



Write Here! Write Now!

Contact: advocacy@uusj.org or 202.600.9132

Delivery of Letters - Organizers: All Letters due by **March 31, 2022**

Note try doing an individual letter online [HERE](#) or upload hand written letters [Upload Portal \(Form](#)

Email by Thursday, March 31th, by 6 pmET to advocacy@uusj.org

Mail to: *Flag* UUSJ c/o Paulette DeMers, 1530 1st Ave N, Moorhead MN 56560

Tell Congress to Restore Asylum and End the Misuse of Title 42

Why Are We Writing? The Biden administration's continued use of Title 42 expulsions and other policies created under Trump to expel people arriving at our borders without giving them the chance to request humanitarian protection. This violates U.S. refugee law and international treaties. It forces asylum seekers into crowded, dangerous, camps in Mexico or to return to the unsafe conditions they fled.

Why now? There is a growing humanitarian crisis at the U.S. - Mexico border. [Human rights observers have documented 8,700+ attacks—including kidnapping, torture, and sexual violence](#)—against asylum-seekers returned to Mexico under Title 42 and the Migrant “Protection” Protocols since President Biden took office. The claim that Title 42 expulsions are necessary to protect public health is not valid and cannot justify denying access to asylum--Covid-19 cases are in decline, U.S. borders are open for shopping or tourism, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [is rolling back mask guidance](#).

- **Alert:** UUSJ & UUSC have written a [sign-on letter](#), you can review and join, as an extra action.
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Background: The misuse of the CDC’s authority under 42 U.S. Code § 265 to expel asylum-seekers, without a chance to plead their case, is in violation of U.S. law and the international Refugee Convention. Public Health experts are against this misuse of Title 42, arguing that [it has no scientific basis](#). Title 42 can no longer be explained as a Trump-era policy, since the current administration has not only renewed its use multiple times, but has also carried out a *greater number of expulsions than the prior administration*—[more than 1million expulsions during the first year](#).

The UU faith tradition has a powerful legacy of journeying alongside those who flee their homes from danger. During the Holocaust, [Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp](#), who later founded what would become the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, undertook major risks and sacrifice to create avenues for Jewish families and others targeted by the Nazis to escape to the U.S. At that time, similar to today, their work stood in opposition to the U.S. government’s own efforts to limit immigration, such as [in 1939 when the MS St. Louis, a ship carrying Jewish refugees, was turned back by immigration authorities in Miami](#). Over one third of the ship’s 937 passengers were murdered after being forced to return to Europe.

UU Grounding: Our UU faith affirms the worth and dignity of all people, as stated in the first principle, and calls for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. UUs have long advocated for fair and humane immigration reform of our nation’s laws.

(See other side for Key Message, Talking Points, and Sample Letter)

Key Message: It is past time to end the misuse of Title 42 and restore full access to asylum. Congress must press the administration, through oversight hearings, letters, or legislation, to insist they fully rescind the expulsion policies of Trump, which have multiplied the suffering of tens of thousands of people already in crisis. Funding is also needed to add personnel and adjudicate asylum cases quickly.

Ask: We call on you to press the administration to restore fair access to asylum, as swiftly as possible, and end the misuse of Title 42. They should stop blocking and expelling asylum-seekers at our border.

Suggested Talking Points - From [Joint Letter](#)

(use your own examples, tell your story, and/or draw on some of these suggested points)

- **End Misuse of Title 42:** Urge the Biden administration to rescind executive authority for expulsions under Title 42 and cease all such expulsions.
 - **Restore Asylum:** Resume processing asylum-seekers through ports of entry, while complying with public health mitigation measures to ensure the safety of asylum-seekers, officials, and other members of the public—including social distancing, masking, and free and universal access to vaccination.
 - **End Remain in MX:** Terminate the so-called Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP). Increase funding for immigration administrative staff and courts to speed up handling of cases to resolve the backlog of more than one million cases, meaning asylum seekers may wait several years for adjudication.
 - **Reduce Immigration Detention:** Decrease civil detention during the pandemic and begin dismantling the detention system; release people from detention and provide humanitarian shelter as needed; restoring access to asylum must not be used as a pretext for expanding detention.
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Sample Letter To Congress -From [Joint Letter](#)

(use your own examples, tell your story, and/or draw on some of these suggested points)

[Today's date]

Dear [Title, Last Name] _____, *[write to both of your Senators, and your Representative.]*

I'm a Unitarian Universalist from *[optional: name of congregation and location]*. My faith teaches respect for the worth and dignity of all people, and support for justice, equity and compassion in our relations. I call on you to press the administration to restore fair access to asylum, as swiftly as possible, and end the misuse of Title 42. They should stop blocking and expelling asylum-seekers at our borders.

The current policy violates U.S. immigration law and international treaties. It exposes those expelled to various crimes in crowded Mexican camps or unsafe conditions in the countries they fled. This use of Title 42 was implemented over objections by senior CDC experts and criticized by public health experts for lack of scientific basis as a public health measure. U.S. borders are now fully open for business; the claim that Title 42 expulsions are necessary is no longer valid; asylum must be quickly restored.

[To support the message, include in your own words a personal experience, a story, or concern relating to refugees and asylum seekers. Or use a talking point from above, or the joint [UU sign-on letter](#), to adapt.]

[adapt a closing such as... How we treat the most vulnerable, in this case refugees arriving at our border, sends a powerful message about our nation. Please ensure that we set a shining example.]

Sincerely, *[YOUR NAME and include your COMPLETE ADDRESS]*

(See other side for Why We Are Writing, Background, UU Grounding, and Instructions for Letter Delivery)