerable prejudice for partisan ends. It is not what the vast majority of Americans want, not what the country needs, and the opposite of what refugees seeking safe haven here deserve."

~Scott Roehm, CVT Washington director

**[A Call for Leadership:](#)** Reaffirm GBV as Grounds for Asylum

Sept. 22, 2020

CVT joined U.S.-based civil society organizations [in calling for](#) strong and consistent leadership in the effort to respond and end gender-based violence globally.

**[CVT Release:](#)** Investigate Abuses in ICE Detention

Sept. 18, 2020

CVT [called for](#) investigation of allegations that women in Irwin County ICE detention are being subjected to sterilization procedures, unnecessarily and without their consent, among other abuses.

**[Amicus Brief:](#)** USCIS Litigation

Sept. 11, 2020

CVT joined organizations in filing [an amicus brief](#) in the litigation of Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) v. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

**[Letter to Congress:](#)** Do Not Increase Funding for CBP or ICE

Sept. 16, 2020

CVT joined 230 organizations in [this letter](#) urging Congress to reject any anomalies or any other funding mechanism that would increase funding for CBP or ICE in a FY21 Continuing Resolution.

**[Letter to the White House:](#)** Set Refugee Goal at 95,000

Aug. 31, 2020

CVT signed onto [this letter](#) to President Trump and Secretary of State Pompeo, urging a refugee resettlement goal of 95,000 for FY2021.

**[Letter to DHS:](#)** Redesignate South Sudan for TPS

Aug. 24, 2020

CVT signed [this letter](#) to Dept. of Homeland Security Acting Secretary Chad Wolf, asking him to extend and redesignate South Sudan for Temporary Protected Status.

**[Rulemaking Comments:](#)** DOJ & DHS Proposed Rule on Security Bars & Processing

Aug. 10, 2020

CVT filed [these comments](#) opposing the proposed rule as there is no legitimate public health or national security rationale for excluding asylum seekers.

**[Letter to Vice President Joe Biden:](#)** If elected, Implement DED for Venezuelans

July 30, 2020

CVT joined 48 organizations in [this letter](#) calling on Joe Biden to implement Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Venezuelan nationals residing in the United States on day one of a potential Biden administration.

**[Letter to Congress:](#)** Vote YES on the NO BAN ACT

July 17, 2020

CVT joined 400-plus organizations in [this letter](#) calling on Congress to vote YES on the NO BAN Act, which would end harmful Muslim and African bans and protect against future, similarly discriminatory bans.

**[News Media:](#)** Sahan Journal

July 16, 2020

Andrea Crammo, CVT senior policy counsel, is quoted in [this article](#) by Hibah Ansari, who writes, Crammo noted that asylum seekers from Central America often cite gender-based violence and gang violence, and would encounter particular difficulties with the rule.



My client "... has waited close to four years for her interview. In the meantime, she is working as an essential health care worker during the COVID19 pandemic and has directly worked in nursing homes with outbreaks, continually putting her own life at risk."

-Anne Eichmeyer, MSW, LICSW,  
CVT psychotherapist

**[Rulemaking Comments:](#)** Procedures for Asylum and Withholding of Removal; Credible Fear and Reasonable Fear Review

July 15, 2020

13 national torture treatment centers including CVT [submitted comments](#) to the Executive Office of Immigration Review, opposing new rules that will make it more difficult for survivors to obtain asylum, and return many to danger.

**[News Media:](#)** Just Security

July 15, 2020

Scott Roehm, director of the Washington, D.C. office, wrote [this article](#) titled, Trumps Latest Assault on Asylum Has Nothing to Do with National Security or Public Health.



**[CVT Article:](#)** Yet Another Brick in Trumps Border Wall: A Blanket Ban on Asylum

July 14, 2020

Asylum seekers have the right to seek protection in the United States as required by domestic and international law . . . The president is exploiting a global crisis as a means to racist, bigoted ends, writes Andrea Crammo, CVT senior policy counsel in this [article here](#), which was also [published](#) at Medium.

**[Letter to Congress:](#)** Immigration & Naturalization Fee Waivers

June 29, 2020

CVT joined [this letter](#) urging Congressional leadership to include fee waivers in discretionary funding.

**[CVT Statement:](#)** Final Rules on Work Authorizations for Asylum Seekers

June 26, 2020

Andrea Crammo, senior policy counsel, issued [this statement](#) in opposition to new rules which considerably limit the ability of asylum seekers to obtain work authorizations.

