



October 13, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
Democratic Candidate for President of the United States

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
Democratic Candidate for Vice President of the United States

Dear Vice President Biden and Senator Harris:

Congratulations on your nomination and thank you for your service to our nation. As Florida-based leaders and organizations active in the Haitian American community, we strongly believe that U.S. policies should help to make life safer and more just for Haitians here and in Haiti. We appreciate your statement that “[i]nvesting in Haiti’s prosperity and security is in the national security interest of the United States.” We also appreciate your support for a path to citizenship for immigrants who have long paid taxes, owned businesses, and raised families in the United States including U.S.-born children, and whose remittances are vital to the welfare and economies of their home countries.

We write to respectfully request a meeting with you during the campaign to discuss the following non-exhaustive list of urgent community priorities and “asks,” which we hope a Biden-Harris administration will promptly implement and pursue. They include:

- releasing ICE detainees and halting most immigration court proceedings during the pandemic for public health reasons;
- stopping all ICE deportation flights during the pandemic because they are regularly and recklessly spreading COVID-19 among millions of people worldwide in vulnerable nations like Haiti which may be decimated by the disease;
- reinstating and expanding the Haitian Family Reunification Program created in March 2015 by the Obama-Biden administration but abruptly and wrongfully discontinued by the current administration;
- using U.S. influence with the United Nations to finally ensure compensation and remedies for Haiti's long-suffering victims of the UN-introduced cholera epidemic;
- supporting the rule of law and political accountability in Haiti and justice and participatory democracy for its people;
- using U.S. influence with the authorities in the Dominican Republic to help effectively restore and protect the rights of Haitian-Dominicans and of Haitian workers, both the victims of severe discrimination;
- championing the allocation of International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights urgently needed to help developing nations including Haiti cope with the pandemic's dire economic consequences;
- redesignating Haiti for Temporary Protected Status;
- championing a path to citizenship for Haitians given Temporary Protected Status after Haiti's 2010 earthquake whose status DHS wrongfully and illegally ended in November 2017; and
- reauthorizing the H-2A and H-2B programs for Haitian citizens by including Haiti on the list of nations whose citizens may participate in the programs by publishing a new list in the Federal Register.

These community concerns, priorities, and relevant "asks" are outlined in much greater detail for your consideration in an attachment to this letter, which we incorporate by reference. They are of great importance to thousands of Haitian Americans in Florida and nationally. We respectfully request to meet with you during the campaign to discuss them.

Thank you again, Vice President Biden and Senator Harris, for your distinguished careers of public service, for your commitment and dedication to principles of justice, fairness, and human rights, and for your consideration of our requests.

Very sincerely,

Organizations

1. 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Jude Derisme, Executive Vice President, Florida Region, Miramar, FL
2. 32BJ SEIU Florida, Helene O'Brien, District Director, Miami, FL
3. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)-Miami, Lis-Marie Alvaradao, Program Director, Miami, FL
4. Americans for Immigrant Justice, Cheryl Little, Executive Director, Miami FL
5. Ayiti Community Trust, Pierre Imbert and Guerda Nicolas, PhD, Co-Founders, North Miami, FL
6. Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), Nana Gyamfi, Executive Director, Oakland, CA; Santcha Etienne, Community Organizer, Miami, FL
7. Catholic Charities Legal Services (Archdiocese of Miami), Randolph McGrorty, Executive Director; Miami, FL
8. Center for Self-Sufficiency, Edeline B. Mondestin, RN, BSN, Executive Director, Miami, FL
9. Family Action Network Movement (FANM, formerly Haitian Women of Miami), Marleine Bastien, Executive Director, Miami, FL
10. Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC), Maria Rodriguez, Executive Director, Miami, FL
11. Haiti First, Justin Manuel, President (Mr. Manuel leads MJM Capital Reality and is founder and former president of the Haitian American Scholarship Fund), Miami, FL
12. Haitian American Elected Officials Network (NHAEON); Alix Desulme, President, North Miami, FL
13. Haitian Diaspora for Democracy and Development, Jimy Mertune, President, Orlando, FL
14. Miami Workers Center, Santra Denis, Interim Executive Director, Miami, FL
15. New Florida Majority, Andrea Mercado, Executive Director, Miami, FL

