



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM  Original  Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, by email at [gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed. Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Mark Takano
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ OR None   
 b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: 5/5/22 Return: 5/6/22  
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ OR None
4. Departure City: San Diego, CA Destination: Tijuana, CA Return City: San Diego, CA
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Council for Global Equality
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary):  
See attached briefing book itinerary

7. Attached to this form are *each* of the following, signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:
  - a.  a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - b.  the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor *prior* to the trip, *including all* attachments *and* the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
  - c.  page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; *and*
  - d.  the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a.  I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda.  
**Signify statement is true by checking the box.**  
 b. If not, explain:

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: 

Date: 05/12/2022



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original  Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within ten days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

- Sponsor(s) who paid for the trip: The Council for Global Equality
- Travel Destination(s): San Diego, CA & Tijuana, Mexico
- Date of Departure: May 5, 2022 Date of Return: May 6, 2022
- Name(s) of Traveler(s): Representative Mark Takano

*Note:* You may list more than one traveler on a form only if *all* information is *identical* for each person listed.

- Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$172	\$181	\$176.75	\$633 (Security, interpreter, Covid test/masks)
Accompanying Family Member				

- All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: March 12, 2022

Name: Beirne Roose-Snyder Title: Senior Policy Fellow

Organization: The Council for Global Equality

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 1220 L Street NW, Suite 110-450, Washington DC 20005-4018

Email: beirne@globalequality.org Telephone: 202-222-5435

**Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.**

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.



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# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. **This form and any attachments may be delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth or e-mailed to [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).**

**Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Mark Takano

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): \_\_\_\_\_

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: 420 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Telephone Number: (202) 225-2305

Email Address of Contact Person: Richard.McPike@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

**NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.**

**KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM.** Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via e-mail: [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).



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# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Mark Takano
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:  
Council for Global Equality
3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel : San Diego, U.S.; Tijuana, Mexico
4. a. Date of Departure: 5/5/22 Date of Return: 5/6/22  
b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**  
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:
6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?  
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:
7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.  
  
*NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.*
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.  
**Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**  
As a member of the LGBT community, this trip will raise awareness about the human rights and conditions of LGBTQI asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico Border
9. Yes  No  Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

### ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member

Date 04/05/2022



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
  - a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**
  - b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**
  - c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.  
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):
5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of return: \_\_\_\_\_
7. a. City of departure: \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Destination(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
c. City of return: \_\_\_\_\_
8. **Check only one.** I represent that:
  - a.  The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**
  - b.  The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**
  - c.  The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. **Check only one of the following:**
  - a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
  - b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
  - c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
  - d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:



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# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_ )
- b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_ )
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.
- If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*



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# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

### 18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates			
For each Member, Officer, or Employee			
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

### 19. Check only one:

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable*. Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

### 20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: B. Ross Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

**For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:**

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

[ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov](mailto:ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov) | 202-225-7103  
More information and forms available at [ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)

Theodore E. Deutch, Florida  
*Chairman*

Jackie Walorski, Indiana  
*Ranking Member*

Susan Wild, Pennsylvania  
Dean Phillips, Minnesota  
Veronica Escobar, Texas  
Mondaire Jones, New York

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
Dave Joyce, Ohio  
John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota



ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

David W. Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Chairman*

Kelle A. Strickland  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

May 2, 2022

The Honorable Mark Takano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to San Diego, California, scheduled for May 5 to 6, 2022, sponsored by Council for Global Equality.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$415 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Theodore E. Deutch  
Chairman

Jackie Walorski  
Ranking Member

TED/JW:rp



# **Council for Global Equality**

**Congressional Educational Tour  
San Diego & Tijuana**

May 5-6, 2022



**Congressional Education Tour**  
**San Diego & Tijuana**  
May 5-6, 2022

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# 1. Welcome

## **From Mark Bromley and Julie Dorf, Co-Chairs of the Council for Global Equality (CGE)**

We are delighted to welcome you to this private trip to Tijuana to learn about the migration challenges for LGBTQI people attempting to access the U.S. asylum system. As an organization, we've been working to ensure that the United States remains a safe haven for all asylum seekers, including those who are fleeing persecution based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. We know you share this goal and are very happy you accepted our invitation to join us for this experience.

We have a packed agenda with incredible experts joining us to help dive into this rapidly changing situation. But the time spent in conversation with the residents in each of two LGBTQI shelters is where we anticipate learning the most. First-hand migration stories are powerful. We anticipate that those conversations will leave you with impressions and vignettes that will animate your work to advocate for more just and humane immigration policies.

We look forward to hosting and getting to know you better during our time together and to working with you and your staff in Washington after we return. We hope the trip will lead to concrete, viable steps that our government can take to ensure that LGBTQI and other vulnerable migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers are treated fairly and with dignity. Unfortunately, despite significant promises from the administration, the most vulnerable refugees, including LGBTQI asylum seekers, face the harshest treatment at the border and are most vulnerable while in immigration detention. We urgently need a system that is centered on refugee protection and not just enforcement.

Thank you for making the time to join us.

Mark Bromley and Julie Dorf, Co-Chairs

## Opportunities for Post-Trip Engagement

This trip to Tijuana, Mexico is only the beginning of your engagement. We hope that you will consider ways to continue your involvement after you return home.

Because of the abrupt end of the trip at the border crossing on Friday, we will be convening a **debrief call on Tues., May 10th** for all the staff delegates.

We look forward to furthering the conversations started in San Diego and Tijuana on the importance of protecting LGBTQI migrants and asylum seekers, investing in meaningful reform, and **working together to provide immediate oversight to the agencies responsible.**

### Share your experience:

- **Share** your trip experience with your networks.
- Meet with Council for Global Equality staff and member organizations to **continue the policy conversations** around opportunities to support LGBTQI asylum seeker and migrant rights.
- Produce an **op-ed, news story, or blog** focused on your personal experience and/or the migration challenges for LGBTQI people attempting to access the U.S. asylum system.
- **Host LGBTQI refugees** for a D.C. or in-district event or meeting.
- Post about your experience meeting LGBTQI asylum seekers on **social media**. Share trip materials and relevant content on your personal and/or professional social media accounts. *(See the Social Media Toolkit in Section 4)*

Ian Lekus (ian@globalequality.org), CGE's Policy and Communications Specialist, will be available to help with post-trip communications strategy.

### Trip tools:

We will share post-trip materials, including a **trip report and photos**. Our hope is that you find these materials beneficial in discussing your experience with others and share them with colleagues and friends.

## 2. Participants

Representative Mark Takano  
CA 41<sup>st</sup> District

Rafael Elizalde  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Office of Representative Mark Takano

Representative Pramila Jayapal  
WA 7<sup>th</sup> District

Jennifer Chan  
Legislative Director  
Office of Representative Pramila Jayapal

Representative Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
CA 36<sup>th</sup> District

Lucas Piñon  
Field Representative  
Office of Representative Raul Ruiz

Representative Juan Vargas  
CA 51<sup>st</sup> District

Larry Cohen  
Chief of Staff  
Office of Representative Juan Vargas

Representative Katherine Porter  
CA 45<sup>th</sup> District

Cody Mendoza  
District Director  
Office of Representative Katherine Porter

Representative Sara Jacobs  
CA 53<sup>rd</sup> District

Paola Guzman  
District Director and Policy Advisor  
Office of Representative Sara Jacobs

### 3. Agenda

Thursday, May 5, 2022

Travel Day / San Diego, Calif.

2:00-5:00pm      *Delegation arrives and downtime*

- Delegation starts to arrive at Loews Coronado Bay Hotel
- Room keys will be provided upon arrival at hotel

6:00-6:30pm      *Team/Delegation Introductions and security briefing*

6:30-8:30pm      *Dinner Briefing*  
Location: Loews Coronado Bay Hotel (Bay Terrace)

**Speakers:**

- *Cristian González Cabrera (Human Rights Watch)*
- *Bianka Rodriguez (Comcavis Trans, El Salvador)*
- *Kimahli Powell (Rainbow Railroad)*

Friday, May 6, 2022

San Diego, Calif. / Tijuana, Mexico

8:00-9:30am      *Breakfast Round Table Discussion*  
Location: Loews Coronado Bay hotel (Avalon Room)

9:30-10:00am      *Delegation transfers to San Ysidro-Tijuana border*

10:00-11:00am      *Delegation crosses San Ysidro-Tijuana border*

11:00-11:30am      *Delegation transfers to Casa Arcoiris shelter*

11:30-12:45pm      *Site Visit: Casa Arcoiris Shelter*

12:45-1:00pm      *Delegation transfers to El Jardín de las Mariposas shelter*

*continued →*

1:00-2:00pm Lunch at El Jardín de las Mariposas shelter

**Speakers:**

- **Emem Maurus (Border Butterflies/Transgender Law Center)**
- **Dr. Psyche Calderon-Vargas (Refugee Health Alliance)**
- **Steve Roth (ORAM)**
- **UNHCR**

2:00-3:30pm Site Visit: El Jardín de las Mariposas shelter

3:30-4:00pm Delegation transfers to San Ysidro-Tijuana border

4:00-4:30pm Delegation crosses San Ysidro-Tijuana border

4:30pm Rep. Jayapal and Jennifer Chan transfer to ILGA conference

4:30pm Rest of delegation transfer to Loews Coronado Bay Hotel  
Delegation members will either travel home or debrief over food and drinks

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## **4. Travel Logistics and Advisories**

### **Introduction**

The Council for Global Equality has partnered with Journey Strategies to design the best trip and learning experience. Partnering with a strategic logistics and trip management firm, our goal is for you to dive deep into the substance of the programs, engage with technical experts and beneficiaries who have agreed to share their stories, and reflect on ways the trip is strategic to your work.

