

January 25, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The undersigned 273 civil rights, labor rights, faith-based, immigrant, human rights, humanitarian, and legal service organizations respectfully request that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the Secretary of State, designate El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras (an area known as the “Northern Triangle”) for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). These three countries warrant TPS designation in light of the dramatically escalating violence that has precipitated a humanitarian crisis of refugees fleeing the Northern Triangle countries.

**I. TPS is Grounded in Well-Established, 25-Year-Old Statutory Authority**

Using clear statutory authority under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA),<sup>1</sup> the DHS Secretary has currently designated 13 countries for TPS: El Salvador, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.<sup>2</sup> Per the statutory requirements of INA section 244(b), these designations are premised on an ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent nationals of these countries from returning safely. Current designations for El Salvador and Honduras are based on environmental disasters in those countries dating back to 2001 and 1998 respectively, and therefore require TPS beneficiaries from those countries to demonstrate presence and residence in the United States since that time. More recent arrivals are ineligible for TPS.

TPS was created by Congress with the passage of the Immigration Act of 1990<sup>3</sup> to address gaps in U.S. immigration policy and regularize the process by which our government accommodated those gaps.<sup>4</sup> Congress understood that a stay of deportation and employment authorization

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<sup>1</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1254a (West 2016).

<sup>2</sup> See U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, Temporary Protected Status (November 13, 2015), available at <http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>. When Congress created TPS, it included a statutory designation for El Salvador. Since then, many other countries have received a TPS designation for limited periods of time, including Angola (2000-2003); Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992-2001); Burundi (1997-2009); Kosovo Province (1998-2000); Kuwait (1991-1992); Lebanon (1991-1993); Liberia (1991-2007); Montserrat (1997-2005); Rwanda (1995-1997); and Sierra Leone (1997-2004). See LISA SEGHELLI, CONG. RESEARCH SERV., RS 20844, TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS: CURRENT IMMIGRATION POLICY AND ISSUES (2015) available at <https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RS20844.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Immigration Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-649, 104 Stat. 4978.

<sup>4</sup> Madeline Messick and Claire Bergeron, *Temporary Protected Status in the United States: A Grant of Humanitarian Relief that Is Less than Permanent*, MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE, July 2, 2014, available at

are necessary for nationals who are already in the United States but who cannot be deported safely due to temporary conditions in their home countries.

INA section 244(b)(1)(C) provides that the Secretary may base a TPS designation on a finding that “there exist extraordinary and temporary conditions in the foreign state that prevent aliens who are nationals of the state from returning to the state in safety, unless the [Secretary] finds that permitting the aliens to remain temporarily in the United States is contrary to the national interest of the United States.”<sup>5</sup> Each of the Northern Triangle countries clearly meets this criteria given the devastating recent uptick in violence.

## II. Country Conditions in the Northern Triangle Merit TPS Designations

In 2015, the death toll in the Northern Triangle of Central America was 17,500,<sup>6</sup> higher than in all but three zones of ongoing armed conflict: Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria.<sup>7</sup> This death toll was higher than four West African countries struggling with the Boko Haram insurgency<sup>8</sup> and even higher than the death tolls in Somalia, Libya, and South Sudan.<sup>9</sup> Notably, this rapidly escalating violence occurred in a geographic region the size of the state of Oregon and home to just under 30 million people. To put this endemic violence into perspective, Honduras alone had more homicides than the 28 states of the European Union combined in 2014.<sup>10</sup>

The causes of the violence are complex and fueled by lack of government accountability, capture of state institutions by organized crime, impunity and widespread corruption, control of territory by organized criminal groups, brutal militarized law enforcement practices, rampant inequality, and weak democratic governance mechanisms. Unsurprisingly, this violence disproportionately impacts women and children. For the last six years, the Northern Triangle

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<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/temporary-protected-status-united-states-grant-humanitarian-relief-less-permanent>.

<sup>5</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1)(C) (West 2016).

<sup>6</sup> *Central America’s violent Northern Triangle registers 17,422 homicides in 2015*, THE TICO TIMES NEWS, Jan. 5, 2016, <http://www.ticotimes.net/2016/01/05/central-americas-violent-northern-triangle-registers-17422-homicides-in-2015>.