16. New Florida Majority, Andrea Mercado, Executive Director, Miami, FL
17. Power U Center for Social Change, James Lopez, Executive Director, Miami, FL
18. Presente.org; Nancy Trevino, Senior Campaign Manager, Blacksburg, VA and Miami, FL
19. Rebati Sante Mental (Rebuild Mental Health), Natacha Janac, MSED, Chairwoman, Pembroke Pines, FL
20. Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center, Gepsie Metellus, Executive Director, Miami, FL
21. Sosyete Koukouy, Jean-Marie Denis, President, Miami, FL
22. South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice, Jeanette Smith, Executive Director, Miami, FL
23. The Haitian Diaspora Federation; Dr. Bernier Lauredan, MD, Co-Chair, North America, Port St. Lucie, FL

Individuals

1. Ven. Archdeacon J.Fritz Bazin D.Min for the Episcopal Diocese of S.E. Florida; Miami, FL
2. Monica Russo, past president, SEIU Florida State Council and past executive vice-president, Florida Region, 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East; Miami, FL
3. Dr. Smith Joseph, D.O., Pharm. D., former Mayor, City of North Miami; lifetime member, American Board of Disability Analysts; member, FIU School of Medicine Dean's Advisory Council; member, Miami-Dade Beacon Council - Life Sciences and Healthcare Committee; Universal Medical Centre, PA; North Miami, FL
4. Philippe Derosé, former Councilman and Vice-Mayor, City of North Miami Beach, and former Mayor, City of El Portal, FL (Mr. Derosé was the first Haitian American elected to public office in the United States.); North Miami Beach, FL
5. Jean Monestime, Commissioner (District 2), Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County, FL
6. Philippe Bien-Aime, Mayor, City of North Miami, FL
7. Alix Desulme, Vice Mayor, City of North Miami and President, Haitian American Elected Officials Network (NHAEON), North Miami, FL

8. Paule Villard, Commissioner, City of North Miami Beach, FL (and retired Sergeant with the City of Miami Police Department, where she served 24 years), North Miami Beach, FL
9. McKenzie Fleurimond, Commissioner, City of North Miami Beach, FL
10. Michael Joseph, Commissioner, City of North Miami Beach, FL
11. Mary Estime-Irving, Councilwoman, City of North Miami, FL
12. Vanessa Joseph, the elected City Clerk, City of North Miami, and immigration attorney, Catholic Charities Legal Services (Archdiocese of Miami); City of North Miami, FL
13. Mike Gelin, Commissioner, City of Tamarac, FL
14. Marie Woodson, candidate for Florida House of Representatives (District 101), Hollywood, FL
15. Gepsie Metellus, candidate for Miami-Dade County Commissioner (District 3), and Executive Director, Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center; Miami, FL
16. Rishi Rattan MD FACS, Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Trauma Surgery & Critical Care, DeWitt Daughtry Family Department of Surgery, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami; Coral Gables, FL
17. Brad Brown, past president, Miami-Dade Branch, NAACP, and current Secretary, South Dade Branch, NAACP; Perrine, FL
18. Ira J. Kurzban, Attorney at Law; past President, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA); author, *Immigration Law Sourcebook*; Miami, FL
19. Pierre Imbert, MPA, Partner, Solutions Focus Consulting, Inc.; Co-Founder, Haiti Community Trust; Senior Advisor on Haiti, The Barr Foundation (2010 to 2016); Deputy Director, Department of Social Services, State of California under Governor Schwarzenegger (2008-2010, three years); Director, Office of Refugees and Immigrants, Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Governor Romney (2005-2007); and Executive Director, Catholic Charities Haitian Multi-Service Center, Boston, MA (1994-2005), among other activities; Aventura, FL
20. Guerda Nicolas, PhD, Professor, Department of Educational & Psychological Studies, School of Education and Human Development, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL
21. Dr. Laurinus "Larry" Pierre, MD, MPH, Executive Director, Center for Haitian Studies, Health and Human Services (endorsing in his personal capacity); Miami, FL