## [Letter to the CDC](#): Rescind the Order

June 17, 2020

CVT joined Georgia-area professionals in public health, medicine, law and immigration in sending [this letter](#) to CDC Director Robert Redfield, urging him to rescind his order blocking asylum seekers from entering the U.S. at the borders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## [Letter to DHS](#): End Policies Affecting Immigrant Children

June 16, 2020

CVT joined 122 organizations on [this letter](#) urging the Department of Homeland Security to end policies instituted under cover of the coronavirus that threaten the safety and family unity of vulnerable immigrant children.

## [Letter to Congress](#): Include Latin America & Caribbean in Emergency Spending Package

June 8, 2020

CVT joined [this letter](#) to Congressional leadership, urging assistance as COVID-19 spreads in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## [Letters to Congress](#): Do Not Bail Out USCIS

June 4, 2020

CVT joined letters to the [House](#) and [Senate](#), calling for conditions on a bailout of U.S. Citizen & Immigration Services that would reverse its focus on enforcement.

## [Letter to DHS & CDC](#): Retain Protections for Asylum Seekers and Unaccompanied Children

May 27, 2020

CVT joined 250 organizations in [this letter](#) to the Department of Homeland Security and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calling for safe response to the needs of people fleeing to the U.S. border during the pandemic.

## [News Media](#): TPT Almanac

May 1, 2020

Curt Goering, executive director, [appeared on Almanac](#) to discuss CVT's work to support clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. He commented, . . . the hope of reunification with ones spouse, ones children, with ones parents, is one of the major factors that allow survivors who have been through these horrendous experiences to have hope for the future. And when those hopes are crushed or the prospect of that has been in effect eliminated, it really sets them back. The process of recovery is a long one and the hope of being reunited is one of the things that keeps people going.



## [News Media](#): USA Today

Apr. 28, 2020

Trump's Coronavirus Order Scapegoats Immigrants and Doesn't Make Us Safer a [USA Today op ed](#) by Linda Chavez, director of the Becoming American Initiative, and Scott Roehm, CVT director of the Washington, DC office.



## [Rulemaking Comments](#): Do Not Limit Asylum Seeking

Apr. 23, 2020

CVT [submitted comments](#) to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, opposing newly proposed immigration restrictions that will impact torture survivors among asylum seeking populations.

## [Letter to Governor Kemp](#): Support Refugees

Apr. 21, 2020

CVT joined a coalition of organizations in [this letter](#) to the Georgia governor, highlighting the contributions of refugees to health and safety during COVID-10.

## [CVT Statement](#): Immigration Suspension Would be Political Grandstanding at its Worst

Apr. 21, 2020

CVT [responded](#) to reports that President Trump is preparing to temporarily suspend immigration to the United States.

## [Letter to Georgia Dept of Public Health](#): Evacuate Immigrant Detention Centers

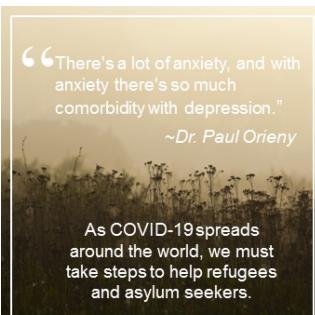
Apr. 17, 2020

CVT joined [this letter](#) to Governor Kemp and leaders in the Georgia Department of Health, calling for release of people currently detained in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody in Georgia.

## [CVT Article](#): Refugees and Asylum Seekers Brace Themselves for COVID-19

“There’s a lot of anxiety, and with anxiety there’s so much comorbidity with depression.”  
~Dr. Paul Orieny

As COVID-19 spreads around the world, we must take steps to help refugees and asylum seekers.



## [Letter to DHS](#): Rescind Policy of Expulsion, Especially for Survivors of GBV

Apr. 16, 2020

CVT joined organizations in [this letter](#) urging DHS to immediately rescind its policy of expelling asylum seekers at the border, which puts survivors of domestic violence at great risk. Here is the [letter in Spanish](#).

**Immigration suspension would be political grandstanding at its worst.**

“ Immigrants across the country, thousands of torture survivors among them, are putting their lives on the line to help—including serving as doctors, nurses, grocers, food deliverers and personal care attendants—while the president politically grandstands at their expense.”

