

Stop the inhumanity!

—UUFHCT, San Juan, Texas

Our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to seek justice, equity and compassion in human relations. For these reasons, we beg you to restore access to asylum for immigrants at our borders.

—Social Justice Ministry, Live Oak UU Congregation, Goleta, CA

Columbine works to support legislation that would change the political situation of our immigrant neighbors. We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all

—Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church

Land of the free, home of the brave. We shall open our arms to the world's oppressed.

—UU Society of South Suffolk, Bay Shore, NY

Our congregation walks in solidarity with asylum seekers throughout their journeys and has learned from our asylum-seeking guests about the inhumane and traumatizing treatment at the border and the incredibly dangerous conditions in border towns in Mexico. All people deserve dignity and the right to seek asylum, which the United States must honor. The Biden administration needs to end the misuse of Title 42, which is not improving public health but rather contributing to the poor health and even death of asylum seekers.

—Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists - Journey to Asylum

We stand on the side of love.

—Unitarian Universalists of New Braunfels

It is imperative that the Biden Administration end its use of Title 42 as a way to decrease the flow of immigrants into the U.S. This prevents immigrants from practicing their right to seek asylum, and sends families back to their country of origin, which they just fled; or back to Mexico, where they are exploited.

—Immigrant Justice Team, UU Church of Urbana Champaign

The Olympia Brown UUC Asylum Task Force is currently sponsoring an asylum seeker family who were fortunate to be allowed to enter our country and file an asylum claim while staying in our community. We have learned about the atrocities that they experienced on their journey to enter our country. We have also learned that our community is willing and able to support asylum seekers while they file their claim for asylum. It is cruel to make asylum seekers wait in

poor conditions outside our borders and prolong their suffering while at the same time denying our citizens the opportunity to practice hospitality and compassion to our fellow human beings. We urge President Biden and his administration to end the misuse of Title 42 immediately and allow asylum seekers to enter our country and file for asylum. Naoki Nakamura, Chair, Olympia Brown UUC Asylum Seekers Task Force

—Olympia Brown UUC Asylum Task Force

Misuse of Title 42 to deter valid seekers of asylum is indefensible. It is not something that the world's premiere democracy and beacon of hope should be doing. [...] I find it extraordinary that the Biden administration has used the pretext of Title 42 to turn away valid asylum seekers. We must end this hideous practice which I view to be a violation of our treaty commitments and international law. This is not the type of behavior I expected from the Biden Administration when I voted for Joe Biden.

—Robert B. Shields, Jr., Burke, VA

Excluding asylum-seekers based on Title 42 is a discriminatory practice. Many citizens, green card holders and visa-holding visitors enter the US every day and have just as much chance of causing health issues as do asylum-seekers who willingly submit to COVID tests. [...] This country is stronger for the immigrants, refugees and asylums who are living here. We should process the asylum seekers at our southern border promptly and efficiently, not put them into detention (there are alternatives) and not return them to Mexico with the pretext of Title 42 health risks.

—Charlotte Jones-Carroll, Chevy Chase, MD

The United States needs to adhere to the United Nations refugee requirements.

—Ann V. Stevenson, Bellingham, WA

As a Unitarian Universalist, I believe in working to ensure that the inherent worth and dignity of every person is respected, recognized, and realized. We cannot do this without justice. Justice demands that we welcome immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers. Our current practices are cruel, unjust, and inhumane. Provide amnesty, follow international standards for migration and asylum, welcome strangers into our midst.

—Deborah Little, Director of Religious Education, East Setauket, NY

We have always been a country that welcomes immigrants, or at least state that we do so; we have pride in 'The Lady with the Lamp'—the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, with its welcome to "huddled masses, yearning to breathe free". Let's reclaim that heritage that has done so much to build this country!

—Sally Jane Gellert, co-chairperson, UUs for a Just Economic Community, Woodcliff Lake, NJ

Stop Title 42 expulsions immediately. As UU's we respect the worth and dignity of all who seek refuge at our southern border.

—Maureen Flanigan, Littleton, CO

We who speak proudly of the nation that welcomed our ancestors must not shut the gates behind us.

—Rev. Madelyn Campbell, Bethlehem, PA

We must do better to live up to the values of our country and, in fact, to the promises of the Biden administration.

—Lynn Buffington, Chair Social Action Miami Valley UU Fellowship, Dayton, OH

A time of sanctuary helps to prevent rash and impassioned misjudgments-just as the it did in medieval Europe, when vigilante “justice” was rife. The church stepped in to offer this pause. It should do that again.

