



September 28, 2021

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Kamala D. Harris
Vice President of the United States
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
U.S. Department of Homeland
Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20016

Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear President Biden, Vice President Harris, Secretary Mayorkas, Secretary Blinken:

We are American faith leaders from six different faith traditions, including yours. We see our nation continuing to spectacularly fail in welcoming the stranger, something clearly and repeatedly called for by every one of our faiths, including yours. Once again human beings again suffer dehumanizing and dangerous abuse on our border and in holding facilities.

The desperation we witnessed among Haitians is not only a consequence of the hardship they are enduring from natural disasters, but also the result of centuries of racist policies after they fought for and won their liberation from their enslavers. The U.S. relationship with Haiti has been imperious and continues to contradict our deepest faithful commitment to the wellbeing of all people, especially those targeted by racism, economic exploitation, environmental disaster, and war.

We must chart a different future and that is the moral call. The immediate path forward is clear:

- Title 42 has no place or purpose in your administration and must end.
- TPS designation for Haitians needs to be expanded.
- CBP agents must not just be held accountable for their behavior at all borders; a culture shift is needed at the agency.

The world looks to our nation anew for leadership and compassion. We have been void of both for too long. With urgency, we look to you to lead a new way. The recent pictures speak a thousand words and your nation, and the world, are watching.

Respectfully,

The [Auburn Senior Fellows](#) are a multifaith cohort of influential faith-inspired leaders committed to moral courage in the public square, *and include*:

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Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister-in-Charge, Middle Collegiate Church

Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews, Faith in Action

Rev. Dr. Yvette A. Flunder, Presiding Bishop, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries

Rev. Traci D. Blackmon, Associate General Minister, United Church of Christ

Stosh Cotler, CEO, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

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Dr. Keisha E. McKenzie, Senior Vice President of Programs