~Scott Roehm

## [Letter to DHS & CDC](#): Expulsions of Unaccompanied Children

Apr. 16, 2020

CVT joined 75+ organizations on [this letter](#) urging DHS and CDC to cease the expulsion of unaccompanied children and to exempt them and asylum seekers from U.S. southern border entry restrictions.

## [Letter to Congressional Leadership](#): FIRST Act

Apr. 16, 2020

CVT joined [this letter](#) in support of the Federal Immigrant Release for Safety and Security Together Act (FIRST Act).

## [Letter to DHS & CDC](#): Objection to Expulsions

Apr. 16, 2020

CVT [joined 125 organizations](#) objecting to DHS's use of COVID-19 and the Mar. 20 order of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out the Trump administration's goal to close the southern border.

## [Letter to DHS and EOIR](#): Barriers to Counsel

Apr. 16, 2020

CVT joined [this letter](#) calling on officials to address access to counsel issues faced by asylum seekers subject to the Remain in Mexico policy.

## CVT Article: TPS for Venezuela

Apr. 15, 2020

Andrea Crcamo, senior policy counsel, writes in [this blog post](#) about the urgent need to designate Venezuela for temporary protected status. This article is published [on Medium](#).



## Letter to Congress: Congressional Fourth Package (COVID #4)

Apr. 13, 2020

CVT joined more than 150 organizations in [this letter](#) supporting refugee priorities in COVID-19-related legislation.

## News Media: Torture Survivors among Minnesota's Most Vulnerable During Pandemic

Apr. 9, 2020

Curt Goering wrote [this opinion article](#), providing an update on the pandemic impacts on clients and on CVTs work.



## Letter to Governor Kemp: Moratorium on Evictions & Foreclosures

Apr. 1, 2020

CVT joined a large coalition in [this letter](#) to the governor of Georgia, urging him to halt evictions and foreclosures as the COVID pandemic impacts people with disastrous results.

## Letter to Departments of State and Homeland Security: Extend Visa Validity during Pandemic

Mar. 31, 2020

CVT and other organizations [urged](#) Secretary of State Pompeo and Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Wolf to extend visa validity for immigrants and refugees.

## Rulemaking Comments: Fees for Asylum Seekers

Mar. 30, 2020

CVT [submitted comments](#) opposing fees for filing for asylum in immigration court.

## Letter to Department of Justice: Close Immigration Courts During COVID-19 Crisis

Mar. 26, 2020

CVT joined more than 70 organizations in [urging immediate closure](#) of immigration courts to help protect the safety of asylum seekers

## CVT Article: Rescind Public Charge Rule

Mar. 24, 2020

The public charge rule never should have been implemented. It is even more dangerously irresponsible now, as we face a pandemic that continues to spread in the United States. The rule must be rescinded immediately, [writes](#) Michelle Rodenburg, CVT policy intern.

## Letter to DHS: Expelling Asylum Seekers is Illegal

Mar. 23, 2020

CVT joined more than 114 civil-society organizations [in calling on](#) the Department of Homeland Security to respect the rights of asylum seekers.

## Letter to ICE and EOIR: Prioritize Safety of Detainees

Mar. 23, 2020

CVT joined advocacy groups in [calling on](#) ICE and Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) to prioritize the safety of employees, detained asylum seekers and immigrants and their legal representatives during the COVID-19 crisis.

## Letter to Congress: Include Immigrants in COVID Aid

Mar. 21, 2020

CVT joined human rights organizations in [asking Congress](#) to include immigrant families in their request for coronavirus relief aid.

## Letter to Trump Administration: Extend Public Comments Period During COVID Crisis

Mar. 19, 2020

CVT joined human rights organization in [asking the White House](#) to extend the comments period during the coronavirus crisis.

## Letter to Minnesota Officials: Support for Vulnerable Populations

Mar. 19, 2020

CVT joined 200 human rights organizations in [this letter](#) to Minnesota legislative leaders, requesting that vulnerable populations are included in emergency response.

## CVT Statement: Closing U.S. Southern Border to Those Most in Need is Unlawful, Immoral

Mar. 18, 2020

Curt Goering, executive director, issued [this statement](#) amid reports that the Trump administration may close the U.S. borders to asylum seekers during the COVID-19 crisis.