22. Paola Pierre, Chairwoman of the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (HACCOF), Miami, FL
23. Jean G. Belizaire, Treasurer, Little Haiti Housing Association aka Haitian American CDC, and Secretary of the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (HACCOF); Miami, FL (endorsing in his personal capacity)
24. Jeff Lozama, community leader, Miami, FL
25. Edeline B. Mondestin, State Administrator, Haitian American Leadership Council (HALEC), Miami, FL
26. Leonie Hermantin, Miami, FL
27. Roger Biamby, ESOL instructor, Miami-Dade County Public Schools; former Director, Human Services Division, Pierre Toussaint Haitian Catholic Center; former Executive Director, Haitian American Community Association of Dade, Inc. (HACAD); Biscayne Park, FL
28. Frantz K. Vital, Attorney at Law, Kane & Vital, PA, and LTC Retired, USAR; Sunrise, FL
29. Santcha Etienne, Community Organizer, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), Miami, FL
30. Maggie Arias, partner at Arias & Pereira, PLLC and President, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) – South Florida Chapter; Coral Gables, FL (endorsing in her personal capacity)
31. Michael D. Ray, Attorney at Law and former President, American Immigration Lawyers Association, South Florida Chapter; Ft. Lauderdale, FL
32. Sœurette Michel, Esq., LLM, The Michel Law Firm, LLC, and member, Florida Bar Diversity & Inclusion Committee; Hollywood, FL
33. Fritznie Abigail Jarbath, past president, Haitian Lawyers Association; Jarbath Pena Law Group, PA, Coral Gables, FL
34. Edeline B Mondestin, State Administrator, Haitian American Leadership Council (HALEC), Miami, FL
35. Paul Andre Mondesir, Lead Organizer, National TPS Alliance; Fort Myers, FL
36. Dr. Marie Flore Lindor-Latortue, college professor and consultant, Miami, FL

37. Erna Milien, Esq, Milien Law Practice, PLLC.; member of the board of directors, The Shelter for Abused Women and Children of Collier County; member, Naples Womens Club; Naples, FL
38. Oscar Londoño, Executive Director, WeCount! Homestead, FL
39. Claudia Navarro, Program Director, WeCount! Homestead, FL
40. Jonathan Fried, immigration and farmworkers' rights advocate, Homestead, FL
41. Professor Irwin Stotzky, University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, FL
42. Herntz Phanord, radio and television personality, host of H.A.P, the BOULEVARD; Miami, FL
43. Raynald Louis, General Manager, Radio Kajou and kajou.tv, Miami, FL
44. Hudes Desrameaux, nonprofit executive, Miami, FL
45. Carline Paul, community activist and television and radio host, Boynton Beach, FL
46. Ricardeau Luceus, Esq., The Law Office of Ricardeau Luceus, PLLC, Tampa, FL
47. Pablo S. Hurtado, Esq., Hurtado Immigration Law Firm, Fort Myers, FL
48. Ilaria Cacopardo, Attorney at Law, Law Office of Ilaria Cacopardo, PA, Miami, FL
49. Linda M. Kaplan, immigration attorney, Linda M. Kaplan, PA, Miami, FL
50. Ralph Cheriza, MSL, Ed.D candidate, CEO & President, The Cheriza Group, LLC, Greenacres, FL
51. Michelle S. Canero, Managing Partner, Canero Immigration Law Firm, Miami, FL
52. Antonia Canero-Davies, Founding Partner, Canero Immigration Law Firm, Miami, FL
53. Candace Jean, Attorney at Law, North Miami, FL
54. Neil D. Kolner, Attorney at Law, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
55. Rochenel Marc, Founder, R&M Institute & Financial Group, Inc. and former candidate for city council, Homestead, FL
56. Nadine Olmann, CPA and community organizer, Miami, FL
57. Phillippe Diederich, Writer/Author, Sarasota, Florida

58. Steven Forester, Immigration Policy Coordinator, Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH); Miami Beach, FL

59. Greg Bloom, community organizer, Miami Beach, FL

TEN COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES AND RELEVANT “ASKS”

1. Release immigrants from ICE detention facilities, in which COVID-19 is widespread, and halt most immigration proceedings during the pandemic for public health reasons.