Journey Strategies will manage logistics, programs, and operation arrangements, including security, translation services, hotel booking, meal options, border expediting, and other services required to make the trip seamless.

### **Travel Logistics and Advisories for San Diego and Tijuana**

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#### **Hotel in San Diego**

Loews Coronado Bay Hotel  
4000 Coronado Bay Road  
Coronado, CA 92118  
Tel: 619-424-4000

#### **Immunizations/Health**

We advise you to work directly with your health care professional or a specialized travel doctor to prepare for this trip. The information below covers the vaccines and preventive medications for travel to Tijuana, Mexico as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- All routine vaccinations such as measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) and diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT)
- Typhoid
- Hepatitis A and B
- Polio
- Rabies

We have identified a hospital and doctor to support the delegation while in Tijuana. Visitors with serious health concerns, *e.g.*, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, or who take blood thinners (with the exception of aspirin) should inform CGE of these conditions so the doctor can make sure he has the correct medicine available for your needs.

### **Food and Water Precautions**

- Only drink bottled water
- Avoid dairy products, unless you know they have been pasteurized.
- Select meals and ingredients that are thoroughly cooked
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol).

### **COVID-19 Protocol Recommendations for this Trip**

Out of respect for the migrants and staff who we will be visiting in Tijuana and for our own safety, CGE will provide rapid antigen tests for each member of the delegation to take on Friday morning before we cross the border. Our Thursday evening briefing will be outdoors on a patio location at the hotel and our lunch on Friday will also take place outdoors. Whenever we are indoors, we recommend wearing masks, particularly at the shelters. We will also be indoors at the hotel and in vehicles. COVID-19 is on the rise again and the new variants appear to be extremely contagious, even for the fully vaccinated and boosted. CGE will provide extra KN-95 masks for anyone.

Additional information:

- Mexico does not require a negative PCR test or quarantine on arrival. **As of March 2022, it is no longer necessary to fill out the health questionnaire on the Mexico Vuela Seguro Platform before crossing the border.**
- When possible, travelers should keep a distance of 6 feet apart from other travelers.
- Each traveler should have one container of hand sanitizer (up to 12 oz) in a carry-on bag.

## Weather

Average May Conditions	Temperature		Rainfall
	High	Low	
San Diego, Calif.	69°F	60°F	0.0 in
Tijuana, Baja Calif.	69°F	56°F	0.0 in

## Attire and Packing

### **General Tips**

- *Bring passport, Global Entry physical cards, and proof of vaccination* (just in case)
- Standard travel medications such as pain medicine, Pepto-Bismol, and Imodium
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, and/or hat.
- Travel alarm clock (Note: Hotel will provide wake-up calls, although they are not always reliable).

### **Wardrobe Tips**

#### *Field/Casual:*

- Avoid recognizable designer/brands, or clothes with slogans or graphics.
- Dark colors are recommended as light colors might get dirty.
- Comfortable pants and tops with short or long sleeves.
- Limit patterns on tops for photographic purposes.
- Comfortable shoes or boots.

### Photography

- CGE will hire a professional photographer and will share photos with you.
- People at the shelters may not want to be photographed for safety or personal reasons. Photographers are advised to ask permission before taking pictures.

### Time Zones

San Diego and Tijuana both currently observe **Pacific Daylight Time** (UTC -07:00).

### Currency Exchange Rates

Mexico uses the Mexican peso as currency. As of April 29, 2022, 1 USD = 20.38 MXN.

Credit cards are accepted by most stores and restaurants in the main cities, especially those in shopping centers and tourist areas. Visa is the most widely accepted card.

MasterCard and American Express are also widely accepted. In most stores, you will be asked to show an ID card when paying with a credit card. Taxis and small stores do not accept credit cards. ATMs are located in shopping centers, major hotels, supermarkets and inside or outside banks.

There is a 16% Value Added Tax on all purchases, which is included on most prices. A 10-20% tip is usually included in the invoice of restaurants. **Please also note that all meals, lodging, and transportation expenses will be covered, so there is no need to bring large amounts of cash on the trip.**

### **Communication Devices and Cell Phones**

You are advised to contact your cell phone provider and confirm you are set up for international or Mexico dialing and usage prior to departing for the trip. Your network provider may need to 'enable' your phone in advance of your departure. Please check with your provider about roaming in Tijuana, Mexico and the associated charges.

### **Security**

The State Department's Travel Advisory for Mexico can be found [here](#).

The safety and security of guests on the Council for Global Equality trip is a top priority.

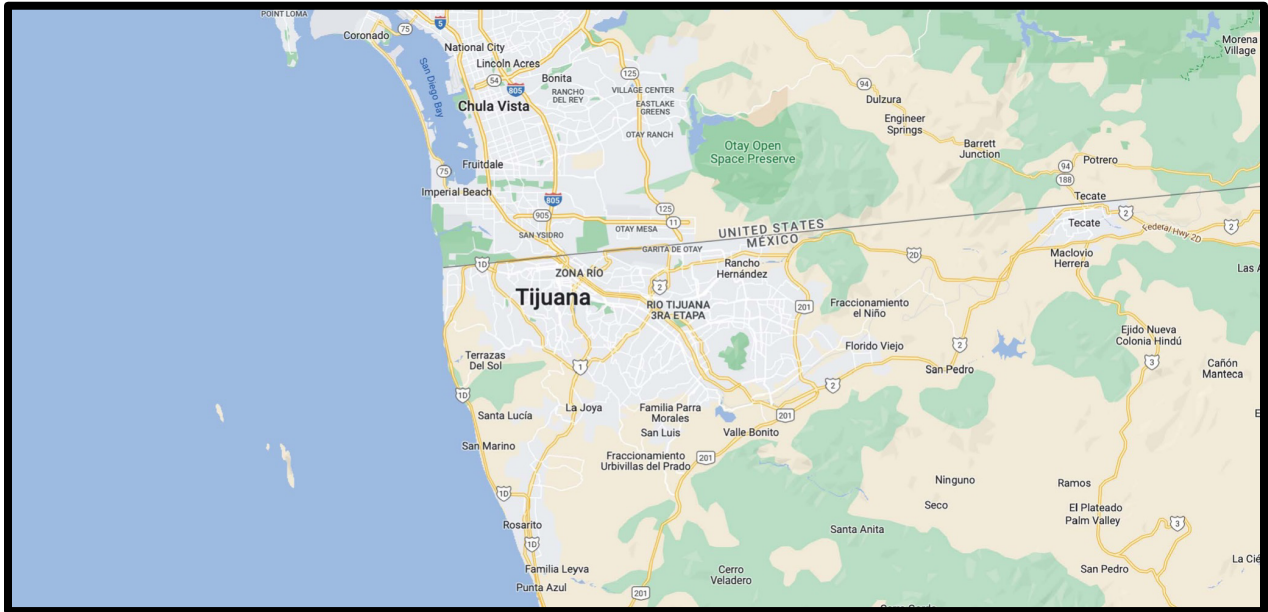
The Journey Strategies Security Team works closely with the U.S. Government's Regional Security Officers in Mexico and local authorities to ensure that our delegation's safety is the top priority of the trip.

Journey Strategies has an approved security management plan for Tijuana, Mexico in place which details identified threats, safety mitigation measures in place to minimize risk, emergency protocols, reporting lines, standard procedures and recommended personal security practices. This plan is known to all tour support staff. Delegates will also receive a safety brief when they arrive to the Loews Coronado Bay Hotel on Thurs., May 5th.

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico has been informed of our visit. The embassy is located at:

Av. Paseo de la Reforma 305, Cuauhtémoc  
06500 Ciudad de México, CDMX, México  
Telephone: (52) 55 5080 2000

# Maps



## 5. About CGE, Our Hosts, and Our Experts

### The Council for Global Equality (CGE)

The Council for Global Equality is a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy coalition that brings together international human rights activists, foreign policy experts, LGBTQI leaders, philanthropists, and corporate officials to encourage a clearer and stronger American voice on human rights concerns impacting LGBTQI communities around the world. Our 30+ member organizations support and amplify our advocacy agenda in Washington and globally.