## Letter to Congress: Defund Hate

Mar. 17, 2020

CVT joined more than 250 civil society organizations in [this letter](#) asking Congress to scale back budgets for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

## CVT Article: Impacts of MPP in Mexicali

Mar. 16, 2020

On a recent visit to Mexicali, Mexico, Andrea Crcamo, senior policy counsel, observed many negative impacts of the "Remain in Mexico" policy on asylum seekers.

"The COVID-19 outbreak is a powerful reminder of our common humanity, and the importance of embracing it, especially during times of crisis."

~Curt Goering, CVT executive director

## Letter to DHS: End Migrant Protection Protocols

March 6, 2020

CVT joined more than 150 organizations in [this letter](#) calling for MPP to end and to allow asylum seekers to pursue protection under the law.

## Letter to Congress: Independent Immigration Court

Feb. 18, 2020

CVT joined more than 50 organizations in [calling on Congress](#) to establish an independent court system that would restore due process and judicial independence

**[CVT Statement:](#)** NO BAN Act Mark-up

Feb. 11, 2020

As the president may add more countries to the already-expanded banned list, Congress must pass this bill to make clear that Members oppose, and will work to roll back, the presidents discriminatory immigration and refugee-related agendas, writes Andrea Crammo, senior policy counsel, in [this statement](#).

**[CVT Statement:](#)** Muslim Ban Expansion

Jan. 31, 2020

Neal Porter, director of international services, released [this statement](#) as the White House today expanded its list of banned countries.

**[CVT Statement:](#)** Sen. Blumenthal Resolution

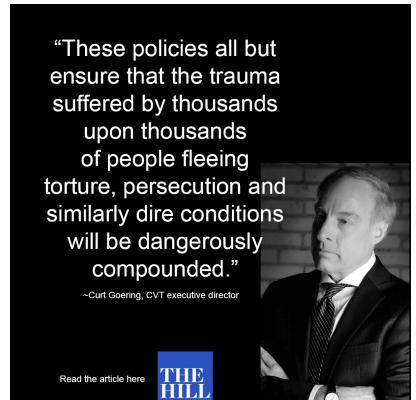
Jan. 28, 2020

Andrea Crammo, senior policy counsel, issued [this statement](#) as Senator Blumenthal introduced a resolution to end onerous asylum policies.

**[News Media:](#)** The Hill

Jan. 28, 2020

At this third anniversary of the presidents Muslim Ban, Curt Goering, executive director, published this [op ed in The Hill](#). He writes, For some of the most desperate among us, January has become very dark, indeed.



**[Letter to ICE & DHS:](#)** Release Transgender Immigrants

Jan. 21, 2020

CVT joined 90 NGOs in [this letter](#) demanding that ICE and DHS release all transgender immigrants.

**[CVT Statement:](#)** Blocking EO Barring Resettlement

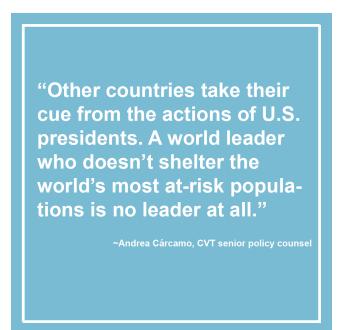
Jan. 15, 2020

CVT issued [this statement](#) applauding the block to the executive order allowing local officials to ban refugee resettlement

**[CVT Article:](#)** Five Major Barriers to Asylum

Jan. 13, 2020

Other countries take their cue from the actions of U.S. presidents. A world leader who doesnt shelter the worlds most at-risk populations is no leader at all, [writes](#) Andrea Crammo, senior policy counsel.



**[CVT Administrative Rulemaking Comments:](#)** Opposing Changes to Asylum Process

Jan. 13, 2020

CVT submitted [comments](#) to the Department of Homeland Security urging withdrawal of its proposal to create new work-related barriers for asylum seekers.

**[CVT Administrative Rulemaking Comments:](#)** Proposed Fees for Asylum and Work Applications

Dec. 30, 2019

CVT [submitted comments](#) to the Dept. of Homeland Security, opposing proposed fees for asylum seekers.

**[CVT Article:](#)** New Punitive Proposed Rules for Asylum Seekers

Dec. 17, 2019

Alison Beckman, MSW, LICSW, senior clinician for external relations, and Andrea Crammo, senior policy counsel, wrote [this blog post](#) about the impacts of new rules regarding work permits and fees.