—Tara Stephenson, Easton, PA

As a United Methodist Woman who supports missions for immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers, I support this initiative as part of our faith in action programs.

—Lois Knowlton, La Mesa, CA

We need the immigrants for a healthy society as much as they need safe passage into the US for their health. When we are more diverse, we are healthier.

—Elizabeth (ruling elder) & William Branch (minister), Little Rock, AK

As a Catholic, I am very angry by the continued use of Title 42. Refugees and asylum seekers, as children of God, are deserving of being treated with respect and dignity. Refugees and asylum seekers do not leave their home countries on a whim. They leave because their lives and their families' lives are in danger or, because of the climate changes, they cannot feed their families. DO THE RIGHT THING AND END TITLE 42 AND RESTORE ASYLUM!

—Karen A. Jackson, Woodridge

We are all God's children.

—Rev. James VanderWeele, retired, Baton Rouge, LA

No human being is illegal.

—Nancy Weston, Chair, Social Action Committee, Bethlehem, PA

All people deserve freedom, justice and peace.

—Rev. Cynthia A. Snavely, Lady Lake, FL

We are called to grow our compassion, and support people in their time of need. We share one Earth.

—Donna Jo Wallace, co-chair of Write Here Write Now for 1st Unitarian Church of Des Moines, Des Moines, IA

Please President Biden and Vice-President Harris....don't let this critical need go absent in your action agenda for 2022!!!

—Phyllis Havens (UUSB), Bangor, ME

All humans deserve the Right to Asylum: it's an International Human Right.

—Kathy Glatz, Denver, CO

The tragic need for asylum in today's world must be honored. The Statue of Liberty means nothing if we turn all these asylum seekers away! Shameful. [...] We as a nation were given the gift of The Statue of Liberty. We no longer represent the words written on this remarkable gift. There are Afghans who helped keep our troops safe for years and they have been refused asylum! The Taliban has made their intentions very clear. These Afghan men and women even children are all being targeted for assassination by the Taliban. Ever since the former person who occupied the White House was elected, I no longer can honestly say that I am proud to be an American. That is a tragic state of affairs. [...] The Statue of Liberty means Nothing when the USA behaves so badly toward refugees who are Not White, Christian, or whatever qualifies for refugee vs. immigrant status. They are seeking asylum and USA policy is impacting their country of origin. Changes in USA policy is the best way to stop refugees from needing to try to enter the country for asylum.

—Ilene Beninson, Ann Arbor, MI

Our borders must be open to those seeking asylum!

—Rachel Maxwell, Edmonds, WA

Catholic Social Teaching clearly addresses the dignity of all people and the right for a full, just and safe life. In this context and also as a Gospel mandate, I encourage this current administration to restore A[s]ylum and end the misuse of Title 42

—Candice Tucci, OSF, Chaplain, Omaha, NE

The unspeakable carnage occurring in Ukraine has created more than one million refugees in less than one week. The US has sent enormous sums to sustain them. How can we do less for the displaced, desperate people waiting at the doorway to the most powerful democracy in the world?

—Paula Fulks, Kirkwood, MO

Unitarian Universalism encourages a radical hospitality, such as the hospitality we're now witnessing in response to the Ukrainian crisis. At its core, the U.S. holds the same commitment. I have heard first hand the stories of those seeking asylum. Access to asylum must be restored. We must live our core values.

—Rev. Carolyn Patierno, New London, CT

Migration is natural and foundational to the ecology of our planet. It has long been recognized as a protected human right under natural law. Title 42 --- and all efforts to eliminate and criminalize migration --- are violations of human rights and the laws of nature. Restore and honor the right to migrate and seek asylum!

—Aly Tharp, Lay Community Minister, Co-Director of UU Ministry for Earth, Austin, TX

About 99% of American citizens came from immigrant families who arrive on the lands of various Native tribal peoples. If we want to keep our National family growing and strong, we need to embrace the needy citizens of the rest of the world and welcome them here. [...] “In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you. . . .”

—L. Chris Hager, Falls Church, VA

In this land of plenty, we must stop acting out of feelings of scarcity. Welcome all with dignity and expediency. We need one another now and always. Title 42 was enacted in fear. It needs to be rescinded with trust in our shared future and values.

—Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer, Interfaith Minister, Bethesda, MD

After everything families go through to escape poverty and violence, they deserve a fair hearing. Particularly since the US has accountability for many of the conditions that caused the problem!