The Council for Global Equality is a dedicated coalition effort. Our institutional members include many of the most prominent organizations working to promote human rights and LGBTQI equality in the United States and overseas. This unique collaboration joins the respective expertise and positioning of LGBTQI and non-LGBTQI organizations; domestically focused and internationally focused organizations; as well as advocacy groups, think tanks, multinational corporations, and research organizations.

Together, Council members seek to ensure that those who represent our country – including those in Congress, in the White House, in U.S. embassies, and in U.S. corporations – use the diplomatic, political, and economic leverage available to them to oppose human rights abuses that are too often directed at individuals because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics. The Council also seeks to increase support for foreign LGBTQI organizations as vital contributors to our country's national interest through the development of free and vibrant civil societies abroad.



**Mark Bromley (he/him)** is Co-Chair of the Council for Global Equality. He helped launch the Council in 2008 to encourage a clearer and stronger American voice on international LGBTQI human rights concerns. In 2016, he provided the first-ever testimony to the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the state of LGBTQI rights around the world. Today, Mark and his colleagues provide regular briefings on trends impacting LGBTQI individuals globally. He also monitors the UN human rights system and has conducted research on sexual violence as a war crime. Mark previously worked for Global Rights, where he coordinated donor relations, supported field offices, and launched an organization-wide LGBTQI Initiative. From 2001-2002, Mark staffed Senator Feingold's work on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including the Senator's Chairmanship of the Africa Subcommittee. Mark holds a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law and a BSFS from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He has published on human rights and international law issues and has served as an adjunct professor for the human rights clinic at Virginia Law School. He lives in Washington with his husband and their children.

Email: [mark@globalequality.org](mailto:mark@globalequality.org); Twitter: @CGEMark



**Julie Dorf (she/her)** has been a leader in the global LGBTQI rights movement for over 30 years. Julie currently serves as Co-Chair of the Council for Global Equality, which she co-founded in 2008. Julie also founded and directed the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (now OutRight Action International) from 1990 to 2000, creating an organization that protects and advances the human rights of all people and communities subjected to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, or HIV status. She has bridged her activist career with philanthropy, serving as the Director of Philanthropic Services for Horizons Foundation, a San Francisco Bay Area foundation for the LGBTQI community, and as an independent consultant for WPATH, Open Society Institute, Global Fund for Women, Arcus Foundation, Astraea Foundation, and Fenton Communications/J-Street Project. Julie is currently the lead advisor to the Equality Without Borders individual donor initiative. She also serves on the board or advisory boards of PowerPAC, Human Rights Watch's LGBT Rights Program, and Horizons Foundation.

She holds a BA from Wesleyan University in Russian and Soviet Studies. Julie has written, spoken, and advocated extensively on social justice issues ranging from reparations for gay victims of the Nazis, Jewish-Palestinian relations, and marriage equality.

Email: [julie@globalequality.org](mailto:julie@globalequality.org); Twitter: @juliedorf



**Beirne Roose-Snyder, JD, (she/her)** is an experienced advisor and strategist working at the intersections of HIV/AIDS, U.S. foreign policy, women's health, human rights, and the law. She is currently the Senior Policy Fellow at the Council for Global Equality.

Beirne has previously been the director of public policy for CHANGE, worked as the managing attorney of the Center for HIV Law and Policy, and been associate counsel for the 2016 Chicago Olympic Bid. She was a Rockwood Fellow in the Gender and Racial Justice Leaders in the HIV Movement cohort and worked in HIV/AIDS services and education in the United States and Northern Ireland. She has written pieces in *The Hill*, *The Guardian*, and *The Washington Blade*, and has recently published articles on the legal implications of Trump's Global Gag Rule in *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*, the U.S. contributions to the global anti-gender movement in *iFokus*, and on the role of contraception in preventing HIV-positive births for the journal, *BMC Public Health*.

Beirne graduated from Earlham College with a BA in politics, and from Georgetown University Law Center with a Juris Doctor and a certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies.

Email: [beirne@globalequality.org](mailto:beirne@globalequality.org); Twitter: @Beirners

## About Our Hosts in Tijuana

### **Casa Arcoiris**

[Casa Arcoiris](#) is a grassroots organization started in 2018 by Tijuana activists to support LGBTI+ migrants in search of asylum in the United States or refuge in Mexico. The Casa Arcoiris team operates a shelter and provides humanitarian services, access to legal services, healthcare, and counseling in collaboration with local and international organizations.

Email: [casaarcoiris.ac@gmail.com](mailto:casaarcoiris.ac@gmail.com); Twitter: [@arcoiris\\_casa](https://twitter.com/arcoiris_casa)

### **El Jardín de las Mariposas**

[El Jardin de las Mariposas](#) is a shelter for migrants and refugees from the LGBTQI community based in Tijuana, Mexico. It aims to be “a space of relief and hope for those who need a home to stay to heal and achieve their dreams.” In addition to suffering from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, some of the migrants suffer discrimination based on race and health condition. One of the main objectives of the center is to create an exclusion-free sanctuary in Tijuana.

Email: [yeray.albelda@gmail.com](mailto:yeray.albelda@gmail.com); Twitter: [@Jardin2021](https://twitter.com/Jardin2021)

## Our Experts



**Dr. Psyche Calderon-Vargas (she/her)** is a Mexican general physician who believes that every person, regardless of where they are from or their personal stories, has the right to receive the best trauma informed medical care and that no human being is illegal. She considers herself an activist first, an educator second, and a medical provider third. She is a radical fat acceptance advocate, and she is co-founder and co-director of Refugee Health Alliance, an organization that has worked in Tijuana, Mexico, since 2018 to give free medical attention to refugees, migrants, and other displaced persons. She directs a substance abuse treatment center in Rosarito, Baja California. Psyche is also a Professor of Border Health at the medical school of the Autonomous University of Baja California.

Email: [psychecalderon@refugeehealthalliance.org](mailto:psychecalderon@refugeehealthalliance.org); Twitter: [@psychecalderon](https://twitter.com/psychecalderon)



**Cristian González Cabrera (he/him)** is a Researcher at Human Rights Watch, where he focuses on violence and discrimination against LGBTQI people in Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to joining HRW, Cristian was a German Chancellor Fellow at the Berlin-based European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), where he supported all aspects of the organization's universal jurisdiction litigation arising out of Colombia and Syria. Before ECCHR, Cristian worked at the San Francisco-based Center for Justice & Accountability (CJA) on Alien Tort Statute and the Torture Victim Protection Act litigation in U.S. federal courts arising out of Latin America and the Horn of Africa. A former Fulbright Scholar in Germany, he received his Juris Doctor from UCLA School of Law and his Bachelor's degree from Columbia University.

Email: [gonzalc@hrw.org](mailto:gonzalc@hrw.org); Twitter: [@cristianfergo](https://twitter.com/cristianfergo)



**Emem DuPuis Maurus (he/him)** is a San Diego/Tijuana-based attorney with the Transgender Law Center's Border Butterflies project, where he provides legal assistance and other basic humanitarian services to LGBTQI asylum seekers in Mexico and after they cross to the United States. Emem previously served as a Staff Attorney with Al Otro Lado, a legal organization in Tijuana.

Prior to moving to Mexico, Emem was a public defender at the Office of the Public Defenders of Essex County and Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem. Emem also worked for the National Lawyers Guild, providing legal representation to people arrested as part of Occupy Wall Street and coordinating the legal support to the movement. They continued on as part of the Mass Defense Committee and have assisted with mass defense response in various locations, most recently in Standing Rock.

Emem also volunteered for many years with the Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center and with Queers for Economic Justice. Emem has been faculty at numerous Continuing Legal Education courses related to mass defense and other topics. He received two Bachelor's of Arts from the University of Washington and a law degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Email: [maurus@transgenderlawcenter.org](mailto:maurus@transgenderlawcenter.org); Twitter: @TransLawCenter



**Kimahli Powell, LL.D (HONS) (he/him)** is executive director of Rainbow Railroad and is a long-time advocate for social justice, having spent over twenty years advancing the rights of youth, the African/Caribbean/black community, people living and affected by HIV, and the LGBTQI+ community.

Kimahli completed his undergraduate studies in Political Science at the University of Ottawa. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Victoria. Among his career highlights is supporting Dignitas International's innovative work in supporting community-based system health strengthening in Malawi, as well as helping launch the HIV Legal Network's constitutional challenge to Jamaica's anti-sodomy law while developing a monitoring and evaluation framework on legal advocacy.

Since joining Rainbow Railroad as Executive Director, Kimahli has led the organization through transformational growth, helping thousands of people in the process. Kimahli and Rainbow Railroad have been recognized with several awards, including the International Lesbian & Gay Travel Association's Pathfinder Award, the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies' 2018 Award, and the 2018 Inspire Award for Community Organization of the Year.