**[Letter to Trump Administration:](#)** Temporary Protected Status

Nov. 22, 2019

CVT joined over 100 NGOs in [this letter](#) urging the administration to extend and redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Yemen and Somalia.

**[CVT Press Release:](#)** Refugee Protection Act 2019

Nov. 21, 2019

CVT issued [this press release](#) commending introduction of the Act, which ensures the U.S. affords refugees and asylum seekers protections that they need and deserve.

**[Statement for the Record:](#)** Remain in Mexico Policy

Nov. 19, 2019

CVT filed [this statement](#) opposing the policy, which exacerbates trauma for families who have fled torture and persecution.

**[Letter to Mexican Government:](#)** Migrant Protection Protocols

Nov. 19, 2019

CVT joined humanitarian organizations in [this letter](#) asking the Mexican government to meet its obligations to respect the dignity, needs and rights of persons affected by the program known as Remain in Mexico. Read the letter in [Spanish here](#).

**[CVT Administrative Rulemaking Comments:](#)** Removal of the 30-Day Processing Provision

Nov. 8, 2019

CVT filed [comments](#) opposing the proposed removal of the provision that asylum seekers Employment Authorization Documents must be processed within 30 days.

## [Open Letter to Refugees](#)

Nov. 4 2019

CVT joins partners in [Refugee Council USA](#) in expressing solidarity for refugees in [this letter](#), writing As a united community of advocates, Refugee Council USA wants you to know that you are not alone. We stand alongside you, and proclaim that refugees are always welcome here.

## [Amicus Brief: Third-Country Rule](#)

Oct. 16, 2019

CVT signed onto [this brief](#) challenging the rule prohibiting asylum for those who transit through a third country.

## [CVT Article: "The Walking Dead" is Not Fiction in Central America](#)

Oct. 8, 2019

Andrea Cramowrote [this article](#) for Medium, about how a TV show parallels the real-life experiences of asylum seekers.



## [CVT Statement: Refugee Admissions Cap is Harmful and Irrational](#)

Sept. 27, 2019

CVT issued [this statement](#) in response to the presidential determination of only 18,000 refugee admissions for FY20.

## [Hearing Memo: Hearing on Detention](#)

Sept. 26, 2019

CVT and advocacy groups authored [this memo](#) for the House Judiciary Committee hearing on detention, providing members with an overview of the bleak immigration and detention landscape in the U.S.

## [Statement for the Record: ICE Detention](#)

Sept. 25, 2019

In advance of the House hearing on The Expansion and Troubling Use of ICE Detention, CVT submitted this [statement for the record](#), describing the devastating impacts of detention on families.

## [Complaint: LGBTQ+ Detention](#)

Sept. 25, 2019

Ahead of House hearings on ICE detention, CVT and partners submitted [this complaint](#) on behalf of LGBTQ+ migrants & people living with HIV. Details and commentary from the complaint were featured in the [Washington Post](#), the [Boston Globe](#), [Seattle Times](#) and [SF Gate](#).

## [Art & Panel Event: The Experiences of Women Who Flee Central America](#)

Sept. 20, 2019

Artists and experts came together to explore, describe and represent the situation of women who have fled Central America, hosted by CVT and the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (OAS/CIM. Click here for [agenda and event details](#), and read the [press release here](#). The event was covered by Voice of America watch [interviews here](#), featuring comments by Andrea Cramo. [Listen to the art piece](#) by Ernesto Cramo Cavazos.



## [CVT Statement: Supreme Court](#)

Sept. 12, 2019

CVT issued this statement objecting to the U.S. Supreme Court upholding a ban on asylum seeking to the United States for those who traveled through a third country.

## [Letter to Congress: DHS Appropriations](#)

Sept. 12, 2019

CVT joined more than 200 NGOs in calling on Congress to cut the detention, enforcement and border militarization portion of the Department of Homeland Security budget, and put in accountability measures.



## [Letter with National Consortium: Presidential Determination](#)

Sept. 9, 2019

CVT and torture rehabilitation organizations [call on the U.S.](#) to admit at least 95,000 refugees next year.