—Elizabeth Tregillus, Durango

Please consider these issues, even though Ukraine is still top of mind

— Bethe Orrell, Chair SJC at First UU Albuquerque, Tijeras

Children's rights trump border security (Zaid al-Hussain former High Commissioner Human Rights)

— Bruce Knotts, New York, NY

I believe in the justice, equity and compassion for those fleeing from horrible situations simply trying to find safety. It is the humane thing to do.

— Ms. Benieta Powell, Makanda, IL

An honorable nation would welcome refugees and immigrants and do whatever it can to help them establish secure lives.

— Rev. Millie Phillips, Oakland, CA

Racism is clearly what drives Title 42, example: Haitians!

—Thomas Luce, Berkeley, CA

The need for quick and easy asylum has become so apparent with the war in Ukraine and watching all of the poverty and climate disasters around the world.

—Terry Lowman, Ames

As a person of faith and conscience, I call upon the Biden Administration to put an end to Title 42, which has been used to rapidly expel asylum-seekers at the border without offering them a chance to seek protection. I ask the Administration to ensure U.S. Government policies embody principles of human rights and dignity and to resist any harmful and unjust policies that undermine due process and lead to suffering and discrimination.

—Elizabeth Trotter, Metairie, LA

Hiding behind the reason of public health also defiles what public health stands for.

— Mary Vallier-Kaplan, Peterborough, NH

American values compell us to do this!

—Alexander Shaw, Bethesda, MD

I believe we have a moral and legal obligation to restore much fairer access to asylum than we are doing now.

— William Ross, Dayton, OH

We have no excuse to keep asylum seekers out of our country. As people of faith, we are obligated to show hospitality and compassion to people in need.

— Rev. Alice Diebel, Community Minister, Dayton, OH

The stated purpose of the moratorium on entries at the southern border is because of the covid pandemic. There are less harmful ways to determine whether asylum seekers carry the covid vaccine, such as testing at the camp sites. As a person of faith, I call on our government to work on behalf of who Jesus called "the least of these."

— BA Miskowiec, CLM, Charleston, WV

How can we witness suffering and do nothing?

—Eileen McCully, Winston-Salem, NC

all white folks have benefited from living in the u.s./ why not others living in horrible conditions

—John Alder, Spokane, WA

Walk a mile in their moccasins. If it was you ?,..., we are Uni.... We are a very big country, lots of new eco villages can be built. Only living in the past and hate stands in the way.

— Rev Theodore Desmarais, Amargosa Valley, NV

Justice for ALL Human Beings !

— Rev. Glen Thamert, Jemez Springs, NM

It's not illegal to be a human being trying to find a safe place to live, where they can be productive members of society. Let's stop acting like it is!

— Jennifer Jones, Phoenix, AZ

Support restoring asylum

— Mufutau K. Oladejo, Las Vegas, NV

Let us all have enough love and empathy to understand what needs to be done.

—Sandra J. Fulton, Philadelphia, PA

People with the fortitude and perseverance to reach our borders are the ones we need more of, not less.

—Cynthia Pratt, Washington, DC

As a life-long UU, I call on your administration to keep the promises you made to us during your campaign to affirm the rights of those seeking to immigrate to the US under duress. I'm deeply disappointed and disturbed to know hundreds of people have been harmed at the border and in Mexico due to your policies. Furthermore, as a public health professional, I am appalled at the lack of unsanitary conditions of immigrants and limited COVID responses. And how dare you use the COVID crisis to deny people due process of law? I demand you immediately restore asylum laws so people are treated with the dignity and rights they deserve.

—Carey Toran, Boston, MA

Traditional US humanitarian values demand this [action]

—Mr. Alan Benford, Manchester, CT

We are all responsible for our fellow humans, no matter what border they live inside or have crossed.

— Susann Eastridge, VA

We need to help those seeking asylum from danger.

—J.M., Columbia, MD

As a 10 year+ volunteer of El Refugio (a hospitality house for families with loved ones in the Stewart Detention Center, Lumpkin, Ga), I've experienced firsthand the trauma our US policies inflict. Having visited numerous men detained in this "for profit" prison, listened to their stories, and comforted their loved ones, it is my belief that we are doing great harm. The conditions in the detention facility are deplorable and inhumane. The percentage of detained asylum seekers and immigrants in the US illegally sent home is appalling, especially when some are killed by those they were fleeing.

Conditions at the border are even worse. Those seeking protection and a better life are living in fear and uncertainty. We are their hope and we treat them so poorly. I implore you to honor your word and adopt humane policies.