Thousands of immigrants guilty of no crime other than seeking political asylum and/or a better life are detained in ICE detention facilities, where Covid-19 is exploding according to uncontroverted reports and studies. See here and e.g., “COVID-19 in Immigration Detention,” August 13; “Immigrant Detention and COVID-19: How a Pandemic Exploited and Spread through the US Immigrant Detention System,” CMS, August 12. COVID-19 spreads among detainees and staff in these overcrowded facilities, from them to surrounding communities, and during frequent ICE detainee transfers between facilities. But ICE continues to raid, arrest, and detain immigrants oblivious of the public health consequences.

Re non-detained immigrants, similarly dangerous during the pandemic are excessive ICE reporting requirements and immigration court proceedings which endanger immigrants, judges, and court personnel. Characterized by long waits, hundreds are often crowded together at offices and courtrooms, in elevators and waiting areas. Court hearings and filing deadlines require immigrants, translators, judges, attorneys, and staff to gather, and clerks of court offices to be open, despite the risks of infection. Except for immigrants who wish to proceed, non-detained immigration proceedings should be indefinitely suspended during the pandemic to protect public health and the fairness of immigration, asylum, and removal proceedings.

Ask: We ask that your administration during the pandemic release from ICE detention the overwhelming majority of ICE detainees, who pose no risk to public safety, in a manner that protects their health and rights and those of surrounding communities.

Ask: We ask that your administration implement the recommendations of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and five other national membership organizations which provide legal services to individuals in immigration court proceedings contained in their June 15 letter to the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

2. Stop all ICE deportation flights during the pandemic because they are regularly and recklessly spreading COVID-19 among millions of people worldwide in vulnerable nations like Haiti which may be decimated by the disease.

We are appalled that the current administration is proceeding unabated with extremely reckless daily deportation flights to Haiti and elsewhere despite the pandemic. ICE weekly deports thousands of detainees throughout the Americas and worldwide, hundreds with COVID-19 contracted in ICE detention facilities, spreading the disease to other deportees, staff, flight crews, and to and among millions of people abroad. Since the pandemic was declared a national emergency in mid-March, there have been as of October 13 about 506 ICE deportation flights and counting to 20 Latin American and Caribbean nations alone. (There have been five ICE deportation flights to Haiti *in the last eight days alone*: on October 5 and October 9 of 135 and 122 persons respectively, one on October 12 and two on October 13, the latter three flights of an as-yet-unknown number of persons.) But ICE testified to the Senate that pre-deportation testing is “not standard procedure,” and even when ICE *does* test, it uses a “15 minute” test which the Food and Drug Administration says is unreliable due to false negatives.

ICE has deported hundreds of detainees with COVID-19 to at least eleven countries that we know of, including to Guatemala (186 as of July 10), India (22 of 76 on one flight), Colombia, Romania, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico, Jamaica, Brazil, and elsewhere. See also here. Dozens of deportees randomly tested for COVID on arrival in Guatemala, the one nation requiring pre-deportation testing despite President Trump’s threats including to revoke the visas of citizens of objecting nations, tested positive despite arriving with medical papers certifying they had been tested and were not infected.

As the *Boston Globe* editorial board wrote on April 29, “To continue to deport immigrants right now, sending them to vulnerable places like Guatemala, Haiti, and Ecuador, is unconscionable. Such deportations show complete disregard for the health of millions of people in nations whose health care systems are already struggling, and it risks boomeranging on Americans by seeding the contagion in neighboring countries.” The *Washington Post* editorial board wrote on April 26, “It is callous and irresponsible that no systematic effort is underway to test those detainees. And it is despicable that the United States, the richest country in the hemisphere, would then blithely deport some of them to nations that are among the hemisphere’s poorest.” The *Miami Herald* editorial board opined similarly in an editorial entitled, “Deportations despite coronavirus is Trump’s cruel, and usual, punishment of Haitians.”