## [CVT Article: A visit to Stewart Detention Center](#)

Sept. 5, 2019

On her visit to the Stewart Detention Center in Georgia, Andrea Cramowrote [about finding hope despite exceeding low asylum grant rates.](#)

## [CVT Article: Georgians speak up for refugees](#)

Aug. 26, 2019

Darlene Lynch, head of external relations, CVT Georgia, [writes](#) about a successful Day of Action event.

## [CVT Statement: Indefinite Detention of Children](#)

August, 21, 2019

CVT pushed back in [this statement](#) as the Trump administration moved to eliminate protections that were intended to protect children's mental and physical wellbeing.



**Letter to Members of Trump Administration:** Presidential Determination

August 19, 2019

CVT joined over 170 organizations in [this letter](#) calling for a Presidential Determination to admit 95K refugees in FY 2020.

**Public Comments - Department of Homeland Security (USDHS):** Interim Final Rule (IFR) Unlawful and to Adversely Affect Torture

Survivors

Aug. 15, 2019

CVT opposes proposed changes to asylum eligibility criteria and procedural modifications.

**Letter to U.S. Department of State and Homeland Security:** "Assisted voluntary return" program concerning

Aug. 2, 2019

CVT is one of 30 organizations [expressing grave concerns](#) about the International Organization for Migrations (IOM) assisted voluntary return program for migrants subject to the Remain in Mexico policy.

**CVT Statement:** Graham Bill

July 31, 2019

CVT issued [this statement](#) calling Senator Grahams Secure and Protect Act bill a travesty for torture survivors.

**Letter to Judiciary Committee**

July 31, 2019

CVT signed [this letter](#) opposing Senator Lindsey Grahams Secure and Protect Act.

**News Media:** Common Dreams

July 30, 2019

[This article](#) includes a quote from Scott Roehm, director of the Washington office, from CVTs recent [statement](#). The story and quote were also picked up [here](#), by Raw Story.

**Letter to Republic of Guatemala:** Reject Safe Third Country

July 25, 2019

CVT signed [this letter](#) urging Guatemala to reject a safe third country agreement. Read the letter in [Spanish here](#).

**News Media:** Washington Post

July 23, 2019

Vice President Walter F. Mondale, CVT National Advisory Committee member, published [this op ed](#) titled Walter Mondale: We are once again in a humanitarian refugee crisis. We must stem this misery.

**Letter** to the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights

July 23, 2019

CVT signed onto [this letter](#) requesting a site visit at the U.S. southern border regarding human rights violations.

**Press Release:** U.S. expanding expedited removal

July 23, 2019

CVT issued [this release](#) with tips for those who will be affected by the increased fast-track deportation process in the U.S.



**News Media:** NBC News

July 23, 2019

CVT joined U.S. foreign policy experts, human and civil rights groups, faith leaders, scholars and lawmakers in [a letter](#) to Secretary Pompeo opposing the State Departments Unalienable Rights Commission. NBC News covered the news in an article, [Human rights groups lead chorus of alarm over new Trump administration commission](#).



**News Media: Common Dreams**

July 19, 2019

Scott Roehm, director of the Washington office, was quoted regarding reports of the Trump administration considering zeroing out the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, saying "This is not about safety, or security, or economics; its xenophobia-fueled politics. Closing our doors to some of the worlds most vulnerable people, many of them torture survivors, is as un-American as it is appalling. This story was also picked up in [Raw Story](#).

**CVT Statement:** Zero Refugee Admissions

July 18, 2019

CVT issued [this statement](#) in response to reports that the Trump administration is considering zeroing out the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in fiscal year 2020.

**Letter to State Dept & Homeland Security:** Assisted Voluntary Return

July 18, 2019

CVT signed [this letter](#) expressing profound concern about the assisted voluntary return program.

**CVT Statement:** New Barrier to Asylum

July 15, 2019

CVT released [this statement](#) denouncing the Trump administration's new attempt to ban individuals from seeking asylum at the U.S. southern border.

**Statement for the Record:** Family Separations

July 12, 2019

CVT and the Mount Sinai Human Rights Program submitted [this statement](#), The Trump Administrations Child Separation Policy: Substantiated Allegations of Mistreatment, ahead of the House Committee on Oversight and Reforms hearing on family separations.

### **News Media: MinnPost**

July 11, 2019

Andrea Cramo-Cavazos, senior policy counsel, wrote this article titled, 'Asylum Seekers at our Southern Border Face Egregious Human Rights Violations Daily.'