— Dr. Constance Quirk: Co-chair of Social Action Committee, UU Congregation of Columbia, SC, Camden, SC

I'm calling on the President and Congress to work together to provide resources and humane treatment for asylum seekers and refugees, in accordance with the treaty obligations our nation has under international law. I call on the President and Congress to make it possible for U.S. citizens living with U.S. borders, who have been vetted and passed screening and a background check, to sponsor refugees and asylum seekers. I call on the President and Congress to prioritize reuniting families where one or both parents of children have been deported, by allowing the deported parent(s) to return to the U.S. and live with their family without threat of further deportation. I call on the President and Congress to put the power of their offices behind establishing and enforcing respect for human rights within U.S. borders.

— Marion R. Kee, U.S. Presidential Scholar (WV), 1975, Redmond, WA

If we are truly a superpower let us be humane.

— Ginnette Powell, Boston, MA

I [Jesus] was a stranger and you welcomed me.
(Matthew 25:35b)

— Dale Story, Professor Emeritus, Houston, TX

Please do the right thing!

— Patty Shepard, Winchester

It is time that our UU faith communities show respect for the dignity of all human lives by working to fix our broken immigration system for asylum seekers, especially here in the U.S, where we are blessed with so much in the way of material resources and other benefits of a government committed to the principles of democracy.

—Anonymous, Las Cruces, NM

The way we treat refugees and asylum seekers tells the world who we truly are...

—Stephen Eckstrand, Rockville, MD

Title 42 does not keep us safe from Covid. That is a bogus claim used to prevent people of color from applying for asylum that is their right to do under international law.

— Jan Thompson, Las Cruces, NM

As we face increasing climate catastrophes and civil conflicts at home and abroad, U.S. asylum is an essential, rational, and just tool for responsible partnership in the world community.

— Karen Steele, Astoria, NY

It is time to act with humanity.

— Anita C. Young, Elmwood Park, NJ

Please restore fair access to asylum ASAP. Our great country needs to do this!

— Catherine Jobling, Las Cruces, NM

In all faith traditions welcoming the stranger is a sacred act. In the United States, it is our Genesis, and our history is a long struggle, chapter and verse, to live up to what we believe in.

— Mary Grace Ketner, San Antonio, TX

Those on our borders are individuals and families desperate for new lives. We should be supporting them in their unbelievably courageous efforts to start anew.

— Louise Wilkinson, Board Member, Mercer Island, WA

This is a poor policy and should stop now!

Jan Ellis, Port Townsend, WA

I fully support restoring asylum for asylum seekers and end the use of Title 42.

— Donald Chery, Bethesda, MD

As a person who visited immigrant detainees in jail and met asylees in our Northern NJ Sanctuary Coalition, I can vouch for the desperation and helplessness of people who have escaped oppressive governments and perceived the United States as a country of justice. We and fellow democracies must welcome and nurture oppressed people, using their belief in us to further build our country's integrity and richness.

— Holly B. Nolan, Wyckoff, NJ

Joe Biden: You identify as a Christian, Catholic to be exact. How can you ignore these words, purported to be from Jesus (Matthew 25 NIV? "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you

came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

How can you ignore these people, who need the help a rich, open, free society can so easily provide? You have the power to do good...Do it!

—Robert Drake, Cincinnati, OH

DO WHAT YOU PROMISED!!

— Janet Overton, Silver Spring, MD

I spent a week in El Paso /Juarez with Sisters of different congregations. I spoke with people waiting to hear from lawyers or from the UN. I saw refugees being walked back across the border. I spoke with the directors in the shelters eagerly awaiting the end of Prop 42. Security and safety in Juarez is getting worse every day for people who have traveled months and years to find safety. Rape, theft, kidnapping, threats of all sorts meet them just as they reach the border. Please, Please, Please do everything in your power to end the fear and harm. Please do everything you can to speed up the legal process for those who long for an end to their journey. They are good people. So are you. Please help.

— Mary Carton, IBVM

We need you live up to your campaign promises and create a humane immigration system.

Sara Morrison Neil, Framingham, MA

too much suffering!

— Marilyn Carlisle, Baltimore, MD

We can't continue to torture people.

— Dawn F. Kilts, Oneonta, NY

We need the energy of immigrants to lift our country.

— David Rice, Las Cruces, NM

I have traveled to the southern border on multiple occasions, and continue to do volunteer and advocacy work on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees. First hand experience of witnessing the tragedy and injustice that is the illegal Remain in Mexico policy, the consequences of a mis-used application of Title 42 to expel people in grave danger, and the continued use of civil immigration detention as a political tool, are not the actions of compassion under which the Biden Administration campaigned to implement once elected.