We agree with U.S Senators, Congresspersons, and editorial boards that considerations of public health and safety dictate that no one should be deported during the pandemic.

Ask: We ask that your administration halt all deportations to Haiti and worldwide indefinitely during the pandemic.

3. Promptly reinstate and expand the Haitian Family Reunification Program created in March 2015 by the Obama-Biden administration but abruptly and wrongfully discontinued by the current administration.

The Obama-Biden administration in March, 2015 created the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program (HFRP) to help Haiti recover from the 2010 earthquake by speeding up legal immigration and creating a new flow of remittances. But the Trump administration on taking office quietly starved the program by not issuing any new invitations to apply for it (invitations were required), and on August 2, 2019 announced its intention to formally terminate the program consistent with Trump's January 25, 2017 executive order.

8,300 beneficiaries of DHS-approved immigrant visa petitions, who had been on waiting lists of up to 13 years in Haiti, were approved under HFRP as of March 31, 2019, joining their petitioning relatives in the United States. But the program limited eligibility to petitioners whose beneficiaries were already within 42 months of their visa priority dates, unnecessarily limiting the program's coverage and ability to impact Haiti's recovery via generated remittances.

The current administration's strangulation of HFRP on taking office was another example of its anti-immigrant policies and discrimination against black populations. HFRP is needed and should be promptly resuscitated and improved.

Ask: We ask that your administration reinstate HFRP, promptly issue a new batch of invitations to petitioners to apply for it, expand its coverage to include petitioners whose beneficiaries have come within about 96 months of getting their visas, and permit eligible petitioners to apply affirmatively without needing to wait to receive invitations from the National Visa Center.

4. Use U.S. influence with the United Nations to finally ensure compensation and remedies for Haiti's long-suffering victims of the UN-introduced cholera epidemic.

As COVID-19 spreads in Haiti, communities impacted by cholera are facing a double blow. Cholera was introduced to Haiti in 2010 by a peacekeeping contingent with the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The epidemic has since killed over 10,000 people and has caused significant financial and health harms for survivors and victims' families. Despite the UN's 2016 acknowledgment of its role and commitments to assist victims, the UN has failed to compensate victims' families and has raised only \$20.5 million of the \$400 million promised. Of this, only \$3.2 million – less than 1%-- has been spent on limited infrastructure projects in affected communities. The UN's failure to provide remedies, particularly individual compensation, has left victims in an extremely

precarious situation in the face of COVID-19. It has also subjected the UN to significant criticism – including by its [own human rights officials](#) – and undermines the legitimacy of multilateral institutions at a time when they are sorely needed to respond to the global crisis.

The United States has a vital role to play in ensuring that the UN provides justice to cholera victims, as the largest contributor to both the UN regular budget and the UN peacekeeping budget; as home to hundreds of thousands of Haitian-Americans, many of whom via remittances shoulder the economic burdens of cholera; and as a nation committed to promoting human rights and important multilateral institutions like the UN.

Ask: We ask that your administration exercise leadership to ensure that the UN follows through on its human rights obligations and compensates victims of cholera.

Ask: We ask that your administration support full funding of the UN’s 2016 “New Approach to Cholera in Haiti” through assessed contributions from member states.

5. Support the rule of law and political accountability in Haiti and justice and participatory democracy for its people.

Haiti is facing multiple political crises and a breakdown in the rule of law. In January, President Jovenel Moïse began ruling by decree when the terms of most members of Parliament expired. In July, the terms for the country’s mayors expired. No elections are scheduled, and women have been [systematically marginalized in the political process](#). Police have brutally attacked peaceful protests against Haiti’s rampant corruption while giving free rein to gangs allied with the President, which have launched a series of deadly attacks against suspected political opponents, recently including the assassinations of four high-level figures within 48 hours. The justice sector is weak and politicized, and impunity is pervasive. The Trump administration’s decision to deport former death squad leader Emmanuel “Toto” Constant added another stressor. There are [questions](#) about the Haitian government’s political will to see Constant brought to justice, especially in light of its [failure to pursue others](#) who, like Constant, were convicted *in absentia* for their roles in perpetrating the Raboteau Massacre (which bears significant resemblance to the violence directed at civilians today, for example the La Saline massacre in 2018).