Kimahli has served as a board member for ILGA, is the current Chair of the Dignity Network and is a board member of the Foundation for Black Communities. He was the 2019 recipient of the Steinert & Ferreiro Award and was listed in Out Magazine's Out 100 profile of influential LGBTQI people.

Email: [kpowell@rainbowrailroad.org](mailto:kpowell@rainbowrailroad.org); Twitter: @KimahliPowell



**Bianka Rodríguez (she/her)** is the Executive Director and President of COMCAVIS Trans, an NGO in El Salvador. Under Bianka's leadership, COMCAVIS Trans has developed into a pivotal non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of LGBTIQ+ and HIV-positive people, particularly those forcibly displaced by anti-LGBTIQ+ discrimination.

Email: [direccioncomcavistrans@gmail.com](mailto:direccioncomcavistrans@gmail.com); Twitter: @BiankaR\_odriguez



**Steve Roth (he/him)** is Executive Director of ORAM (Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration), a pioneering organization working for the protection of exceptionally vulnerable LGBTQI refugees and asylum seekers. A globally oriented strategic thinker and connector, he leads the organization's strategic development in conjunction with its board of directors; directs its programmatic work, development, and communications; and oversees operations and partner relations.

Prior to ORAM, Roth served as Senior Director of Global Initiatives at Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, where he led the organization's efforts to advance LGBTQI workplace inclusion globally. He managed industry-leading programs in education, training, and capacity building; launched a successful Global Fellowship program; and produced major global workplace inclusion events in India, Brazil, China, and Eastern Europe.

Previously, he served as founding Executive Director of Alturi, a non-profit whose mission is to educate and engage Americans on global LGBTQI issues. In 2008, he founded OutThink Partners, a boutique communications, marketing, and advocacy organization specializing in the LGBTQI market. A leader in corporate communications and marketing, Steve has also served as Director of Guest Experience at Atlantis Events, the world's largest gay travel company, and International Media Relations Manager at United Airlines.

Steve graduated from the University of Chicago in Latin American Studies and speaks Spanish, Portuguese, and Japanese.

Email: [stever@oramrefugee.org](mailto:stever@oramrefugee.org); Twitter: @ORAMrefugee

## 6. Communications Strategies

Kate Morrissey, the immigration reporter from the *San Diego Union Tribune*, will be joining portions of the trip, along with a photographer.

Email: [kate.morrissey@sduniontribune.com](mailto:kate.morrissey@sduniontribune.com)

### Five Core Messages

- ***Refugee rights are LGBTQI rights.*** LGBTQI individuals are disproportionately forced to flee systemic human rights violations, including criminalization in approximately 70 countries. LGBTQI migrants are more vulnerable during flight, while in refugee camps, and in immigration detention. ICE data demonstrates detained LGBTQI persons are 97 times more likely to experience sexual assault and abuse. This is a matter of urgency for LGBTQI advocates.
- ***The U.S. government's asylum policies continue to harm vulnerable LGBTQI refugees.*** The most vulnerable refugees, including LGBTQI asylum seekers, face grave dangers at the border and are most vulnerable while in immigration detention. In a [Presidential Memorandum](#) issued last year, the Biden Administration pledged to protect vulnerable LGBTQI refugees and asylum seekers. Unfortunately, the U.S. government's asylum policies remain in violation of U.S. law and treaty obligations as well as racist, homophobic, and transphobic, despite stated intentions to fix them.
- ***Title 42 isn't about public health – it's an illegal and disingenuous way to deny asylum to vulnerable refugees. Lift it for good.*** Leading public health officials have rejected the spurious public health justifications for Title 42, and leading international lawyers have called it “illegal” and “inhumane.”
- ***LGBTQI asylum seekers must not be detained by ICE – end the presumption of immigration detention now.*** LGBTQI asylum seekers are some of the most vulnerable detainees, and they also have some of the highest rates of showing they have a credible fear of persecution during screening interviews. LGBTQI detention is costly, cruel, and counterproductive. DHS has long recognized that LGBTQI individuals have “special vulnerabilities” based on sexual orientation and gender identity and has issued guidance on release of transgender individuals. Yet the Biden Administration continues to detain LGBTQI asylum seekers in large numbers.

- *Asylum procedures for vulnerable LGBTQI refugees must be safe, timely, and humane; they still fail on all counts.* The asylum process is re-traumatizing because of unnecessarily adversarial procedures and increasingly complex requirements for asylum. The current system leaves LGBTQI refugees in limbo for years because of needless delays and backlogs. In addition to safe, timely, humane, asylum procedures in accordance with the letter and spirit of the law includes preserving the right to seek asylum inside the U.S. We need a system that is centered on refugee protection and not just enforcement.

### Suggested Tweets and Hashtags

We encourage your office to use or adapt the language below through your own social media channels, tagging us (@global\_equality on Twitter) so that we can amplify your messaging. For additional assistance with social media, op-eds, or other communications, please reach out to Ian Lekus (ian@globalequality.org).

#Refugee rights are #LGBTQI rights: LGBTQI people fleeing persecution in their home countries are especially vulnerable during flight, while in refugee camps, & immigration detention. **add hashtags**

#Refugee rights are #LGBTQI rights: LGBTQI people fleeing persecution are 97x more likely to experience sexual assault in ICE detention. **add hashtags**

The @JoeBiden Administration pledged to protect vulnerable #LGBTQI #refugees & asylum seekers. Despite these promises, the US government has yet to fix the racist, homophobic, & transphobic border policies it inherited. **add hashtag**

Despite @JoeBiden's promises, US asylum policies continue to harm vulnerable #LGBTQI #refugees, who face grave dangers at the border & are most at risk while in immigration detention. **add hashtags**

Despite @JoeBiden's promises, US asylum policies continue to harm vulnerable #LGBTQI #refugees. We must end the racist, homophobic, & transphobic policies putting asylum seekers' lives at risk. **add hashtags**

Title 42 isn't about public health — it's an illegal, inhuman, & disingenuous way to deny asylum to #LGBTQI #refugees and other vulnerable asylum seekers.  
**#EndTitle42 add other hashtags**

Detention of #LGBTQI asylum seekers is costly, cruel, & counterproductive. End the presumption of immigration detention now! **add hashtags**

Detention of #LGBTQI asylum seekers is costly, cruel, & counterproductive. We need a #refugee system based on protection, not just enforcement. **add hashtags**

Asylum procedures for vulnerable #LGBTQI #refugees must be safe, timely, & humane. Despite @JoeBiden's promises, they still fail on all counts. **add hashtags**

Asylum procedures for vulnerable #LGBTQI #refugees must be safe, timely, & humane. Despite @JoeBiden's promises, at-risk #LGBTQI refugees often remain detained in limbo for years. **add hashtags**

@DHSGov has long recognized that #LGBTQI #refugees face "special vulnerabilities," but despite promises, the @JoeBiden Administration continues to detain LGBTQI asylum seekers in large numbers. **add hashtags**

### **Suggested Hashtags for Social Media**

Most recommended:

#EndTitle42

#SafeNotStranded

#WelcomeWithDignity

#RestoreAsylumNow

#LGBTQI #refugees

Additional options include:

End #Title42

End #RemainInMexico

#EndMPP

## 7. Policy Issues: Accessing Asylum for LGBTQI Migrants on Southern Border

### Five Specific LGBTQI Policy Concerns

- **Title 42:** The administration must vigorously defend the welcome termination of this counterproductive policy that has put the lives and safety of thousands of LGBTQI and other asylum seekers at grave risk of kidnapping, rape, torture, and other violent attacks. DHS should work to rapidly restore compliance with U.S. asylum law at the border, including at ports of entry. Members of Congress should oppose any effort to prolong or codify the misapplication of Title 42 that will only continue to block asylum seekers, including vulnerable LGBTQI persons, from applying for asylum at ports of entry and push them to undertake dangerous, sometimes repeated, crossings between ports.
- **Remain in Mexico:** DHS rightly terminated this deadly policy that forced many LGBTQI and other asylum seekers to wait in danger in Mexico for their U.S. asylum hearings, largely cut off from the U.S. immigration attorneys who could assist them to apply for asylum. While DHS has created exemptions based on sexual orientation and gender identity for the court-ordered reimplementing of Remain in Mexico, this fundamentally flawed policy cannot be fixed. Members of Congress should ensure that while Remain in Mexico continues to be implemented, DHS complies with its vulnerability guidelines and obligations not to return individuals to a place where they would be persecuted or tortured, and to document the harms caused by the policy to individuals sent to Mexico.
- **“Metering”:** DHS correctly rescinded the Trump-era directives on metering – a practice a federal court ruled are in violation of U.S. law – that turned away people seeking asylum at ports of entry along the U.S. border with Mexico and often left them waiting for months or even years in danger. Asylum seekers forced to put their names on informal “waitlists” in Mexico reported discrimination in access to asylum based on sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, and race. Congress should ensure thorough oversight so that DHS does not return to illegal metering and that asylum access at ports of entry is managed by U.S. officials, not outsourced to the Mexican government or NGOs.
- **Border Asylum Process Rule:** The [Interim Final Rule](#) creates a welcome opportunity for asylum seekers entering the United States through the southern border to have a

full, initial asylum interview with an asylum officer. However, the extremely accelerated timelines created by the rule will leave many asylum seekers, particularly LGBTQI asylum seekers who often lack community support, unable to find attorneys to assist them to prepare their cases. Members of Congress should submit formal comments on the rule, including to encourage the administration to amend the rule to allow asylum seekers sufficient time to find legal counsel.