<sup>7</sup> Sayed Sharif Amiri, *Civilian Casualties up as Security Operations Drop Report*, TOLO NEWS, AUG. 4, 2015, <http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/20743-civilian-casualties-up-as-security-operations-drop-report>; Shakeela Ibrahimkhil, *Civilian Casualties Increase in December Against Previous Month*, TOLO NEWS, Jan. 8, 2016, <http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/23200-civilian-casualties-increase-in-december-against-previous-month-;55,000-more-killed-in-syria-in-2015>, YAHOO NEWS, Dec. 31, 2005, <http://news.yahoo.com/more-55-000-killed-syria-2015-monitor-141247568.html>; UNITED NATIONS IRAQ, UNITED NATIONS, *Civilian Casualties*, Jan. 1, 2016, [http://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=itemlist&layout=category&task=category&id=159&Itemid=633&lang=en](http://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=itemlist&layout=category&task=category&id=159&Itemid=633&lang=en).

<sup>8</sup> *Conflict Trends (No. 44) Real-Time Analysis of African Political Violence*, ARMED CONFLICT LOCATION & EVENT DATA PROJECT Dec. 2015, [http://www.acledata.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/ACLED\\_Conflict-Trends-Report-No.44-December-2015\\_pdf](http://www.acledata.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/ACLED_Conflict-Trends-Report-No.44-December-2015_pdf).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Kevin Casas Zamora, *Congressional Testimony: The Roots of Central America’s Exodus*, INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE, Oct. 22, 2015, <http://www.thedialogue.org/resources/congressional-testimony-the-roots-of-central-americas-exodus/>.

countries have ranked within the world's top four countries for rates of femicide,<sup>11</sup> while El Salvador and Guatemala have the highest homicide rates in the world among children.<sup>12</sup> The extreme violence is not limited to these groups, but pervades all corners of society and threatens many who return to these countries.

### **El Salvador**

El Salvador, a nation of 6.4 million people, is racked by drug-fueled violence, with entire city neighborhoods controlled by powerful gangs known as maras. El Salvador recently overtook Honduras as the murder capital of the world. Officials recorded 6,657 people murdered in El Salvador in 2015, a 70 percent increase from 2014.<sup>13</sup> The homicide rate of 104 people per 100,000 people is the highest for any country in nearly 20 years.<sup>14</sup> El Salvador's murder rate surged in 2015 due to increasing battles between security forces and the country's two most powerful gangs—the Barrio 18 criminal group and their rivals, the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). In August 2015 alone there were 907 murders representing the highest monthly toll since the 1980-1992 civil war.<sup>15</sup> An estimated 75,000 civilians died in El Salvador's 12-year civil war, an average of 6,250 per year of the conflict<sup>16</sup>—a figure below the number of homicides in 2015.

### **Guatemala**

Guatemalans face epidemic levels of violence and a government that is unable and unwilling to protect them. The criminal insurgency by transnational criminal organizations and gangs against the state reflects a serious and pervasive armed conflict within Guatemala.<sup>17</sup> Consequently, levels of violence have soared, making Guatemala's homicide rate the fifth highest in the

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<sup>11</sup> Tom Jawetz, *Addressing the Flow of Central American Mothers and Children Seeking Protection*, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS, Jan. 12, 2016,

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2016/01/12/128645/addressing-the-flow-of-central-american-mothers-and-children-seeking-protection/>.

<sup>12</sup> Tessa Wardlaw, *Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children*, UNICEF, Sept. 2004, available at [http://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_74865.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_74865.html); Ami Sedghi, *The world's most dangerous countries for young people: homicide rates for under 20-year-olds mapped*, THE GUARDIAN, Sept. 5, 2014, <http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/ng-interactive/2014/sep/05/the-worlds-most-dangerous-countries-for-young-people-homicide-rates-for-under-20-year-olds-mapped>.

<sup>13</sup> Alan Gomez, *El Salvador: World's new murder capital*, USA TODAY, Jan. 8, 2016, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/01/07/el-salvador-homicide-rate-honduras-guatemala-illegal-immigration-to-united-states/78358042/>.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> Anastasia Moloney, *U.S. Peace Corps pulls out of El Salvador over violence, security*, Thomas Reuters Foundation News, Jan. 13, 2016, <http://news.trust.org//item/20160113193341-r2q1z/?source=fiOtherNews3>.

