

**Deporting Women and Children First:
House Plan to Pass Anti-Children, Anti-Family, and Anti-Asylum H.R. 9773 Is Abdication
of Congress' Commitment to Freedom**

Over 100 national, state, and local groups call on Congress to uniformly reject HR 9773

After writing a [historic blank check](#) to ICE and Border Patrol to further assault our communities, the Trump administration's allies in Congress are eyeing their next target: children and people fleeing for their lives. The House Judiciary Committee is moving to mark up a new version of [H.R.2](#), a bill anti-immigrant members of Congress first introduced in 2023 to spread fear of a "mass invasion" by immigrants, pit American citizens against their immigrant neighbors, and scapegoat them for the nation's problems. If passed, this bill would codify the most extreme anti-asylum and anti-children policies in modern American history.

While wrongly touted as a "border security" bill, HR 9773 would have disastrous consequences for people who live here. The bill creates arbitrary penalties to criminalize longtime community members who will suddenly face deportation, when combined with the recent [policy](#) aimed at severely restricting the ability for people to gain permanent status in the United States. This will lead to families being separated, chaos in our work force, and an expansion of immigration detention and deportation for longtime residents, including those pushed out of status due to U.S. bureaucratic delays.

The bill would also turbocharge the administration's cruelty to kids and people fleeing violence abroad by eviscerating landmark protections passed under the bipartisan Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act and decimating the *Flores* Settlement. This cruelty knows no end. Already, approximately [205,000 children](#) have been separated from their parents due to mass detention and deportation in the past 18 months – leading to [hundreds of children](#) being redetained, placed into [foster care](#), and facing life-threatening risks or [death](#) after their parents' rushed deportations. This administration has created new rules to [coerce](#) unaccompanied children, including trafficking survivors, to abandon their claims and "self-deport", and put kids in mass deportation tribunals without legal counsel. It is holding children and families in prolonged detention with insufficient medical care in [violation](#) of the *Flores* Settlement, creating life-long trauma for numerous children, including many who are [Indigenous](#).

This bill tramples on asylum protections passed by Congress over 45 years ago, just as the world prepares to celebrate the [75th anniversary](#) of most nations committing to protect the right to refuge. While our immigration system needs to be modernized to respond to modern migration challenges, this bill does nothing to accomplish that. Instead, it decimates asylum – a life-saving protection for people who are survivors of torture and gender-based violence, outspoken opponents of brutal dictatorships, LGBTQ+ individuals, religious advocates persecuted for their faith, Indigenous Peoples and individuals facing racial violence, among other at-risk groups. Already, this administration has shut down asylum processing across the Southern border and deported hundreds to [torture prisons](#). Tens of thousands of people, including some who have judicial orders of protection based on refugee claims, have been sent

to [third countries](#) to which they have no connection and where they face arbitrary detention, torture, and even onward refoulement to their country of persecution. This bill would compound these harms and expel asylum seekers from local economies – spiraling the [already devastating job loss](#) ushered in by this administration's mass deportation policies.

This is not a border security bill; it is a bill to codify and accelerate attacks on lawful immigration, longtime residents, vulnerable children, and people seeking refuge. It will subject potentially millions of our neighbors and hard-working families to ICE's inhumane, deadly, and lawless prisons.

Every member of Congress should rise in opposition of H.R. 9773 and recommit the United States to protect the rights of our immigrant neighbors, children, and people seeking refuge.

Signed:

Acacia Center for Justice

AFT

Alianza Americas

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Americans for Immigrant Justice

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Ayuda

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Border Kindness

California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

CASA

Center for Gender & Refugee Studies

Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for Victims of Torture

Center American Resource Center- CARECEN of Northern California

The Children's Partnership

Church World Service

Climate Refugees

Coalition on Human Needs

Community Change

Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP)

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

The Door- A Center of Alternatives, Inc.

East Bay Sanctuary Covenant

Equality California

Estrella del Paso

First Focus Campaign for Children

Freedom Network USA

Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project

Florida Immigrant Coalition

Galveston-Houston Immigrant Representation Project (GHIRP)

Haitian Bridge Alliance

Her Justice

HIAS

Human Rights First

The Human Trafficking Legal Center

Humanitarian Outreach for Migrant Emotional Health (H.O.M.E.)

Immigrant Children Advocates' Relief Effort (ICARE)

Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef)

Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)

Immigration Equality

Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti

International Mayan League

International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)

Jesuit Refugee Service USA

Jewish Community Action

Jewish Family Service of San Diego

Jobs with Justice

Justice in Motion

Justice + Joy National Collaborative

Just Solutions

Just Detention International

Kino Border Initiative

La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)

Latin America Working Group (LAWG)

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County

Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense & Education Fund

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice

Local Progress

Loyola Law School, Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Mauritanian Network for Human Rights

Michigan Immigrant Rights Center

MPower Change Action Fund

National Association of Social Workers

National Association for Youth Law

National Center for Youth Law

National Council of Jewish Women

National Education Association

National Immigrant Justice Center

National Immigration Law Center

National Immigration Project

National Low Income Housing Coalition

National Partnership for New Americans
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Oasis Legal Services
OneAmerica
Reconstructing Judaism
Refugee Advocacy Lab
Refugee Council USA
Refugees International
Rainbow Railroad
Robert & Ethel Kennedy Human Rights Center
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
Silver State Equality
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team
Survivor Justice Center
Tahirih Justice Center
Together & Free
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
UnidosUS
United Church of Christ
United We Dream Network
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Voto Latino
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
Welcome With Dignity Campaign
Witness at the Border
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