- **Immigration Detention:** DHS should amend its enforcement priorities memo to ensure that asylum seekers are not considered priorities for detention merely because they crossed the border to request protection and are designated as “border security” priorities. Many LGBTQI asylum seekers have been subjected to months of jailing in ICE detention centers as result, where they continue to report sexual and physical violence, verbal abuse, and other rights violations. ICE should ensure that it uses its existing statutory authority to release asylum seekers on parole (without the use of highly invasive ankle shackles or home confinement) and should release long-promised guidance on the detention of vulnerable populations. Members of Congress should conduct vigorous oversight of DHS detention and parole decisions as well as conditions in detention centers.

## Policy Background

### **The Disingenuous Use of Title 42 to Expel Asylum Seekers at the Border Is Harmful and Illegal**

- [Council for Global Equality Statement](#): “Title 42 policy was never about public health, as leading epidemiologists and public health experts have repeatedly explained. . . [I]t has had the opposite effect, exposing LGBTQI refugees and other vulnerable groups to conditions of kidnaping, rape and violence when they are pushed back from the U.S. border on spurious public health grounds.”
- [Human Rights First has tracked](#) more than [10,000](#) reports of kidnappings, torture, and brutal attacks on the victims of this policy since President Biden took office. Another survey conducted by Al Otro Lado suggests that [89%](#) of LGBTQI asylum seekers were the victim of an attack or attempted attack in the prior month.
- Senior Legal Adviser to the State Department Harold Koh, also a former State Department Legal Adviser and a former Assistant Secretary for Human Rights, left the Biden Administration in October 2021 with a [scathing letter](#) criticizing Title 42: “I believe this Administration’s current implementation of the Title 42 authority continues to violate our legal obligation not to expel or return (‘refouler’)

individuals who fear persecution, death, or torture, especially migrants fleeing from Haiti.” He noted that “lawful, more humane alternatives plainly exist.”

### **Detention (Based on a recent [Human Rights First report](#))**

- DHS has long recognized that LGBTQI individuals have “special vulnerabilities” based on sexual orientation and gender identity and has issued guidance on release of transgender individuals. Yet the Biden Administration continues to detain LGBTQI asylum seekers in large numbers.
- Based on limited data analyzed by the [Williams Institute](#), LGBTQI asylum seekers have exceptionally high rates of establishing they have a credible fear of persecution: “The vast majority of [LGBTQI] fear claims were deemed credible by asylum officers. At 98.8%, nearly all of the credible fear interviews resulted in a positive fear determination. This is much higher than the overall FY 2008-2017 average case completion rate of 74.5%.”
- Asylum seekers who present at a border crossing and pass a credible fear interview should not be detained – but some still are. This includes vulnerable LGBTQI refugees, including some you will meet in the shelters.
- Because of Title 42, most asylum seekers have no opportunity to seek asylum at the border, so they have no choice other than to cross between ports of entry to seek U.S. protection. LGBTQI refugees who cross between ports of entry are almost always detained. But those who pass a credible fear screening should not be detained based on discretion under existing law and our obligations under the Refugee Convention – UNHCR has called for a presumption of non-detention.
- Human Rights First has documented cases where asylum seekers have been returned under expedited removal and without a credible fear interview despite repeated requests for asylum.
- Human Rights First and others have documented evidence of racial disparities in immigration detention custody decisions, including in parole and bond decisions.
- Conditions in detention are horrific for LGBTQI migrants, trans women have died, and those living with HIV are at grave risk. COVID-19 has exacerbated already dangerous conditions. Human Rights First found that sexual assault, especially against LGBTQI detainees, is “persistent, well-documented, and ineffectively addressed.” ICE’s data reveal LGBTQI persons are 97 times more likely to experience sexual assault and abuse.
- In October 2021, some members of the delegation (Representatives Takano, Jacobs, and Vargas) joined 23 California Democrats who [wrote to Secretary Mayorkas](#) to ask

him to close three “substandard” ICE detention facilities in California: Yuba County Jail, Otay Mesa Detention Center, and Adelanto ICE Processing Center.

- In February 2022, Representatives Jacobs, Jayapal, Takano, and Vargas joined 99 other House and Senate Democrats who [wrote to President Biden](#), urging him to reverse inhumane policies, including Title 42, that disproportionately harm Black migrants.
- Despite holding the authority to parole asylum seekers before their credible fear interviews, ICE rarely does so, which means that vulnerable LGBTQI refugees can spend months in detention waiting for a credible fear interview. Prolonged detention itself undermines the ability of applicants to present their case of credible fear.
- From HRF: “Detention diminishes access to counsel, interferes with fundamental due process protections, and exacerbates the fundamental flaws of the expedited removal process.” The Biden Administration has forced more than 3,000 people to undergo immigration court hearings in detention and has conducted more than 66,000 credible fear interviews, also mostly in immigration detention.

### **Recent Tenth Circuit Transgender Asylum Decision**

- On March 29, 2022, the [Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled](#) that, based on the evidence of pervasive transphobic violence throughout Honduras, a transgender asylum seeker who was detained for three years should have been granted asylum. The court noted that “*any reasonable adjudicator would find a pattern or practice of persecution against transgender women in Honduras.*”
- [Amnesty International](#) noted that “the Tenth Circuit joined the Ninth Circuit in recognizing that it is the effectiveness rather than the mere existence of remedial measures that determines whether a country’s government is unable or unwilling to protect transgender persons.” [The National Immigrant Justice Center](#) noted that “The court’s ruling, which applies across the Tenth Circuit, is particularly meaningful because of the impact it could have for other transgender people who are seeking asylum from Honduras. Additionally, it is rare for courts to recognize that there is a pattern or practice of persecution against a protected group, so the decision will hold persuasive power nationwide.”

## Need Permanently to Rescind Trump Regulations Undermining LGBTQI Asylum Claims

- **Drastically Redefining Asylum**, from the [Williams Institute Report](#): “On December 11, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice published the final text of a rule amending laws governing the U.S. asylum process.<sup>1</sup> On January 8, 2021, the rule was enjoined by a federal judge, but if enforced has the potential to impact the ability of LGBT asylum claimants to seek relief. First, the new rule excludes “gender” as an admissible claim for membership in a particular social group. This could allow an immigration judge to deny asylum claims linked to persecution fears on the basis of gender identity. The rule also narrows the definition of “political opinion” as a basis for credible fear, limiting to cases of seeking “regime change” and thus LGBT Asylum Claims in the United States excluding the possibility of protection where LGBT activism leads to persecution. Finally, the rule alters the definition of persecution to require the infliction of severe harm constituting an “exigent threat.” This would alter the legal threshold to exclude the cumulative harm of violence, stigma, and discrimination from family, state, and non-state actors that many LGBT people face.”
- **Asylum Entry and Transit Bans**: A November 2018 presidential proclamation and interim final rule that sought to bar from asylum people who cross into the United States between ports of entry without inspection has been blocked by courts but not rescinded. Similarly, the Biden Administration should rescind rules that deny asylum to those who transit through other countries if they did not seek protection in those other (often unsafe) countries. These rules also have been blocked by courts but not fully rescinded.

### Need for LGBTQI Data Collection (From the [Williams Institute Report](#))

To improve the quality and quantity of information about LGBTQI asylees to the United States, we recommend the following actions:

- [Demographic questions about sexual orientation and gender identity](#) should be included on all intake forms, including Form I-870 (Record of Determination/ Credible Fear Worksheet) and I-899 (Record of Determination/ Reasonable Fear Worksheet), as well as on I-589 (Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal).

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<sup>1</sup> 85 Fed. Reg. 80274 (December 11, 2020).

- The EOIR should track asylum claims based on sexual orientation and gender identity, record the grounds for asylum claims in its case file electronic database, and release these data to the public.
- Sexual orientation and gender identity demographic data should be integrated into the data management systems operated by both the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security. All data collection practices should be voluntary and in accordance with best practices for sexual orientation and gender identity collection.