As a person of conscience, one truth I hold close within my Unitarian Universalist faith tradition is that every single human deserves inherent dignity and respect. It is long past time to restore the protections that all asylum seekers are legally entitled to, and turn away from policies that are inhumane and reprehensible to the worth of the human spirit.

— Betty Alzamora, Forest Park, IL

Families are suffering in Mexico while hoping for an opportunity to apply for asylum.

—Susan Murty, Black Mountain, NC

Every human being deserves to be related to in a dignified, respectful manner. Jesus welcomed and did not turn away those of other cultures. Our wealthy nation should not turn away anyone seek safety, food, clothing, shelter and the opportunity to live with their family in security and peace. Most immigrants contribute immensely to the well-being of our country.

—Terence Lover, Woodstock

The United States of America needs to show compassion and offer help to those who are seeking refuge in our country!

— Melinda Jackson, Proberta, CA

Comprehensive immigration reform could address the issues that affect the lives of those who are seeking stable, productive lives making the world healthier and safer for all.

— Sarah Munson, Arlington, VA

Treating all people with dignity and respect is the foundation of a humane culture. The Biden administration needs to make serious changes in their policy regarding our southern borders and our immigration policies.

— Almy Landauer, Burlington, VT

The misuse of title 42 to immediately turn back asylum seekers under the pretense of protecting the United States from the coronavirus, is unlawful and morally wrong.

— Jessica Sand, Vancouver, WA

European neighbors of Ukraine serve as role models for welcoming refugees

—Priscilla Schmitt, Rockville, MD

It is shocking that you are continuing the human rights violations at the border started by trump. America needs to remain a humane country.

—Sue Lehman, Clearwater, MN

I fully support all migrants seeking asylum and peace in the United States. They absolutely should not be harassed or abused in any way! Love will always connect us, no matter what country we were born in! Love is the answer!

— Liz King, Burlington, VT

As a Unitarian Universalist, I believe in the worth and dignity of everyone - No exceptions!

— Melvin Mackey, Vashon, WA

As humanitarians we must support asylum for those who need it.

— Andy Puchrik, Concord, MA

America should live up to its creed

— Nick and Gayle Garin, Poughkeepsie, NY

It is shameful that a country founded on the immigration of foreigners has time and again refused the legitimate request for asylum by those fleeing intolerable conditions (many of which we have caused) and allowed asylum to others on the basis of race and cultural identity. We must do better as a people.

— Joan M. Smith, Greenbrae

Our country brings people together from many countries. We're stronger for it.

— Cecilia Flickinger, Port Ludlow, WA

Not only is the denial of asylum to seekers at our border an abrogation of international law, but it also is an abrogation of Emma Lazarus's plea to " Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free....."

— Patricia Swanton, Waldwick, NJ

I work with immigrants every day, and see how much richness they add to our country. Some have horrific stories. Providing asylum is necessary as humans.

— Katrina Bercaw, Mystic

As a Unitarian Universalist, I believe in the worth and dignity of every person. Immigrants are people.

— Melvin Mackey, Vashon, WA

Restore asylum and end the misuse of Title 42.

—Diane Nahas, Port Washington

All people deserve treatment humanly given.

— Gloria J Smith, Fairfax, VA

I work with many people who are seeking asylum and are fleeing gang violence, violent partners, have had to leave their home countries. ..Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico, Honduras. Many youth who are reuniting with their parents who have left before them in the search for work. We as Unitarian Universalists are guided by the belief that we are one interconnected web where the worth and dignity of every human is valued. We share the same struggle to be united with family, loved ones across the borders which divide us. Asylum is a human right. We created these borders and walls, and we must dismantle them.

— Heidi Romanish, Minneapolis, MN

Our Democracy requires fair access to any asylum seeker and making the seeker “wait” in another country or to be sent back to where they left is not just.

— Jennifer White, Oceanside, CA

I have undocumented friends and they are every bit as wonderful as my other friends. Why are we treating these people as less than?

— Julia Cochrane, Port Townsend

As a country founded on immigrants it is imperative that we continue to live up to our legacy with compassion for others in need.

— Carrie Van Epps, Willmar

Title 42 was always just an easy excuse to reject asylum seekers. I think it's shameful and disappointing that the Biden administration has continued this Trump-era policy.

—Michael H. Holmes, North Potomac, MD

People fleeing persecution and oppression have civil rights that should not be abridged by governments.

— Janice Smart, Washington, DC

Enough pain; it's time to bring hope to people living without. Now! Please! We all need to know something good can happen in this world of misery.

— Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks, Sharon, MA

Word, belief, and action in support of all Homo sapiens.