We have been deeply dismayed by the government’s slide more deeply into corruption, brutality, and disregard for the rule of law.

The United States is the Moïse Administration’s principal international ally, providing generous financial and political support without any public criticism of its corruption, rights violations, and illegal activities.

Ask: We ask that your administration urge and support the aggressive investigation and prosecution of all those implicated in corruption and oppose attacks by police and gangs against the government's political opponents. We further ask that you offer support for ensuring fair, participatory, and constitutional elections in a manner that respects Haitian sovereignty and eschews any conduct that would interfere in Haiti's deliberative processes to that end.

Ask: We ask that your administration support efforts to ensure greater female political participation, as women made up less than [3 percent of Haiti's last parliament](#), well below the constitutional quota of 30 percent.

Ask: We ask that that your administration strongly urge and support sincere efforts by Haiti's government to end impunity, especially for state violence against civilians like the Raboteau Massacre, free from political interference, intimidation, and retaliation; and contribute financial and technical support for needed prosecutions. We also ask that you commit to making available to Haitian judicial authorities any documents the United States possesses that might help bring to justice individuals like [Emmanuel Constant](#) and [Jean-Robert Gabriel](#).

6. Use U.S. influence with the authorities in the Dominican Republic to help effectively restore and protect the rights of Haitian-Dominicans and of Haitian workers, both the victims of severe discrimination.

After a century of documented rights abuses against Haitians and their descendants in the Dominican Republic, the nation's Constitutional Tribunal in 2013 denationalized those born in the country en masse, stripping citizenship and its protections from at least 130,000 Dominican citizens of Haitian descent.

In an attempt to counter national and international criticism, the Dominican Congress in 2014 enacted a so-called "naturalization" law. Its unequal and timid application has helped very few, leaving most Dominicans of Haitian descent stateless and without access to healthcare, education, and social rights and protections, an extremely precarious condition now made more so by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has [hit the Dominican Republic worse than any other nation in the Caribbean](#). Similarly, hundreds of thousands of Haitian migrant workers who since 2014 have interacted with authorities in a regularization program have been left with precarious or out-of-status legal documentation. Hundreds of thousands of Haitian-Dominicans and Haitian workers and their families fear expulsion from the country if they come forward to seek state COVID-19 and other assistance, an

effective exclusion which simultaneously renders ineffectual essential measures to comprehensively contain and control the pandemic.

Asks: We ask that your administration use its leverage with Dominican authorities to help achieve and secure the full and effective restoration of citizenship and social rights for all Dominicans of Haitian descent, inter alia by applying existing legislation to effectively redress their denationalization, so they may regain or obtain their legal papers and fully and effectively participate in and be covered by official Covid-19 aid and other existing social programs without fear of adverse state consequences or reprisal.

Ask: We ask that your administration use its leverage with Dominican authorities to help achieve and secure the implementation of a well-designed regularization plan to protect Haitian workers and their families effectively, bring them out of the shadows, and facilitate their full access to health, education, and other services without fear of expulsion or reprisal.

7. Champion the allocation of International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights urgently needed to help developing nations including Haiti cope with the pandemic's dire economic consequences.

Nations urgently need funds to cope with the pandemic's dire consequences, particularly low- and middle-income economies. Experts believe an excellent way to ensure this is to allocate US\$3 trillion in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the International Monetary Fund's reserve currency, which would include \$15 billion for 14 IMF-member Caribbean nations. While some of their governments have already approached the IMF, the funding available for programmatic lending is a small fraction of what would be available through a large SDR allocation. The \$111 million which Haiti recently received from the IMF is inadequate, barely replacing one month of lost export revenues; while it may stave off an acute crisis, Haiti will have a significant balance of payments problem for the foreseeable future. With a \$3 trillion allocation of SDRs, Haiti would receive \$1.2 billion, more than ten times what it is set to receive from the IMF's emergency lending program.