## Review of Trump Administration Actions

The Trump Administration completed 472 executive actions affecting U.S. immigration policy, with 39 more proposed but unimplemented when the Administration ended. [1] *The selected timeline of actions is in reverse chronological order.*

### **Blue = Border-Focused Actions**

**June 2020:** Supreme Court rules that the Department of Homeland Security did not properly follow the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) when seeking to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

**March 2020:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention invokes Title 42, a public health rule based on a decades-old law. This move allows Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to expel back to Mexico or a home country anyone crossing the border between ports of entry. (Port of Entry are closed to processing as well). Since March 2020, over 1.7 million expulsions have taken place, including more than 23,000 to Haiti.

**February 2020:** The Supreme Court allows public charge rule to take effect.

**July 2019:** Asylum Ban 2.0 (barring immigrants who cross through another country prior to arriving in the U.S. border from asylum eligibility). [2]

**July 2019:** Pilot program to allow border patrol officers the authority to conduct credible fear interviews. This never seemed to actually happen.

**July 2019:** U.S. reaches safe third-country agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. [3]

**February 2019:** Trump signs bill to fund parts of the government and border barrier; declares state of emergency.

**February 2019:** Trump administration announces more troops headed to southern border.

**January 2019:** Trump releases plan to secure border and end partial shutdown.

**January 2019:** Trump makes case for border barrier in televised address; Democratic leadership rejects request.

**December 2018:** Trump pledges government shutdown unless border wall funding secured.

**December 2018:** DHS announces some migrants will be sent back to Mexico to await immigration proceedings.

**November 2018:** Trump issues presidential proclamation on asylum.

**November 8, 2018:** Ninth Circuit Court rules Trump administration cannot end DACA.

**November 2018:** Asylum Ban 1.0: Through executive order, the administration banned individuals who do not present at a port of entry from apply for asylum. In *O-A v. Trump*, a Washington, D.C. federal court declared the rule illegal and prohibited its implementation.

**October 2018:** Trump proposes ending birthright citizenship.

**October 2018:** Trump administration to send troops to U.S.-Mexico border.

**September 2018:** “turn back” (also known as “metering”) policy of CBP is confirmed by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). People cannot approach a port of entry and be processed for asylum immediately. They must wait in hazardous and dangerous conditions for months while waiting on a list. This is a tactic that dates back to at least 2016. *Al Otro Lado v. McAleenan* challenges the policy, which is ruled illegal in court. Due to pause of asylum processing given plans to end Title 42, it is unclear what will replace metering.

**June 2018:** Attorney General Jeff Sessions says individuals who are victims of private crime not eligible for asylum.

**May 2018:** Trump administration announces it will prosecute parents who cross the border with their children.

**May 2018:** Texas and six other states file lawsuit to end DACA.

**April 2018:** Judge rules Trump administration must continue accepting new DACA applications.

**April 2018:** Trump signs memorandum to deploy troops to U.S.-Mexico border.

**April 2018:** Justice Department announces quotas for immigration judges.

**March 2018:** Trump shares photos of construction on U.S.-Mexico border.

**March 2018:** Trump claims sanctuary cities harbor criminals.

**March 2018:** Trump visits border wall prototypes in California.

**March 2018:** DOJ files lawsuit against California's immigration laws.

**February 2018:** Federal judge rules administration did not improperly waive regulations for wall construction.

**February 2018:** SCOTUS denies Trump administration's request to review DACA case.

**February 2018:** Senate rejects four immigration reform proposals.

**January 2018:** Trump administration releases initial framework for immigration plan.

**January 2018:** Trump says he supports a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients.

**January 2018:** U.S. Department of Justice appeals DACA ruling.

**January 2018:** Judge rules that Trump administration must keep renewing DACA permits.

**January 2018:** DHS announces end date for program allowing El Salvadorans to live and work in U.S.

**January 2018:** Trump administration sends list of immigration priorities to lawmakers.

**December 2017:** Trump calls for end to chain migration after terror attack.

**November 2017:** DHS announces end date for program allowing Haitians to live and work in U.S.

**November 2017:** November 1, 2017: Trump calls on Congress to end Diversity Lottery after terrorist attack.

**October 2017:** Restrictions on refugee admissions expire; new guidelines in place.

**September 2017:** Trump administration limits number of refugees to be admitted to the U.S. to 45,000.

**September 2017:** Trump administration releases updated travel restrictions.

**September 2017:** U.S. State Department outlines new requirements for visa holders.

**August 2017:** Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy Act.

**July 2017:** New Byrne criminal justice grant requirements for cities and states.

**July 2017:** DHS delays implementation of International Entrepreneur Rule.

**June 2017:** Trump administration rescinds Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) policy.

**May 2017:** ICE 2017 immigration-related arrests up nearly 38 percent over 2016 arrests.

**April 2017:** Trump issues *Buy American, Hire American* executive order.

**March 2017:** DHS issues first detainer report.

**March 2017:** Trump issues executive order temporarily suspending immigration from six countries.

**February 2017:** DHS issues guidance on enforcement of immigration laws.

**February 2017:** ICE conducts operations targeting criminals.

**January 2017:** Trump issues executive order on refugee admission and immigration bans.

**January 25, 2017:** Trump issues executive orders on sanctuary cities and border wall.

## Notes

[1] Jessica Bolter, Emma Israel, Sarah Pierce, *Four Years of Profound Change: Immigration Policy during the Trump Presidency*, Migration Policy Institute, Feb. 2022, available at <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi-trump-at-4-report-final.pdf>.

[2] The rule is partially in effect and partially blocked. A federal district court judge in California issued a Temporary Restraining Order on July 16, 2019 in California in *East Bay Sanctuary Covenant et al. v Trump*, finding the ban to likely violate the asylum provisions of U.S. federal law and raising concerns regarding the administration's failure to allow for notice-and-comment rulemaking. The government appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which kept the injunction in place only with regard to the geographic region covered by the Ninth Circuit (California and Arizona) and allowed the government to implement the rule across the rest of the southern border. On August 26, 2019, the government petitioned the Supreme Court to intervene and allow implementation of the rule nationwide during the remainder of the litigation. That petition remains pending.

[3] The administration announces it has reached a deal with Guatemala to halt the flow of Central American migrants to the United States. Deals also were made with El Salvador and Honduras. People were transferred to Guatemala. They had 72 hours to claim asylum or they were given a paper that said voluntary return. All individuals arriving at the southern border who passed through Guatemala, other than Guatemalans, were to be transferred to Guatemala to present an asylum claim there. All transfers were suspended in March 2020.

## 8. Key Organizations and Organizational Policy Briefs

### ORAM

Founded in 2008, ORAM (Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration) is recognized as one of the first international NGOs to assist people fleeing persecution based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression and has since become a thought leader in LGBTQI migration. Our mission is to protect and empower LGBTQI asylum seekers and refugees globally, creating sustainability and systemic change.

Over the last decade, ORAM has trained NGOs, governments, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the unique protection needs of the severely marginalized LGBTQI refugee population. We have supported thousands of LGBTQI asylum seekers and refugees navigating the long asylum process from the moment they arrive in their first country of asylum to their resettlement in a safe third country.

ORAM currently supports LGBTQI asylum seekers and refugees in Mexico, Kenya, and Uganda, as well as displaced queer Ukrainians in Berlin, Germany. We tailor all of our programs to the specific needs of the communities we serve by including those with lived experiences in all stages of our work.

One of our primary focuses is advancing economic inclusion and helping LGBTQI refugees to build self-reliance through livelihoods programs and capacity building. However, ORAM also provides critical emergency response, as well as legal assistance and advocacy for LGBTQI refugees and asylum seekers on the global stage.

ORAM has been working in Mexico since November 2019. Our work started in Tijuana, where we partnered with El Jardín de las Mariposas to provide critical legal assistance to LGBTQI asylum seekers waiting at the U.S.-Mexico border.

When COVID-19 hit and the border closed, ORAM pivoted our work to support those stuck at the border by keeping them engaged through the provision of educational workshops and classes, including as English language courses and digital story-telling workshops. We also provided critical supplies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the shelter, such as hand sanitizers and masks. ORAM has continued to provide English-language courses to residents of the shelter, along with other personal development and wellness classes. We have also provided essential support to the shelter itself, such as rent relief and food.

In the spring of 2021, together with our parent organization, Alight, we helped the shelter relocate to a new space in Tijuana, which they occupy today. There, we worked to transform the shelter into a welcoming space to better support residents in their lives and journeys. In March

2022, we organized a ceramics training session for residents of the shelter and are working to build a sustainable business in ceramics-making for residents of the shelter.

Recently, ORAM also started operating in Mexico City, a hub for LGBTIQ asylum seekers and refugees. By partnering with local LGBTIQ refugee shelters in Mexico City, conducting needs assessments, and providing workshops and vocational training sessions, ORAM aims to support LGBTIQ refugees in finding meaningful employment. We also partner with local businesses and provide mentorships in order to empower the vulnerable LGBTIQ refugees whom we serve.

For more information, contact Steve Roth at 1-310-908-5075 or [stever@oramrefugee.org](mailto:stever@oramrefugee.org).