—Douglas Knowlton, Kirkland, WA

US state child welfare departments work to keep children safe in families at home. We should extend that same concern to immigrant families.

— Marion Mengert, ACSW, Exeter

My dear friend escaped from Syria and is awaiting asylum. She is a doctor and will make a real contribution to our country if she is allowed to stay -- as will countless others!

— Barbara Jensen, Pennington

please end the misuse of title 42 and allow immigrants asking for asylum, to come into our country.

—Elsa Voelcker, Kingston, NH

The Biden administration needs to end Title 42 and restore humane immigration policy, as Biden stated during his campaign.

—Ruth Cassidy, Ann Arbor, MI

I stand with all asylum seekers and call on the Biden administration to honor its promise to restore asylum in the United States. We must no longer hide behind these unjust, detrimental policies to keep people seeking safety out of our country. We need to become a country that

upholds the worth and dignity of all and recognizes our interconnectedness. The misuse of Title 42 must end.

— Jessica Sapalio, Coordinator, Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers, Williamsburg, VA

I believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. The U.S. needs to be a leader in human rights for all. Restore asylum and end the misuse of title 42.

— Carolyn Dower, Austin, TX

Affirming & promoting the dignity of all means recognizing everyone has a right to be here, free from rape, gang violence, & racism!

— Cathy Marston, PhD

Please pursue a policy that restores a fair Asylum policy that does not discriminate due to the color of one's skin.

— Lisa Raufman, Long Beach

What kind of people are we to not help people in trouble?

— Luan Wells, Racine, WI

Please do what you can to improve the difficulties with the asylum program.

— Mary Pirrello - OBUUC Board Vice President, Racine, WI

Living in the San Antonio area, we see heartbreaking photos in our paper of the conditions at the border. Please end this policy ASAP!

— Peggy Vieira, New Braunfels, TX

WE are responsible if we expel individuals to a dangerous place, when we could admit them to seek asylum.

— Claire McNeill, Winchester

Jesus was a refugee.

— David Koenig, Williamsburg, VA

This policy is cruel and has had tragic consequences. It is, quite simply, time to be kind.

— Tracy Grimm, Mooresville, NC

I find it shameful that the US is misusing Title 42 to deny people (particularly people of color) asylum in the United States.

— Caroline Alday, Hillsborough, NC

Let us be the country we aspire to be rather than the country we have been in the past.

— Thomas Clayton, Wendell, NC

People in dire straits are knocking on our door... We must answer and give them a chance to attain positive asylum status... The people at our borders share a fear of so many of the dangers as the refugees we are helping... We are giving refugees the opportunity to live and work in the USA... Let us give our neighbors from the South have the same chance...

— Bernise A Lynch, Swannanoa, NC

Asylum is a human right. So is caring!

— Steven Evans, Acton, MA

Our country relies on migrants. Their remittances do more to help their families than any funds send by the US to their governments.

— Nancy Kerr, Concord, MA

We must be moral leaders - each of us, and all of us together in this great country - too many of our parents and grandparents came here from other places seeking the same safety and opportunities, and were able to build a new life here. [...] It is our moral responsibility as Americans to pursue this path with urgency.

— Jo Haberman, River Falls, WI

The U.S. has portrayed itself as a place of safety for those running from death threats or persecution for numerous reasons. At times we've lived up to that portrayal and at others, such as the refusal to grant a ship of Jewish refugees asylum during WW2, returning them to Europe where they were sent to their deaths, we've shamefully failed. We need to end Title 42, we need to live up to our portrayal or we need to announce publically that we will no longer be a place of safety, of asylum.

— William Alsmeyer-Johnson, Springfield, VA

What could be more important for us - as human beings - than to provide safety and shelter to those who are in danger? How can the US provide any kind of model for the world - how can we possibly be a force for good - if we do not welcome those who are fleeing oppression? It benefits and strengthens us in so many ways - individually and as a nation - to open our doors, to open our arms and hearts, and to share the opportunity to live in a free, democratic society. Let us move with all haste to make this possible for all who seek it.

— Mary McGovern, Williamsburg, VA

Let us not add to the misery in the world, but do all we can to mitigate it. Stop the misuse of Title 42 at our southern border.

— Elizabeth de la Fuente, Portland, OR

Asylum is the moral thing to do.

— Roseann Mason, Mount Pleasant, WI

People searching for freedom and safety should be treated with dignity and fairness.

— Kathy-Jo de Vos, Whitestone, NY

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

— Colleen S. Leary, Chelmsford

We need to admit asylum seekers who have been victims of climate change or US military activities abroad which effect innocent victims.