<sup>16</sup> Mike Allison, *El Salvador's brutal civil war: What we still don't know*, ALJAZEERA, March 1, 2012, <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/02/2012228123122975116.html>.

<sup>17</sup> Maureen Taft-Morales, *Guatemala: Political, Security, and SocioEconomic Conditions and U.S. Relations*, Congressional Research Service, Aug. 7, 2014, <https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R42580.pdf>; U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, *Guatemala 2015 Crime and Safety Report*, June 20, 2015, <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportPDF.aspx?cid=17785>.

world.<sup>18</sup> In 2012, Small Arms Survey ranked Guatemala third in the killings of women worldwide, even rivaling the rates of the country's 36-year civil war.<sup>19</sup>

Moreover, cumulative environmental disasters have plagued Guatemala including earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, tropical storms, floods, drought, and landslides. Guatemala has declared a state of public calamity on various occasions and received limited international humanitarian assistance. In 2005, Hurricane Stan caused the death of more than 1,500 people, impacted 500,000 people, and led to \$989 million in damages. In 2010, the Pacaya Volcano erupted, scattering volcanic ash and debris across Guatemala City, bringing economic life in the capital of 1.5 million residents to a standstill. Two days later, Tropical Storm Agatha hit, killing 174, injuring 154, affecting close to 400,000 Guatemalans, and causing nearly \$1 billion in damage.<sup>20</sup> Agatha also led to the evacuation of 112,000 and displacement of 20,000 Guatemalans.<sup>21</sup> A recent landslide in October 2015 caused additional devastation and the deaths of hundreds.<sup>22</sup> The cumulative loss of infrastructure, harvests—including thousands of hectares of agricultural land—and homes caused extraordinary loss of life and livelihood, with women, children, and indigenous communities at particular risk.<sup>23</sup>

### **Honduras:**

With a homicide rate of 57 per 100,000 people, Honduras suffers 10 times more homicides than the world average and four times the number of homicides than the average country in the Americas.<sup>24</sup> Criminal gangs often target children and young adults for recruitment and to commit crimes.<sup>25</sup> Disturbingly, for young adult males between the ages of 20 and 34, the murder rate in Honduras exceeds 300 per 100,000.<sup>26</sup> Gangs also regularly target girls and

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<sup>18</sup> UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME, UNITED NATIONS, Global Study on Homicide 2013: Trends, Contexts, Data, April 2014, <http://www.unodc.org/gsh/>.

<sup>19</sup> David Carey, M.G. Torres, *PRECURSORS TO FEMICIDE: Guatemalan Women in a Vortex of Violence*, LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH REVIEW 45 (3): 142–164 (showing rates of homicide targeting women and girls in Guatemala rival the rates of female casualties during the Guatemalan Civil War and discussing that homicides targeting women often is accompanied by sexual violence).

<sup>20</sup> Jose Magana-Salgado, *Relief Not Raids: Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras*, IMMIGRANT LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER, Jan. 2016, available at <http://www.ilrc.org/resources/relief-not-raids-temporary-protected-status-for-el-salvador-guatemala-honduras> [hereinafter “Relief Not Raids.”].

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> Marilia Brocchetto & Nelson Quinones, *Guatemala landslide death toll rises to 271*, CNN, Oct. 10, 2015, <http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/10/americas/guatemala-landslide-deaths/>.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> Joshua Partlow, *Why El Salvador became the hemisphere's murder capital*, THE WASHINGTON POST, Jan. 5, 2016, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/01/05/why-el-salvador-became-the-hemispheres-murder-capital/>.

