

The CTA Immigration WorkGroup



Tool Kit for the Call to Action

“Send A Letter To Joe Campaign” In Opposition to Title 42

Advent 2021

Introduction

This is a campaign to have personal letters from Call to Action followers sent to President Biden expressing their opposition to the Title 42 expulsion of immigrants. It is a campaign designed for Advent in which the letters would arrive prior to December 10th. It is part of Call to Action’s Advent culmination of its year’s activities, particularly in the areas of Mutual Aid, Labor, and Immigration.

In this Tool Kit we will provide the necessary information about the several channels that can be used to send the letters, provide key points that can be used to detail the reasons for your opposition to Title 42, and provide a structure of a typical letter that you might find useful in personalizing yours. In our work with Network it was emphasized to us that it is important that your letter be seen as coming from you, not merely someone else’s statement with which you agree and are supporting.

Communication Information

There are two channels available for this campaign:

- **A paper letter sent via the USPS**—this is actually the most preferred channel (so says Network).

The address is:

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

- **Post as a comment** on the White House website at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

With the vagaries of the USPS it might take some planning to assure your letter’s arrival prior to December 10th. On the email and posting channels, you might want to wait until November 29th to avoid them getting lost in the Thanksgiving flurry and also to have your letter arrive in the desired Advent period.

It is our understanding (again from Network) that physical letters and the comments made at *whitehouse.gov* are all read by White House staff and eventually responded to.

We highly recommend that you take advantage of each of these channels. If one is good, then two must be better.

Structure of Your Letter

The opening

As the journalists tell us, “don’t bury the lead.” Be strong and direct in the very first sentence, e.g.

I am writing to you to demand that your administration stop using Title 42 to deny access to the established legal procedures of seeking asylum in this country and as a result force the return of desperate people to the streets of border Mexico.

You might prefer something simpler, like

I write to you because I am opposed to Title 42 being used to prevent people from seeking asylum in the U.S.

It is up to you to say something you are comfortable with. These are just suggestions

What are some particular issues you have with Title 42?

These are varied of course but tend to fall into categories:

The humanitarian crises that has been created on the border by Title 42

The fundamental injustice of the entire immigration system

The corrupt and cynical policies of the Trump administration which have created this crisis

The failures of the Biden administration to create an effective and just solution to the present situation

And more ...

Don’t cover all the bases but be clear and strong on the ones you do—maybe get a little angry

There have been two particularly good articles recently that might help you collect your thoughts

One from the [NY Times](#) and one from the [Washington Post](#)

What motivates you to be opposed to Title 42?

This is the personal motivation section. For many in the CTA world that motivation follows from Catholicism’s social justice teachings. In the large, these teachings are shared by the “religions of the book,” Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Of course, the responsibilities that each person has towards their neighbor are in the teachings of virtually all religions and philosophical systems throughout human history.

Talk about your motivation. For those who are Catholic, as is the President, consider taking advantage of that shared faith tradition.

Some relevant scripture quotes to keep handy:

“You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19).

“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 19:34).

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35).

The Closing

Something gentle or a strong reiteration of what you want the President to do—your choice.

As another suggestion, we ask that you put under your name at the end of the letter the phrase “Call to Action Immigration WorkGroup” or simply “Call to Action.” This will identify that your letter is coming as part of an organized campaign.

Some Concluding Points

We would like to be able to get a gauge of how many people participate in the campaign. To that end, we are asking that each of you who send a letter or post a comment to send an email to gdbrazier@gmail.com telling us you have sent a letter to Joe. This will really help us. The final page of this Tool Kit is a sample letter that might give you an idea of what someone else is thinking about sending. You will note it doesn’t rigidly follow the structure outlined above, but that’s OK.

(Your Name)
(Your Address)
(Your City, State, Zip)
(Date)

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 19:34).

Dear President Biden:

In your Presidential campaign, you promised to “end Trump’s detrimental asylum policies” and ensure “the dignity of migrants...upholding their legal right to seek asylum.” Yet under your administration, there have been over 690,000 expulsions of immigrants under Title 42 of the U.S. Code. These migrants are not afforded their legal right to apply for asylum and to appear before an immigration judge to make a case to remain in the U.S. This is inconsistent all Judeo-Christian beliefs but especially with our shared Catholic values and traditions.

The CDC implemented Title 42 in March of 2020. There has been no scientific study to prove that it has been effective in reducing COVID-19 in the U.S. Title 42 is intended to prevent the “introduction” of an infectious disease into the country, but it already existed before this was enacted. These expulsions now conflict with an open border between the U.S. and Mexico.

You eliminated the migrant encampment in Matamoros, but a mirror image now exists in Reynosa, and families with children are being expelled after dark into the hands of cartels.

We implore you to end this inhumane policy and to truly Build Back Better by adopting compassionate, just, and fair immigration policies. This is within your authority and can be done immediately. It is the right thing to do!

There are over 10 million job vacancies in this country, jobs that Americans are unwilling to do. Yet we are turning away hundreds of thousands of persons who will gladly fill those positions, who will pay taxes and rent and buy groceries and contribute to the economy while enthusiastically pursuing citizenship. This will benefit all of us. Please end the expulsions today!

You can make this a very special Christmas for thousands of persecuted refugees.

May many special blessings be with you, Jill and your entire family this Advent.

(Your Signature)

Call to Action Immigration WorkGroup

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 25:35)”.