— Dr. David Dow, East Falmouth, MA

As children of immigrants, we owe it to the next generation of immigrants to treat them better, or at the very least as well as, our forebears were treated. If we learn how to act humanely, and treat each other as humans, maybe someday we will earn other titles we desire, like honorable, and civilized. Until then, no let's not muddle along, Let's do better now! Let it begin with you, with us, with all of us! You were elected with the hope that you would provide real leadership on this and other humanitarian issues. So far, you have been a major disappointment in that regard. We Americans, we the world, need a beacon. Be that beacon.

— John Humphrey, Saint Louis Park MN

Everyone deserves a chance for an opportunity to live without fear for their safety.

— Carol A. Green, Minneapolis, MN

The right to asylum should be considered universal.

— Kenneth Ruby, Salem, NH

Every immigrant and every refugee deserves fair access to asylum.

— Barry Hart, Arlington, MA

People come to our southern border from all around the world to seek asylum. In the past couple of years, I have hosted folks from both Iran and Ghana in my home who are seeking asylum and entered the US through the southern border. They all endured difficult and dangerous border crossings followed by demoralizing detention in this country. All of them are now gainfully employed and contributing to the local community. We should welcome all those seeking to join our community and enrich our society without detention and deportation. it would be an embodiment of our quest for social justice.

— Sharon Hall-Smith, Northampton, MA

We need to open our doors to people in desperate situations. Let's show leadership and humanity.

— Catherine Schramm, Lakewood, CO

I am appalled that the U.S. is rejecting refugees when I see countries like Poland and Hungary welcoming them with open arms and hearts.

— David Haupt, Towson, MD

Let's get this done!

— Rondi Saslow, Oakland, CA

I urge this Administration to treat asylum seekers with compassion not draconic policies. These people are fleeing violence in their countries and those countries they pass through to reach our borders.

—Linda Cole, Williamsburg, VA

The US should never, ever be the face of brutality to the most vulnerable. And under Title 42 we are!

— Dusan Lysy, Fairport, NY

We are all migrants through time. We must respect all human rights protocols at our borders.

— Maureen Pulick Meyer, Oak Park, IL

My heart breaks about the conditions and treatment of asylum seekers at our borders. Little has been done to ease the situation from the seemingly compassionate POTUS. Pandemic reasons cannot be used to admit those waiting in MX. Our administration can act to relieve thousands. What is holding that up?

— Mrs. Kathleen Stayton, Northumberland, PA

Our country has historically welcomed the stranger seeking refuge; we must restore that reality.

— Ronald L Jantzen, Sherborn, MA

The U.S. treatment of asylum seekers has been abominable. Let's correct it now.

— Jean Owen, Joliet, IL

As the granddaughter of a late 19th century immigrant from Belarus on one side of the family and with many forebears who immigrated from Scotland, England, Ireland and Germany on the other, I support this statement with all my heart.

—Jean Poppei, Wynantskill

‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

— Dr. Robert Miller, Santa Rosa, CA

Most of us in this country are descendants of immigrants, many of whom were escaping danger when they came here. If we are a nation with compassion, we MUST return to offering asylum to those who need it, especially unaccompanied children!

— Sandi Hebley RN, LMSW, Dallas, TX

Title 42, a public health provision through the Centers for Disease Control to prevent the introduction of new infectious diseases to the United States, continues to prevent most asylum-seekers from seeking safety at our southern border – even as tourists and shoppers can now cross the border freely. Originally put in place by the Trump administration to curtail immigration, Title 42 continues to be renewed against the recommendations of medical and public health experts.

— Janice L Myers, Harrisburg, PA

We expect Biden to keep his word to restore immigration justice!

— Ryan Dybdahl, Ann Arbor, MI

If I had to flee my home, I'd want to be given a chance to live, a chance to start over, hard as that might be. I'd want my children to be given a chance to live and thrive. Restoring fair access to asylum immediately is an important step towards treating others as I would wish to be treated. Why would we treat our siblings with anything less than respect, with anything less than consideration for their humanity and their plight?

— Rita Chamblin, Bemidji, MN

As a Unitarian Universalist, I believe in the worth and dignity of everyone. Asylum seekers are also people.

— Mackey Mackey, Vashon, WA

We are a better nation than this. Asylum seekers must be treated and respected as per international norms at minimum.

— Kirk Fast, Ozawkie, KS

This is fundamental to human rights and basic humanity!

— Sadaya Zimmerle, Oakland, CA

Every person has inherent worth and dignity, all life is inter-connected, and beloved community can only be manifested if our laws reflect the dignity at the heart of human life.

