



March 9, 2023

Dear President Biden:

The proposed rule is contrary to well-established United States law regarding the right to seek asylum in our country. Individuals should be able to access our asylum system regardless of how they enter, as has been the law for decades. They should not be forced to seek asylum in transit to the United States, especially not in countries where they may also face harm. The ending of Title 42—itsself an illegal policy—should not be used as an excuse to resurrect Trump-era categorical bans on groups of asylum seekers.

The rule will also cause confusion at ports of entry and cause chaos and exacerbate backlogs in our immigration courts. People who cannot access the CBP One app are at serious risk of being turned away by CBP, even if the rule says otherwise. Additionally, as was demonstrated by the previous Trump Transit Ban, the rule is likely to create confusion and additional backlogs at the immigration courts as individual judges attempt to apply a complicated, convoluted rule.

As a committed Christian and Roman Catholic, we urge you to reflect on the call of your faith as well as your commitment to human rights. While we understand the need to develop the processes through which migrants and asylum seekers enter the USA, these processes must protect the safety, dignity, and rights of these poor and desperate people. Please direct your staff to continue to consult with those on the ground and to work to develop more humane, accessible, and effective legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael Nasello

Michael Nasello
Director, Passionist Solidarity Network

Cc: Fr. Joe Moons, CP – Provincial Superior of Passionist Congregation, Holy Cross Province
Fr. Jim O'Shea, CP – Provincial Superior of Passionist Congregation, St. Paul of the Cross Province
Passionist Solidarity Network Advisory Board Members