



Restarting Remain in Mexico: Talking Points *(Updated 10.15.21)*

Overview: [The Biden administration announced that they are preparing to reimplement Remain in Mexico \(MPP\) as soon as early-mid November.](#) This comes after an announcement earlier this month that DHS would also be issuing a new termination memo. At this moment, the government hasn't provided details or timeline for rescinding Remain in Mexico. This represents an unacceptable failure and broken promise by the Biden administration. Reimplementing MPP will needlessly place people in harm's way and undermine the legal and human right to seek safety. We are committed to fighting until Remain in Mexico is ended completely and all those subjected to the heinous policy are brought to safety.

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- There is no lawful, safe, or humane way to carry out "Remain in Mexico." Period.
- Continuing any form of MPP is cruel and inhumane.
- We need President Biden to honor his commitment to uphold our refugee laws, not become Trump 2.0. Instead of implementing Stephen Miller's most egregious policies, President Biden must end Title 42 and repeal MPP.
- Nearly a year into his administration, President Biden continues to uphold and defend Trump-era policies that counter what the American people voted for when electing him. President Biden must end Title 42, issue a memo terminating Remain in Mexico and file to moot the injunction.
- We know there is no 'gentler' way to turn people back to danger. We can and must continue to wind down MPP and remove other barriers and Trump policies that endanger lives and prevent people from seeking asylum, like Title 42. It's past time to restart asylum processing at the border.
- It is not possible to fix the unfixable, and it is not possible to make the inhumane humane. The problems with the program were so fundamental that nothing the Biden administration can do will make MPP humane.
- Remain in Mexico hangs vulnerable families and individuals out to dry. Under no circumstance should the Biden administration restart MPP. This policy, along with Title 42, turns its back on people seeking asylum and endangers their lives. There is no way around it: the Biden administration must end this cruel policy that the President himself has called dangerous and inhumane.
- History will not look kindly on this administration's egregious decision that will endanger so many more lives. Seeking safety is an act of courage. President Biden's use of Trump policies to turn people seeking refuge back to horrific dangers will be a lasting stain on this administration's record.
- The Biden administration must reject resuming a policy that tears families apart and subjects asylum seekers to horrific and dangerous conditions.



- We pride ourselves on being the most powerful country in the world — we need to start acting like it by welcoming all seeking safety for whom our country may be their last, best hope.

'Remain In Mexico' Delivers People to Danger

- Remain in Mexico should be called 'Remain in Danger' because that's what this policy does in practice. Since President Biden took office, there have been at least [6,356](#) public and media reports of violent attacks—including rape, kidnapping, and assault—against people blocked from requesting asylum protection at the U.S.-Mexico border and/or expelled to Mexico, as tracked by Human Rights First. Reinstating MPP would add more to this toll.
 - The [6,356](#) public and media reports of violent attacks are more than four times the [1,500](#) attacks Human Rights First tracked over nearly two years due to the Trump administration's devastating Remain in Mexico policy.
 - There are countless documented cases of pregnant women, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities being sent back to Mexico under Remain in Mexico and then been subjected to torture, kidnapping, and violence.
- As a result of Remain in Mexico, [children are subjected to grueling trauma, including witnessing the rape and torture of their parents.](#)
- Remain in Mexico delivers families and children directly into the arms of the cartels. It is not possible to protect people forced to wait in Mexico for months or years, where Mexican officials are often complicit in cartel activities or target asylum seekers themselves.
- There simply is no way to exclude vulnerable people from Remain in Mexico -- because anyone who seeks safety for themselves or their kids is vulnerable.

The Remain in Mexico Policy Denied Asylum Seekers a Fair Day in Court

- Over the two years that Remain in Mexico was in place under the Trump administration, less than 1% of people placed into the program were granted asylum. Out of nearly 70,000 people placed into the program, just [521 were granted asylum.](#)
- Remain in Mexico made it nearly impossible to obtain a lawyer. People in the program were able to obtain a lawyer just 7% of the time, compared to 60% of people inside the United States.
- Migrants put into Remain in Mexico were routinely denied due process and prevented from making their cases for asylum. They were forced to run a gauntlet of kidnappers to show up at the port of entry at 4:30AM to be admitted for hearings where virtually no one had a lawyer.



- The Remain in Mexico program created a sham court process carried out in tent courts and overcrowded courtrooms across the border.

This Policy Causes Family Separation

- People think the cruelty of family separation ended, but Remain in Mexico just moved the horrors a few miles away to the other side of the border.
- ‘Remain in Mexico’ forces parents to make an impossible decision between sending their children across the border alone to keep them safe or risking their lives to stay together in dangerous conditions in Mexico.
- During the Trump administration, we became a country that forces desperate parents to put everything on the line to save their children’s lives. President Biden cannot continue on like this.
- If we truly care about protecting children — we need to honor the sacrifices of parents and welcome families with dignity and respect.

Putting an End to MPP to Protect People Seeking Safety

- Remain in Mexico preys on the most vulnerable of us. There is no safe, humane, or lawful way to implement this policy. We need our immigration policies to reflect our values as a nation by treating all who turn to us for safety with empathy, dignity, and respect.
- President Biden must reject policies that subject people seeking safety to dangerous conditions. We can and must be a country that welcomes people seeking refuge with dignity.
- The Biden administration must keep its promise to end MPP.
- Remain in Mexico and Title 42 were created to punish people from seeking safety. It’s time to end these cruel and inhumane policies and restore asylum at the border.