



Bridges Faith Initiative

June 2022 Newsletter

Dear Caraline,

Our faith traditions teach us to welcome with dignity, care, and support. These are precarious times for the rights of women, the rights of immigrants and so many other marginalized peoples and groups. **It is crucial to keep pushing forward to support reproductive health for all and to protect immigrant communities by ending Title 42 and the Remain in Mexico policy.**

Bridges Faith Initiative denounces the Supreme Court ruling ending Roe v. Wade and severely restricting abortion access and reproductive rights for people in the United States. The decision will have a ripple effect for rights across the world and have deadly consequences for those who are most marginalized.

This is not the only Supreme Court decision that could upend the rights of ordinary people. This week the Supreme Court is set to rule on if the Remain in Mexico policy is legal and if a sitting President of the United States has the power to overturn the previous president's Executive Orders.

We decry this senseless tragedy of the deaths of young Mexican, Guatemalan and Nicaraguan immigrants in San Antonio. ur prayers are for the swift recovery and safety of the survivors of this tragedy. We pledge to redouble our efforts to push the U.S. government towards humane and just immigration policies, so the memories of those who died will be a blessing and their goodness will be kept alive.

One of the deadliest tragedies involving migrants in the U.S.-Mexican border region occurred this week when over 50 people were found dead in an abandoned truck on the outskirts of San Antonio, Texas. These deaths are a direct result of the Remain in Mexico and Title 42 expulsion policy. Bridges Faith Initiative joined with other faith leaders to express our heartbreak and condemn the inhumane policies that allowed for this to happen.

Since Title 42 was put into place, over 1.7 million people have been wrongfully expelled – directly undermining what we hold as a humane, sensible, and necessary asylum system. These policies prevent those waiting at ports of entry from seeking asylum, kills people, precipitates needless family separations, and particularly harms African and Haitian asylum seekers who are disparately harmed by these unjust policies.

As a consequence of Title 42 and MPP, more than 10,000 people have been subject to rape and assault while waiting in Mexico. Immigrants are not able to access abortion in Mexico and then in the event they are able to make it to the United States they face some of the most restrictive states for abortion access, Texas and Arizona, which do not allow abortion even in instances of rape. **Join us as we fight for the rights of all to live in dignity and safety.**

What We Are Working On:

- Prevented the Lankford-Sinema Bill from being passed and included as an amendment in the Covid supplemental bill in the Senate.
- For the first time ever, ensured the inclusion of the term asylum seekers in the World Refugee Day resolution that over 20 Senators and 50 Representatives signed reaffirming rights of immigrants.
- Joined with faith leaders to demand action on Asylum: [People of Faith Grieve San Antonio Tragedy, Call for Swift Action on Asylum](#)
- Joined with 100+ organizations to demand an end to Title 42: [Civil Society Letter on Immediate Actions to Mitigate the Harms of Title 42](#)

Our Achievements:

- Uplifting Faith leaders and immigrants' work in Georgia through advocacy training for faith leaders and immigrants. Email advocacy@bridgesfi.org if you want to be a part of it.
- Supporting a legal hotline and fund to help immigrants move out of Texas and Arizona in the event they need an abortion.
- Pushing for legal representation and visas for the immigrants who survived the San Antonio tragedy.