Immigration Equality is a leading LGBTQ immigrant rights nonprofit, focusing on law and policy reform for LGBTQ and HIV+ asylum seekers both in and out of detention. We are prepared to work with the United States Congress on all points made below, and are eager to collaborate on solutions. We believe the following MUST be done for the health and safety of ALL asylum seekers.

- END TITLE 42 and REMAIN IN MEXICO/MPP
  - Under these illegal programs, nearly [10,000](#) people have already been murdered, raped, tortured, kidnapped or violently assaulted, including LGBTQ asylum seekers. Many HIV-positive refugees lack access to HIV care as they wait, and LGBTQ asylum seekers are routinely denied exemptions from the programs, even though they fear persecution in Mexico.
  - Do not allow Title 42 to be codified into law. This policy provision was never meant to be used as a border management tool. It's implementation as such is an unsupportable and abhorrent warping of the purpose of the policy. Its application to prevent asylum seekers from entering the U.S. also directly contradicts domestic and international law. As most COVID restrictions have been lifted in the U.S., it is even more impossible to justify this policy as a public health necessity.
  - The Biden Administration can and must properly shut down the illegal Remain in Mexico program once and for all. We understand that there are some within the administration that see this cruel, unlawful, program as a positive "solution." Under this policy, asylum seekers are systematically targeted for violence by criminal groups in Mexican border cities and sometimes by Mexican police and immigration agents. In addition to the violence, under the program there is a lack of access to counsel, barriers to legal representation, lack of transparency, and limited legal protections. Congress should demand an end to this cruel and illegal program.
  
- ENSURE SAFE RECEPTION OF LGBTQ ASYLUM SEEKERS AT THE BORDER
  - Ensure that LGBTQ asylum seekers are never detained. It is too dangerous. LGBTQ people in detention regularly report oppression as queer and trans people, including incorrect housing based on gender, significant harassment, sexual abuse, and deplorable and substandard HIV care.
  - Congresswoman Jayapal chaired a hearing on vulnerable detained populations a few years ago. It was remarkably powerful. Push for another hearing on abuses in DHS custody, including by CBP.
  - Insist that any detained LGBTQ asylum seeker be expeditiously paroled. Immigration Equality has fought a number of wrongful denials of Credible and Reasonable Fear Interviews (and subsequent denials of parole). We have also identified a consistent lack of interpreters and private interview accommodations. Asylum seekers must receive proper care and safety while



interviews are being conducted, by officers who are fair and impartial to their cases.

- Demand that the DoJ stop prosecuting people under the entry and reentry statutes (8 USC §§ 1325 & 1326). People who have no choice but to enter without inspection to save their lives should not be penalized and held in criminal custody, fighting a criminal conviction. Recently, a Nevada federal court found 1325 unconstitutional on equal protection grounds. That is consistent with the purpose of human rights law, as no refugee should be sent to prison simply for asking America for help.

- GUARANTEE MEANINGFUL OVERSIGHT AND FUNDING

- End the profiteering of detention. No corporation should make money off of imprisoning asylum seekers. There should never be a profit motive for detaining a refugee.
- Ensure proper oversight of detention facilities. Even as Immigration Equality identifies systemic and endemic human rights abuses in detention centers, the facilities themselves consistently report 100% compliance with regulations. NGOs cannot be the only watchdogs of this billion-dollar problem.
- Tour and document the conditions of confinement for detention facilities in your state and share your findings with the American people.
- In future appropriations, support major cuts to the ICE custody operations account and prohibit the use of funds to detain transgender individuals and individuals living with HIV by incorporating language similar to the language used section 219 of [H.R. 7699](#).
- Fund shelters at the border and fund legal services programs so that people have meaningful access to counsel and legal information in order to litigate their cases.

- PROVIDE PROPER OFFICER TRAINING

- Facilitate the training of CBP, ICE, and asylum officers in LGBTQ competency. For many years, Immigration Equality trained every new asylum and refugee officer in the nation. We are eager and prepared to do so again. Training is even more important than before as officers - and not judges - will soon make merits decisions at the border following new federal regulations.

- WORK WITH US

- Contact Legal Director Bridget Crawford at [bcrawford@immigrationequality.org](mailto:bcrawford@immigrationequality.org) or Executive Director Aaron Morris at [amorris@immigrationequality.org](mailto:amorris@immigrationequality.org).



# **LGBTQI+ persons at risk in Mexico**

**How the US Government can  
protect asylum seekers**

**Rainbow Railroad Rainbow Railroad calls on the U.S. Government to expedite access for LGBTQI+ persons to refugee status determination (RSD) procedures on U.S. territory. This is a critical action which will demonstrably help LGBTQI+ asylum seekers currently in Mexico. This, alongside easing restrictions at the U.S.-Mexico border, will significantly help LGBTQI+ persons at risk.**

**As part of Rainbow Railroad's efforts to advance the rights of LGBTQI+ rights globally as directed by the [Biden memorandum on LGBTQI+ rights](#), we ask that the U.S. Government expedite the processing of LGBTQI+ asylum seekers on U.S. territory and ease restrictions at the U.S.-Mexico border.**

## **LGBTQI+ Asylum Seekers in Latin America**

In recent years, an increasing number of individuals have been attempting the dangerous journey from the Northern Triangle into Mexico to the U.S-Mexico border. Rainbow Railroad is currently engaged with partners across the region to address this increasingly dangerous situation for LGBTQI+ refugees.

**This work currently includes:**

- 1) Supporting LGBTQI+ shelters providing safe haven in border cities like Tijuana;**
- 2) Establishing safer migration routes to Mexico;**
- 3) Attempting to facilitate resettlement to the U.S. or seek alternative countries for resettlement.**

Tijuana is often cited as one of the most dangerous cities in the world<sup>1</sup>, particularly for LGBTQI+ persons. Pandemic-related immigration restrictions have left a growing number of asylum seekers trapped in a city that does not have the infrastructure to support them and meet their basic needs.

In November 2021, Rainbow Railroad visited shelters specializing in supporting LGBTQI+ asylum seekers, and witnessed that these shelters are far exceeding their capacities, leaving them unable to support the increasing number of migrants and asylum seekers in the region. While some partners have had increased success in supporting migrants crossing the U.S. border to continue their refugee status application under humanitarian parole, migrants have frequently been forced to travel through dangerous border areas in order to access this program.

## **The Impact of Border Closures on LGBTQI+ persons in Mexico**

With COVID-19 related international border closures, many of the clients we serve have endured dire conditions over the last two years. In March 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) introduced sweeping restrictions for those seeking refuge in the United States via its land border with

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.borderreport.com/regions/mexico/tijuana-once-again-on-track-to-be-most-violent-city-in-the-world/>

Mexico, under Title 42.<sup>2</sup> Since its inception over two years ago, Title 42 has been used to expel nearly half a million migrants and refugees from the United States.<sup>3</sup>

**In 2020, the death rate along the southern border nearly doubled, with 62 migrants found dead for every 100,000 migrants encountered.**<sup>4</sup> The policy has left many LGBTQI+ migrants and asylum seekers in northern Mexico especially vulnerable to physical and sexual violence, food and housing insecurity, gang attacks, and other forms of abuse.<sup>5</sup> In April 2021, Rainbow Railroad partner Al Otro Lado found that 81% of LGBTQI+ asylum seekers reported being the victim of an attack or attempted attack in Mexico, including rape, human trafficking, kidnapping, and violent assaults.<sup>6</sup>

The conditions along the southern border are compounded by the fact that direct support for LGBTQI+ people near the border remains limited. For instance, because Mexico's government does not provide federal or state funding to shelters that serve 'mixed' populations, any shelters that serve women and LGBTQI+ communities are ineligible for government assistance.<sup>7</sup> While the CDC recently announced its decision to reverse Title 42-related restrictions in May 2022,<sup>8</sup> **LGBTQI+ asylum seekers continue to face perilous conditions in northern Mexico and require urgent support to access pathways to safety.**

**Rainbow Railroad calls on the U.S. Government to expedite access for LGBTQI+ persons to refugee status determination (RSD) procedures on U.S. territory, and ease restrictions at the U.S.-Mexico Border. This will significantly help LGBTQI+ asylum seekers currently in Mexico.**

**This is an opportunity for the U.S. Government to provide historic and enduring leadership globally by providing safe haven to LGBTQI+ persons in Mexico and Latin America.**