<sup>25</sup> *Guidance Note On Refugee Claims Relating To Victims Of Organized Gangs*, UNHCR, March 2010, available at [http://www.uscrrifugees.org/2010Website/5\\_Resources/5\\_4\\_For\\_Lawyers/5\\_4\\_1%20Asylum%20Research/5\\_4\\_1\\_2\\_Gang\\_Related\\_Asylum\\_Resources/5\\_4\\_1\\_2\\_4\\_Reports/UNHCR\\_Guidance\\_Note\\_on\\_Refugee\\_Claims.pdf](http://www.uscrrifugees.org/2010Website/5_Resources/5_4_For_Lawyers/5_4_1%20Asylum%20Research/5_4_1_2_Gang_Related_Asylum_Resources/5_4_1_2_4_Reports/UNHCR_Guidance_Note_on_Refugee_Claims.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME, UNITED NATIONS, Global Study on Homicide 2013: Trends, Contexts, Data, April 2014, <http://www.unodc.org/gsh/>.

women for forced recruitment, sexual harassment, and exploitation.<sup>27</sup> After her visit to Honduras in July 2014, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women noted that violent deaths among women had increased by 263 percent between 2005 and 2013 and that Honduras criminal justice system had a 95 percent rate of impunity for femicide and sexual violence crimes.<sup>28</sup>

There are substantiated reports of Honduran police forming death squads and committing extrajudicial executions in both San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa.<sup>29</sup> The militarization of police in Honduras began in 2013 with often-masked Military Police (PMOP) deployed into some of the more violent sectors of the large cities. These police are at the top of the civilian national police structure (FUSINA), a force mistrusted both by those inside and outside the government because of the high rates of corruption and complicity with organized crime. Nonetheless, the PMOP are an extra-constitutional body<sup>30</sup> and have been implicated in a growing list of abuses, made even harder to address because of a lack of civilian accountability and anonymity. Recently, child advocacy organization Casa Alianza documented that in the last two months, the PMOP were involved in at least six extrajudicial executions of children and youth.<sup>31</sup> Abuses attributed to the PMOP and FUSINA include beatings, harassment of civil rights activists, forced disappearances, sexual assaults, and murders of poor or disadvantaged Hondurans.<sup>32</sup> A February 2014 report by *El Heraldo*, the leading newspaper, found that over 200 national police were implicated in killings for hire, drug theft, and corruption.<sup>33</sup>

### **III. TPS is a Critical Component of a Package of Humanitarian Protection**

We welcome the announced expansion of refugee processing abroad for nationals from the Northern Triangle countries who are fleeing persecution and the ability for them to apply for

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<sup>27</sup> *Forced Displacement and Protection Needs Produced by New Forms of Violence and Criminality in Central America*, CIDEHUM, UNHCR, May 2012, [http://www.unhcrwashington.org/sites/default/files/UAC\\_2\\_CIDEHUM\\_Forced%20Displacement%20and%20Protection%20Needs\\_May%202012\\_English.pdf](http://www.unhcrwashington.org/sites/default/files/UAC_2_CIDEHUM_Forced%20Displacement%20and%20Protection%20Needs_May%202012_English.pdf).

<sup>28</sup> Rashida Manjoo, *Special Rapporteur on violence against women finalizes country mission to Honduras and calls for urgent action to address the culture of impunity for crimes against women and girls*, OHCHR, July 7, 2014, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14833&LangID=E#sthash.aEX2teov.dpuf>

<sup>29</sup> See Jeremy Relph, *Dispatch from Honduras: What it's like to live in the Murder Capital of the World*, BUSINESS INSIDER, Oct. 30, 2014, <http://www.businessinsider.com/murder-capital-san-pedro-sula-2014-10>; HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, *World Report 2014: Honduras*, Jan. 2014, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/honduras>.

<sup>30</sup> Thelma Mejia, *Military Given Full Powers to Fight Crime in Honduras*, Sept. 4, 2013, <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/09/military-given-full-powers-to-fight-crime-in-honduras/>.

<sup>31</sup> *Honduran Soldiers Have Killed at Least Six Civilians*, GLOBAL POST, Jan. 5, 2016, <http://www.globalpost.com/article/6714965/2016/01/05/honduras-soldiers-have-killed-least-6-civilians>.

<sup>32</sup> *Status of Violence Against Women in Honduras*, AMERICAS PROGRAM, July 2014, <http://www.cipamericas.org/archives/12582>.

