



NSN Letter to the Administration Regarding USCIS Updated Guidance for the Referral of Cases and Issuance of Notices to Appear

To the Administration:

The National Survivor Network (NSN) urges the Administration to stop its acts of contempt towards immigrants. As survivors of human trafficking, we know that these policies will devastate human trafficking survivors while empowering and emboldening human traffickers and exploiters.

We are dismayed by what we see. Rather than building on policies that are victim-centric and support survivors of heinous crimes such as human trafficking, we see policies that create terror. This climate of fear discourages survivors and vulnerable people from seeking services and benefits exploiters and traffickers. The message from this Administration to survivors of human trafficking is that we deserve our trafficker's human rights abuses and will find no relief in the United States.

This culture of fear is created by this Administration through policies built on xenophobia. It is created by political attacks on the need for vacatur relief. It is created by denial of asylum. It is created by indefinite family detention. It is created by family separation, including callously sending kids to adoption services and foster care, and coercing families to stop applying for asylum. It is created by cutting funding for legal redress for convictions while not identified as a survivor of crimes. And it is created by the new policy that anyone not receiving a U-Visa or T-Visa will receive a Notice To Appear (NTA) order for deportation. These policies are the exact opposite of the effective work done in compliance with the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act and U.S. Refugee Act. They are derived entirely from contempt of marginalized and vulnerable immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

As human trafficking survivors, we know that survivors will do anything to protect their families, especially their children. Forcing vulnerable persons to choose between their children and asylum is a crime against humanity. The U.S. is perpetuating this crime while allowing defense contractors to house children in office spaces not meant for shelters and building tent cities. It goes against our Constitution by demanding those with a legal right to refuge in the U.S. give up this legal right without due process. These attacks on families leave vulnerable persons no safe place to turn. Therefore, this administration is now complicit in making vulnerable persons more susceptible to trafficking.

Vulnerable people come to the U.S. because of our centuries of history as a safe place to seek refuge. The hubris and contempt being displayed in these new policies is not how you adhere to the U.S. and International Laws. The new policies and oversight on undocumented migrants, asylum seekers, and families fleeing to improve their lives coupled with cuts to funding for reintegrating victims of such heinous crimes into society only serves to perpetuate the cycles of abuse that keep them vulnerable to being trafficked.

The NSN beseeches the Administration to stop this systemic contempt of vulnerable and trafficked persons in the U.S. This about-face from human rights leaders to human rights abusers continues the scars of chattel slavery, violations of indigenous treaties, and contempt of marginalized persons. To deny access to immigrants in a country founded upon an assumption of freedom and justice for all is nothing but a return to a time when the U.S. was not great—but was too fallowed in the mire and murk of segregation, assimilation, and white supremacy.

Respectfully,
The National Survivor Network