### **CVT Article: LGBTQ+ Immigrants in U.S. Custody**

June 28, 2018

Andrea Cramo-Cavazos [writes](#) about the outcomes of policies that permit jailing individuals who seek protection, including LGBTQ+ immigrants and asylum seekers.

### **Letter in Spanish on Safe Third Country Agreements**

June 20, 2019

CVT joined fellow organizations in signing a letter denouncing proposed safe third country agreements with Mexico and Guatemala.

### **Blueprint Offering Solutions to the Humanitarian Crisis at the Border**

June 17, 2019

CVT is among the refugee and human rights organizations that partnered with Human Rights First on a blueprint offering concrete steps to manage the humanitarian crisis at the U.S. southern border and to address the damage the Trump Administrations mismanagement of it has caused. A [news release](#) announcing the release of the blueprint includes CVT among the partnering or endorsing organizations.

### **Letter to Attorney General: Opposing New Asylum Restrictions**

June 5, 2019

CVT signed [this letter](#) to Attorney General William Barr and Acting Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan, urging the administration to refrain from adopting new regulations which would erode protections for asylum seekers.

### **Letter to Mexican Government: Reject the Safe Third Country Agreement**

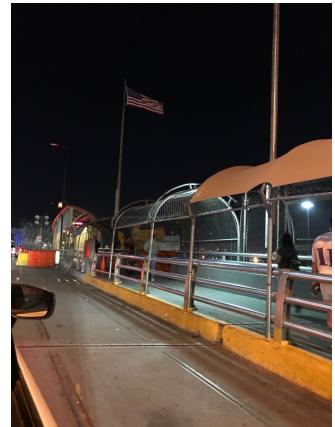
June 5, 2019

CVT signed [this letter](#) urging Mexico to reject the Trump administrations proposed third-party country agreement that would create a new barrier for asylum seekers.

### **CVT Article: CVT at the Southern Border**

May 30, 2019

From May 13-17, Andrea Cramo-Cavazos was in El Paso meeting with asylum seekers in detention facilities. In [this report](#) she writes, If you aren't willing to listen to individual stories, you won't get the truth.



### **CVT Article: Opposing use of CBP officers in the role of asylum officers**

May 9, 2019

Andrea Cramo-Cavazos [wrote](#) [this article](#) titled, CBP Cannot Act as Both Captor and Confidant.

### **Letter to Congress: Opposing rollbacks to the TVPRA and the 1997 Flores settlement**

May 6, 2019

CVT joined more than 70 organizations in sending [this letter](#) opposing rollbacks to the TVPRA and Flores to House and Senate leaders and relevant congressional committees.

### **CVT Administrative Rulemaking Comment: Opposing Changes to Fee Waivers**

May 6, 2019

CVT submitted [a comment](#) opposing a proposed rule by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, an agency within the Department of Homeland Security. The proposed change would limit the ability of refugees and asylees to apply for residency and citizenship because it would limit their ability to qualify for a fee waiver. This fee can be the difference between their ability to become residents or to feed their families.



### **Press Release: Reject Supplemental Funding That will Harm Asylum Seekers**

May 2, 2019

CVT issued this [press release](#) in response to the White House's request for an additional \$4.5 billion for detention and immigration-related expenses.

### **CVT Statement: Barrs New Asylum Restrictions**

May 1, 2019

CVT issued [this statement](#) in response to Attorney General Barr's action to impose fees and additional new restrictions on asylum seekers.

### **CVT Statement: Indefinite Detention at Border**

Apr. 17, 2019

In response to Attorney General Barr's decision permitting indefinite detention, Andrea Cramo-Cavazos, senior policy counsel, issued [this statement](#), writing, At CVT, we know all too well that detention has devastating effects on survivors of torture.

### **Letter to Congress: End the Muslim Ban**

Apr. 8, 2019

CVT joined a diverse coalition of close to 400 civil rights, faith, national security & community organizations in [this letter](#) in support of the #NoBanAct, a historic civil rights bill that would end the Muslim Ban and prevent faith-based discrimination in immigration.

#### [CVT Article:](#) Closure of USCIS Offices

Apr. 8, 2019

Curt Goering, CVT executive director, wrote [this article](#) titled, Trumps Latest Attack on Refugees: Closure of Overseas Immigration Offices.