<sup>33</sup> Suchit Chavez and Jessica Avalos, *The Northern Triangle: The Countries That Don't Cry for Their Dead*, INSIGHT CRIME, April 23, 2014, available at <http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/the-northern-triangle-the-countries-that-dont-cry-for-their-dead>.

refugee status in a safe, third country in the region.<sup>34</sup> This development is a sorely needed expansion of the Central American Minor (CAM) In-Country Refugee Processing Program, through which certain children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras are permitted to apply for refugee status from within their home countries.<sup>35</sup> It is incumbent on your Administration, however, that refugee processing represent part of a comprehensive package of protection from harm for those fleeing violence in Central America.

Moreover, these programs are an explicit acknowledgement that country conditions in these countries are steadily worsening, the outflows of mothers and children are driven by severe violence, and safety for many is increasingly elusive. The January 2016 withdrawal of U.S. Peace Corps volunteers from El Salvador<sup>36</sup>—the first time in over 40 years—in addition to the September 2012 withdrawal of volunteers from Honduras,<sup>37</sup> is further evidence that no one is immune to the region’s escalating violence.

The risk of deportation to the Northern Triangle countries is tangible and profound. According to a comprehensive study conducted by social scientist Elizabeth Kennedy at San Diego State University, between January 2014 and September 2015, at least 83 nationals deported to El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala were reported to have been subsequently murdered, with 45 murders in El Salvador, 35 in Honduras, and three in Guatemala.<sup>38</sup>

Designation of a country for TPS should be premised on whether country conditions meet the statutory requirements set by Congress and must not be impacted by unfounded fears of increased refugees arriving at our nation’s border. TPS eligibility is strictly limited to individuals who are physically present in the United States prior to designation. Moreover, outflows from these countries are primarily driven by push factors of extreme violence and persecution, not domestic immigration policy. There is no historical precedent or evidence of additional foreign nationals attempting to enter the United States as a consequence of a TPS designation. Certainly, your Administration has not shied away from taking bold action to exercise its discretionary authority to establish Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals despite critics’ unfounded and speculative allegations that such exercise would drive others to migrate here.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Refugee Resettlement in the United States, Jan. 13, 2016, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/01/251176.htm>; Julia Preston, *U.N. to Help U.S. Screen Central American Migrants*, N.Y. TIMES, Jan. 12, 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/13/us/politics/un-to-help-us-screen-central-american-migrants.html>.

<sup>35</sup> U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, In-Country Refugee/Parole Processing for Minors in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala (Central American Minors – CAM), June 1, 2015, <https://www.uscis.gov/CAM>.

<sup>36</sup> Anastasia Moloney, *U.S. Peace Corps pulls out of El Salvador over violence, security*, Jan. 13, 2016, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-el-salvador-peace-corps-violence-idUSKCN0UR2PM20160113>.

<sup>37</sup> *Honduras*, Peace Corps, Sept. 2012, <http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/wherepc/centralamerica/honduras/?shell=learn.wherepc.centralamerica&cntry=honduras>.

<sup>38</sup> See Relief Not Raids, *supra* note 20, at 6.

<sup>39</sup> Roque Planas, *This Is How We Know DACA Didn't Cause The Border Crisis*, HUFFINGTON POST, Aug. 1, 2014, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/08/01/daca-border-crisis\\_n\\_5639383.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/08/01/daca-border-crisis_n_5639383.html) (“Conservatives say the policy,

Moreover, even a federal court has taken a dim view of the argument that the Administration's policies allowing undocumented immigrants to remain in the country contribute to future migration.<sup>40</sup>

The asylum system plays a key role in protecting many of those who flee persecution in their home countries. However, despite the high rates of homicide, femicide, and other forms of violence, the overall success rate for Central American asylum seekers in U.S. immigration courts is very low.<sup>41</sup> While due process issues and lack of counsel play a role, the standards for securing asylum are very narrow, require very high levels of corroboration, and many of the reasons that Central American asylum seekers need protection, such as fear of persecution due to opposition to gangs, involve a complicated and evolving area of asylum law.

Given the urgent nature of this request and the risk placed on the lives of those who are deported, we request your timely consideration and prompt reply. If you need additional information or have questions related to this request, please contact Royce Murray, National Immigrant Justice Center, at [rmurray@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:rmurray@heartlandalliance.org) or 312-718-5021.