## About Rainbow Railroad

[Rainbow Railroad](#) is an international NGO based in the U.S. and Canada that supports at-risk LGBTQI+ persons escaping state-sponsored violence and persecution. Last year, over 8,500 individuals reached out for our support from nearly 90 countries and we provided support to over 1,500 people. Beyond serving individuals experiencing persecution, our work also involves monitoring and responding to crises affecting LGBTQI+ asylum seekers. Such crises include conflict, humanitarian emergencies, climate change, and sudden state-sponsored crackdowns that target LGBTQI+ people. Examples include Chechnya, Uganda and more recently Afghanistan and Ukraine. Our work has been [internationally recognized](#) and, since 2006, Rainbow Railroad has supported over 3,000 people.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rainbowrailroad.org/the-latest/title-42-repeal-will-help-lgbtqi-people-cross-us-border>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/blog/protect-lives-lgbtq-asylum-seekers-biden-administration-must-fully-end-title-42>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/failure-protect-biden-administration-continues-illegal-trump-policy-block-and-expel-asylum>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.rainbowrailroad.org/the-latest/title-42-repeal-will-help-lgbtqi-people-cross-us-border>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2022/04/01/1089690477/cdc-pandemic-border-rules-migration-dhs#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20is%20ending%20its.mean%20a%20surge%20in%20migration&text=via%20Getty%20Images-.Customs%20and%20Border%20Protection%20agents%20apprehend%20a%20group%20of%20Brazilian,Calif.%2C%20in%20August%202021.&text=via%20Getty%20Images-.The%20Biden%20administration%20is%20moving%20to%20end%20sweeping%20pandemic%20border.Title%2042%20on%20May%2023.>

## 9. Additional Background Reading

[Extending Title 42 Would Escalate Dangers, Exacerbate Disorder, and Magnify Discrimination](#), Human Rights First (April 27, 2022)

[“I’m a Prisoner Here”: Biden Administration Policies Lock Up Asylum Seekers](#), Human Rights First (April 2022)

[2022 Immigration Priorities: A Blueprint for the Biden-Harris Administration](#), Coalition Report (February 2022)

[Three Immediate Steps for the Biden Administration to Reform Asylum at the U.S.-Mexico Border](#), Women’s Refugee Council and Human Rights First (Infographic)

[Weekly U.S. Mexico Border Update](#), WOLA (April 22, 2022)

[Title 42, A View From the Border in March 2022](#), HIAS (March 2022)

[Fair, Timely, and Less-Traumatizing Asylum Process](#), Human Rights First (January 2022)

[“Every Day I Live in Fear” Violence and Discrimination Against LGBT People in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and Obstacles to Asylum in the United States](#), Human Rights Watch (October 2020)

[Anti-LGBT Persecution in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras: US Barriers to Asylum Block Path to Safety](#), Human Rights Watch (October 2020)

[Welcome With Dignity](#), #WelcomeWithDignity Campaign

[LGBT Asylum Claims in the United States](#), UCLA Williams Institute (March 2021)

[Asylum Overview: How Refugees Get to the United States](#), Human Rights First (June 2014)



April 5, 2022

United States House Committee on Ethics  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC20515

RE: Learning Tour to Tijuana Mexico, May 5-6

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today on behalf of the Council for Global Equality (“CGE”), a coalition of prominent U.S.-based human rights and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (“LGBTQI”) advocacy organizations focused on advancing human rights for LGBTQI populations through U.S. foreign policy.

On this Learning Tour, we will be sponsoring a trip to Tijuana, Mexico, which will include members of Congress and staffers from congressional offices in the House of Representatives. This trip has been funded by the Council for Global Equality with the purpose of raising awareness about the human rights and conditions of LGBTQI asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico Border.

We are committed to ensuring adherence to all Ethics Committee rules and regulations. For further information about CGE’s advocacy and structure, please see the attached description. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 222-5435.

Sincerely,

Beirne Roose-Snyder  
Senior Policy Fellow  
Council for Global Equality



March 30, 2022

The Honorable Mark Takano  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Takano:

We are writing today on behalf of the Council for Global Equality (“CGE”), a coalition of prominent U.S.-based human rights and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (“LGBTQI”) advocacy organizations focused on advancing human rights for LGBTQI populations through U.S. foreign policy.

We are approaching you with an opportunity to join us on the Council for Global Equality’s trip to Mexico on **May 6, 2022** and will allow you to see firsthand the conditions and challenges for LGBTQI migrants and would-be asylum seekers on the southern border. The trip will coincide with the ILGA conference being held in Southern California. The delegation will include other Members of Congress, as well as key leaders and technical experts working on these issues.

On your journey, you will travel to the U.S.-Mexico border to visit LGBTQI shelters and LGBTQI migrants who are waiting on the Mexican side of the border, as well as a visit with the local UNHCR office and other service providers.

In order to allow sufficient time for planning, we would appreciate a response indicating your interest in joining by **Friday, April 1, 2022**. We have asked Beirne Roose-Snyder to provide further details on the trip and answer any questions you may have. You can reach her directly at [beirne@globalequality.org](mailto:beirne@globalequality.org) or +1 202.222.5435.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for considering this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Mark Bromley  
Council Co-Chair

Julie Dorf  
Council Co-Chair

## **Council for Global Equality (CGE) Structure Explained**

The Council for Global Equality is a fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, a California-based nonprofit organization with 501c(3) status. Community Initiatives and its projects do not maintain any registered lobbyists. A small portion of the work of the Council for Global Equality includes Congressional advocacy, which is monitored under the 501(h) election that Community Initiatives maintains. The Board of Directors of Community Initiatives has legal oversight over these advocacy efforts; the President and senior management of Community Initiatives maintain regular programmatic and financial oversight over this project through the Council's own staff and leadership.

The Council maintains an Advisory Committee made up of seven members. The Advisory Committee meets at least once yearly to review Council accomplishments, and to leverage Committee experience in support of Council goals. The Committee also signs key contracts and votes on any salary adjustments. The Committee's three principal staff do not vote.

The Council is made up of organizational members. Each member appoints its representatives to support the collaborative work of the Council. The Council's membership consists of a range of U.S.-based organizations that carry out discrete activities in support of the overall strategic goal of improving America's clear commitment, at home and abroad, to LGBT equality as part of its human rights policies. Membership in the Council has clearly stated criteria, terms and expectations.

As a fiscally sponsored project, the Council's finances are officially reported as part of Community Initiative's annual report and audited financial statements. The Council does not have separately audited statements or annual report. The Council has been generously funded primarily by private foundations. In addition, the Council receives modest annual membership fees from its organizational members.

**AGENDA: Council for Global Equality Trip to San Diego, US/Tijuana, Mexico, May 5-6, 2022**

**May 5, 2022**

**Travel Day**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 3:00-5:00pm | Delegation arrives to San Diego Pier South Hotel   |
| 5:00-6:00pm | Downtime   |
| 6:00-6:30pm | Welcome Briefing to provide overview of trip and introduce the Council for Global Equality Team and delegates to one another |
| 6:30-8:30pm | Dinner briefing with the Council for Global Equality team to discuss the US-Mexico border, Title 42 and LGBTQTI issues       |

**May 6, 2022**

**San Diego, US/Tijuana, Mexico**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:30-10:00am  | Breakfast with Human Rights and LGBTQTI experts to learn about the day's program and LGBTQTI situation at the border. Discuss with advocates from Guatemala, EL Salvador, Honduras and Mexico.                      |
| 10:00-10:30am | Delegation transfer to the border with briefing in vehicles   |
| 10:30-11:30am | San Ysidro US-Mexico Border crossing  |
| 11:30-12:00pm | Delegation transfers to LGBTQTI shelter with briefing in vehicles   |
| 12:00-1:30pm  | Site Visit 1: Visit LGBTQTI shelter to learn about the services provided to LGBTQTI asylum seekers and understand the importance of community based programs to supporting asylum seekers.                          |
| 1:30-1:45pm   | Transfer to LGBTQTI shelter with briefing in vehicles   |
| 1:45-3:00pm   | Lunch at LGBTQTI shelter with Trans Law Center & Border Butterflies to discuss the legal services provided to LGBTQTI asylum seekers. Understand the legal challenges and bottlenecks in supporting asylum seekers. |
| 3:00-4:00pm   | Conversation with UNHCR-Tijuana to gain social and historical context in the role of international, multinational agencies in supporting asylum seekers.  |
| 4:00-4:30pm   | Transfer to Tijuana border  |
| 4:30-5:30pm   | Cross Mexico-US Border  |
| 5:30-6:00pm   | Transfer to San Diego LGBTQTI Community Center  |

6:00-7:00pm	Press briefing event to discuss trip outcomes with selected local media representatives.
7:00-8:00pm	Closing debrief to discuss lessons learned and next steps when delegation returns to DC
8:00	Delegates transfer to their respective congressional districts

## Addendum B

### Transportation Estimation per person

- o Taxi estimation (return): \$180
- o Vehicles: \$133

### Lodging Estimation per person – \$181

- o \$181 per night x 1 night (San Diego, US) = \$181

### Meals Estimation per person - \$226

- o \$74 (USG M&I per diem for San Diego, US) x 2 days = \$148
- o \$78 (USG M&I per diem for Tijuana, Mexico) x 1 day = \$78

### Other Expenses Estimation per person - \$980

- o Security - \$600
- o Interpreter - \$230
- o Insurance - \$150

Note: Costs are broken down per person.