Ask: We ask that your administration champion legislation to effectively enable struggling nations to cope with the pandemic's dire economic impacts by allocating \$3 trillion in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

8. Redesignate Haiti for Temporary Protected Status

The current administration wrongly ended Haiti's TPS designation in November, 2017 for political reasons and despite overwhelming catastrophes which made Haiti a classic case

for its extension, including the devastation wrought by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016; 10,000 Haitians dead and 800,000 sickened by a cholera epidemic introduced by U.N. peacekeepers in October, 2010 whose victims lost lives, loved ones, and livelihoods; incomplete recovery from 2010's catastrophic earthquake which destroyed Port au-Prince, killed 250,000, and left hundreds of thousands more homeless; food shortages; and political and economic unrest, corruption, and instability. Approximately 50,000 Haitians who have had TPS since 2010, most of whom have lived and worked in our communities for decades, are currently protected from deportation and able to work to support their families only by court orders; separating them from their U.S.-born children, families, and communities would be unconscionable.

Since TPS's termination, political, economic, and social instability have significantly worsened in Haiti; there have been widespread civil society protests urging the government's resignation due to massive government corruption epitomized by the Petro-Caribe scandal, political killings, and political paralysis. But ICE is currently deporting Haitians aggressively either because they arrived in the United States after its early-2011 eligibility cut-off date or because, despite being permanent residents for decades and often having no connection whatsoever to Haiti, they committed a minor infraction.

No one should be deported to Haiti given current conditions. These deportations are ripping parents from their U.S.-citizen children and essential workers from our communities; cutting off remittances essential to families, communities, and to Haiti's recovery; and adding to Haiti's economic, political, and social crises, which the pandemic only exacerbates.

Ask: We ask that your administration immediately redesignate Haiti for TPS.

9. Champion a path to citizenship for Haitians given Temporary Protected Status after Haiti's 2010 earthquake whose status DHS wrongfully and illegally ended in November 2017.

The current administration wrongly terminated TPS designations for many nations including Haiti whose recipients have lived, worked, raised families including U.S.-born children, paid taxes, and contributed to the economy of the United States for many years. These wrongful terminations have caused fear, uncertainty, economic loss, and suffering among TPS recipients and families and within Haitian and other immigrant communities.

In June 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the DREAM and Promise Act of 2019 to provide permanent resident status and a path to citizenship for TPS recipients.

We heartily applaud the statements and promises on your campaign website that the current administration's "politically-motivated decisions to rescind protected status for hundreds

of thousands of people fleeing countries impacted by war and natural disasters — without regard for current country conditions — is a recipe for disaster. Biden will protect TPS and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders from being returned to countries that are unsafe. TPS/DED holders who have been in the country for an extended period of time and built lives in the U.S. will also be offered a path to citizenship through legislative immigration reform.”

Ask: We ask that your administration champion generous legislation and executive policies to achieve these essential goals.

10. Reauthorize the H-2A and H-2B programs for Haitian citizens by including Haiti on the list of nations whose citizens may participate in the programs by publishing a new list in the Federal Register.

In addition to wrongly ending both the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program and Haiti’s TPS designation, and repeatedly making racist remarks against Haiti and Haitians, President Trump also for purely punitive reasons and without justification removed Haiti from the list of nations whose citizens may participate in the H-2A and H-2B programs. This means that Haitians may no longer enter the United States to do temporary agricultural work (H-2A) or temporary non-agricultural work (H-2B), destabilizing Haiti by depriving its nationals of work and of crucial remittances which those workers used to send back home.

Ask: We ask that your administration promptly publish in the Federal Register a new list of nations including Haiti whose citizens are eligible to participate in these two programs.