Sincerely,

Access Living/Cambiando Vidas  
Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
African American Ministers In Action  
African Services Committee  
Alianza Americas  
America's Voice Education Fund

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which newly arrived undocumented immigrants don't qualify for, has acted as a magnet, pulling young migrants from the violence-plagued and poverty-stricken countries of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. But there's virtually no evidence to support this increasingly popular conservative talking point.").

<sup>40</sup> *Arpaio v. Obama*, 797 F.3d 11, 21 (D.C. Cir. 2015) ("Arpaio's claim that DACA caused the increase in Central American border crossings in 2014, Pillard wrote, "suffers from the logical fallacy post hoc ergo propter hoc (after this, therefore because of this). Just as we do not infer that the rooster's crow triggers the sunrise, we cannot infer based on chronology alone that DACA triggered the migrations that occurred two years later.").

<sup>41</sup> During the fourth quarter of FY 2015, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) granted 45-46% of the affirmative asylum cases they adjudicated across all nationalities. USCIS does not provide grant rates by nationality publicly. See *Asylum Division Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting*, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, (Dec. 18, 2015), <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/asylum-division-quarterly-stakeholder-meeting-1>. In FY 2014 (the most recent data available), the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) granted asylum to 11.8% of the respondents from El Salvador who cases were granted or denied that year; 12.8% of the respondents from Guatemala who cases were granted or denied that year; and 14.9% of the respondents from Honduras who cases were granted or denied that year. This does not include those cases that were abandoned, withdrawn, or categorized as "other" completion by EOIR for FY 2014. Executive Office for Immigration Review, U.S. Department of Justice, *Asylum Statistics FY 2010-2014*, (March 2015), available at <http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/eoir/pages/attachments/2015/03/16/fy2010-fy2014-asylum-statistics-by-nationality.pdf>.

American Civil Liberties Union  
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)  
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
American Gateways  
American Immigration Council  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Americans for Immigrant Justice  
Arkansas United Community Coalition  
Asamblea de Derechos Civiles de Minnesota  
ASI, Inc. - Asociacion de Servicios Para el Inmigrante  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA)  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence  
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach  
ASISTA Immigration Assistance  
Association of Latino/as Motivating Action (ALMA)  
Atlas:DIY  
Bay Area Latin America Solidarity Coalition  
Berkshire Immigrant Center  
Bernardo Kohler Center  
Bethany Christian Services  
Brooklyn Defender Services  
California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance (CIYJA)  
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition  
CARECENSF  
CASA  
Casa de Esperanza  
Casa Latina  
Catholic Charities of Baltimore  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)  
Catholic Migration Services  
Center for Community Change  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Employment Training  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
Center for Human Rights & Constitutional Law  
Central American Legal Assistance  
Central American Resource Center-Los Angeles  
Centro Romero  
Chicago Law and Education Foundation  
Church of the Brethren  
Church World Service



CISPES Bay Area  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)  
Coloradans For Immigrant Rights, a project of the AFSC Colorado  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Colorado People's Alliance  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Community Legal Services and Counseling Center  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Congress of Day Laborers, NOWCRJ  
Conversations With Friends (MN)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
DC-MD Justice for Our Neighbors  
Detention Watch Network  
Dolores Street Community Services  
Dream Team LA  
Educators for Fair Consideration  
Enlace  
Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
Farmworker Justice  
Fe y Justicia Worker Center  
Filipino Advocates for Justice  
First Focus  
Florida Council of Churches  
Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC)  
Forks Human Rights Group  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscans for Justice  
Freedom Network USA  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Friends of Broward Detainees  
Friends of Miami-Dade Detainees  
Futures Without Violence  
Gamaliel  
Georgia Detention Watch  
Grassroots Leadership  
Greater Reading Immigration Project (GRIP)  
Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA  
Heartland Alliance  
HIAS  
HIAS Pennsylvania  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters - USA, JPIC