—Rev. Daniel Lawlor, UU Ministry for Earth, Brooklyn, New York

Because our American commitment to do the right thing crosses boundaries of geography and religion, the SisterScene lifts up the wisdom of justice queen Fannie Lou Hamer: None of us are free until everyone is free. We acknowledge the great young poet's guidance on making selfless decisions, as well: Amanda Gorman teaches: To LIFT our Gaze to what stands before us, not what stands between us. People who are seeking asylum cannot be ignored and the laws designed to protect them must be upheld, so that we may hold true to our country's intended legacy as safe harbor for neighbors in distress.

—Emily Cox, MSW, SisterScene Creative Justice Community, Durham, NC

Asylum is an international right. it is embarrassing that my country is violating that. Please restore these rights.

— Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice

We believe in the dignity of every human and in the right for any endangered person to seek asylum in the United States.

— Catholic Charities of Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Foundation for the Austin Sanctuary Network stands in solidarity with undocumented immigrants who are being held unjustly and denied asylum status. ASN demands an immediate stop to raids and for-profit detention, an end to all deportations and updated immigration laws that are just, fair and humane.

— The Foundation for the Austin Sanctuary Network

Asylum should never be limited!

— Rev. Wendilyn Emrys, Lake Balboa

We us a UU, we have a hands that are ready to serve in our community.

— Maricel Gino. Chairman of worship committee

Our nation has always been a refuge for the persecuted and those fleeing violence. It is shameful that we no longer are.

— The Rev Amy Devereaux, Clayton, NC

One of the aspects of our country that I hold most dear is our devotion to be a welcoming nation. In these times of strife all over our world, please use your best efforts and awesome power to fully restore our land as refuge to our sisters and brothers from foreign lands.

— Kenny Jones, Albuquerque, NM

May "We the People" become the fair, just beacon of hope its Constitution and those that wrote it envisioned.

— Irene Heinert, Sturgis, SD and Green Valley, AZ

Our allies bordering Ukraine are welcoming war refugees in ever increasing numbers - surely the US can welcome a small portion of these terribly traumatized Ukrainians in an efficient, safe and humane manner. This could be a model for a future more humane US refugee - asylum system. A system that could relieve the suffering of so many who have fled from war and other types of life-threatening violence, from persecution and in the wake of natural disasters - only to remain trapped in a prolonged limbo just outside our border. Surely we can do better than this!

— Margot Lavoie, Portland

We are commanded to welcome the stranger. As Americans we look to the poem by Emma Lazarus on Lady Liberty to remind us the we were and continue to be a nation of immigrants

— Joseph M. Varon, West Hempstead, NY

People seeking asylum from violence should be given shelter.

— Tricia Gerrodette, Sierra Vista

Our faith calls us to create a safe and sustainable world that honors the dignity and worth of every person and accessible asylum is a necessary part of a just community.

— Rev. Laura Randall, Cambridge, MA

As a UU and a fellow human being on this earth, I support refugees who are fleeing disasters to come into our country and to be treated well by all!

— Barbara Clagett, Bellevue, WA

The United States, at least for the moment is seen as a utopia of job and business opportunity. We face many challenges, but compared to many of the horrors south of the border, all of our citizens know safety and opportunity beyond anything that can be imagined by many others. Here is a chance to work for the betterment of families in relative safety. Asylum seekers aren't

here on a lark. Most would rather stay in the home communities where they grew up. They believe their travels here, often at great personal risk, are not only their best chances, but they are also tough decisions made under the worst of circumstances. Title 42 must be misused to end their hopes and dreams.

— Rev. Pat Jobe, Forest City

It is essential that you end the racist misuse of Title 42. I am counting on you to keep your campaign promises.

—Jean Pierce, Chair of Social Justice, Geneva

Well over a million people have now been expelled from the country without access to an asylum screening as a result of Title 42, a policy that has never been justified by citing concerns about public health. What started as a creative way to advance an anti-immigrant agenda by the Trump administration has shamefully continued under the Biden administration, even as we have re-opened our borders. It must end now.

— Seattle Immigrant Rights Action Group

The U.S. treatment of asylum seekers has been shameful and abominable. Let us rectify this situation immediately.

— Jean Owen, Joliet, IL

No one should be denied a safe place to live.

—Martha Bishop, Port Orchard, WA

Title 42 has been misused to upend the legal asylum process. As a nation of means, it is our duty to give fair and legal hearing to asylum claims from people fleeing violence and persecution. As a Unitarian Universalist, this is a matter of faith for me: affirming the worth and dignity of every person.

—Lisa Gades, Aurora, IL