#### [Framework of Investments](#)

Apr. 5, 2019

CVT signed on to [this framework](#) of Five Investments in Our Immigration System to Address the Crisis at the Border.

#### [Letters to Congress](#)

Apr. 1, 2019

CVT participated as a member of Refugee Council USA (RCUSA) in writing these letters to the [House](#) and to the [Senate](#), recommending funding levels to support refugee protection and welcome in the FY20 budget.

#### [Letter to Congress:](#) USCIS Offices

Mar. 28, 2019

CVT joined 30+ organizations in [this letter](#) to Congress, urging them to prohibit closure of the USCIS Intl Operations Division, which provides critical services to U.S. citizens, refugees & asylees, as well as key roles in the legal immigration system.

#### [CVT Statement:](#) Override the Veto

Mar. 15, 2019

Andrea Cramo-Cavazoswrote this [statement](#) calling on Congress to override President Trumps veto of a resolution that would block his national emergency, saying, Time and again, the facts have been made evident: There isn't a national security emergency at the border.

#### [News Media: The Hill](#)

Mar. 13, 2019

Linda Chavez, director of the Becoming American Initiative, and Scott Roehm, CVT director of the Washington office, wrote this [op ed](#), saying, Congress needs to terminate the emergency, summon the courage to override a veto if necessary, and then turn sustained focus to the real border crisis.

#### [Letter to Secretaries Nielsen and Pompeo](#)

Mar. 13, 2019

CVT is proud to join more than 200 organizations in [this letter](#) requesting that Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuelan nationals due to extraordinary conditions, humanitarian and political crisis. TPS would protect 70,000 Venezuelan nationals and their families.

#### [Statement for the Record:](#) Border Security

Mar. 4, 2019

CVT submitted this [statement for the record](#) as the House Homeland Security Committee prepares to hold an oversight hearing on the Trump Administrations border policies. CVT expresses concern for people who are seeking safe haven being profoundly impacted by cruel practices, including being forced to remain in Mexico and subject to family separation.

#### [CVT Statement for the Record:](#) Family Separation

Feb. 26, 2019

CVT submitted this [statement for the record](#) in advance of the House Judiciary Committee's oversight hearing on the Trump Administrations family separation policy, which created an actual crisis at the U.S. southern border.

"When children come from an area where they experienced violence, it teaches them that the world is not safe. Then, when they are separated from their parent, this idea is solidified, which can have a profound effect on the development of the child."

~Susan Jasko MSW, LICSW,  
CVT psychotherapist

#### [Press Release:](#) Trump's Declaration Creates an Emergency

Feb. 14, 2019

CVT Says Trump's Declaration Doesn't Respond to an Emergency; It Creates One. This is a transparent abuse of power driven by politics, not facts, and it sets a dangerous precedent, said Curt Goering. There is no national security emergency at our Southern border. There is, however, an ongoing humanitarian tragedy fueled by the presidents policy choices.

#### [CVT Article:](#) Two Years After the Muslim Ban: Is Discrimination Our New Normal?

Jan. 25, 2019

Curt Goering writes, This is not a climate that we can allow ourselves to accept or acclimate to; it can't become the new normal.

#### [CVT Article:](#) Congress Should Reject the End the Shutdown and Secure the Border Act

Jan. 24, 2019

Andrea Cramo-Cavazos writes Reopening the government at the expense of current U.S. legal obligations, longstanding American values, and the well-being of some of the worlds most vulnerable people is no solution at all.

#### [Press Release:](#) CVT Files Objection to Asylum Ban

Jan. 9, 2019

CVT submitted formal comments on recent Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice and White House actions which, taken together, constitute an asylum ban for many vulnerable people arriving at our southern border seeking protection.

#### [CVT Administrative Rulemaking Comments:](#) Asylum Ban

Jan. 8, 2019

CVT submitted [comments](#) stating that the Asylum Ban is unlawful and imposes needless, substantial harm on a population replete with trauma survivors.

**[CVT Administrative Rulemaking Comments:](#)** Protecting the Flores Settlement Agreement

Nov. 6, 2018

CVT submitted [comments](#) objecting to a newrule that would authorize indefinite detention of traumatized asylum-seeking children and their parents.

**[CVT Report:](#)** Tortured & Detained: Survivor Stories of U.S. Immigration Detention

November 2013

This report describes the immigration detention experience for torture survivors seeking asylum protection in the United States.[Download the full report.](#)

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