Hondurans Against AIDS  
Hope Community Center  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas  
Human Rights Observation/Honduras  
Idaho Community Action Network  
IDEAS at UCLA  
Ignatian Solidarity Network  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Immigrant & Civil Rights Initiative, United Methodist Women  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Immigration Center for Women and Children  
Immigration Counseling Service (ICS)  
Immigration Equality  
Immigration Justice Clinic of John Jay Legal Services, Inc. at Pace University School of Law  
Immigration Resource Center of San Gabriel Valley  
International Institute of Buffalo  
International Institute of Connecticut, Inc.  
International Institute of New England  
International Institute of the Bay Area  
International Organization for Adolescents  
International Services Center of Cleveland  
Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago (i2i)  
Irish International Immigrant Center  
Jesuit Conference, National Advocacy Office  
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA  
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay  
Just Foreign Policy  
Justice for Our Neighbors Southeastern Michigan  
Justice for Our Neighbors West Michigan  
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Kids in Need of Defense  
Kino Border Initiative  
Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center  
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center  
Korean Resource Center  
La Union del Pueblo Entero  
LaCasa, Inc.  
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center  
Latin America Solidarity Committee  
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)

Latino Commission on AIDS  
Latino Policy Forum  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Logan Square Neighborhood Association  
Long Island Wins  
Lowcountry Immigration Coalition  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
MetroWest Peace Action  
Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF)  
Mi Familia Vota  
Michigan United  
Midwest Jesuits Office for Social and International Ministries  
Mijente  
Mil Mujeres  
Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance  
Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates  
Monseñor Romero Foundation  
Mundo Maya Foundation  
My Sisters' Place  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Compadres Network  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Employment Law Project  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Forum  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project/National Lawyers Guild  
National Justice for Our Neighbors  
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium  
National Latin@ Network: Casa de Esperanza  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National LGBTQ Task Force  
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
National Veterans for Peace  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center  
New York Justice For Our Neighbors

Nicaragua Center for Community Action (NICCA)  
Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
OneAmerica  
Oregon Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice  
Oxfam America  
P.A.S.O. - West Suburban Action Project  
Pangea Legal Services  
Pax Christi New Jersey  
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center  
PFLAG National  
PICO National Network  
Polaris Project  
Portland Central America Solidarity committee  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Project IRENE  
Proyecto Azteca  
Public Counsel  
Puentes: Advocacy, Counseling & Education  
Red Mexicana De Lideres y Organizaciones Migrantes  
Reform Immigration FOR America  
Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance  
Reformed Church of Highland Park  
Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)  
Refugees International  
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network  
Safe Passage Project Corporation  
Salvadoran American Leadership & Educational Fund (SALEF)  
Salvadoran American National Network  
Salvadoreños Unidos de Oregon  
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium  
Scalabrini International Migration Network - SIMN  
School of the Americas Watch - San Francisco  
SEIU 32BJ  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)  
SHARE FOUNDATION  
Sin Fronteras, Inc.  
Sin Huellas Arts Collective  
Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Institute Justice Team  
Sisters of Saint Francis Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities  
Skagit Immigrant Rights Council

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center  
South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice  
South Texas Human Rights Center  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Southwest Key Programs  
Southwest Organizing Project  
SustainUS  
Tahirih Justice Center  
Task Force on the Americas  
Texas Organizing Project  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), DC  
The Guatemalan-Maya Center  
The Immigrant Youth Coalition  
The Office of Social Justice of the Christian Reformed Church in North America  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
Transgender Law Center  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants  
UC Davis School of Law Immigration Law Clinic  
UFW Foundation  
Unidos a Progresar Community Project  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United African Organization  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Families  
United Services for Counseling  
United We Dream  
University of San Francisco Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic  
UnLocal, Inc.  
VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.  
Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
Voces de la Frontera  
Voz Hispana Cambio Comunitario Oregon  
W. Haywood Burns Institute  
Washington Office on Latin America  
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
We Belong Together  
WILPF Portland (Oregon)  
Witness for Peace  
Women's Refugee Commission  
Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc.  
Workers Defense Project

World Relief DuPage/Aurora

YAYA-NFWM (Youth and Young Adult network of the National Farm Worker Ministry)

Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

Cc: Mr. Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security

Mr. John Kerry, Secretary of State

Ms. Susan Rice, National Security Advisor

Ms. Cecilia Muñoz, Domestic Policy Advisor