

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Ur M. Jaddou, JD
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Director Jaddou,

We write to request an update on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) initiative to provide essential guidance to people seeking asylum in the United States whose court cases are terminated at the request of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Our nation has a responsibility to people seeking asylum, and this guidance is needed to prevent disruptions in the lives of those who are already in our communities.

Last year, we sent you a letter¹ urging your agency to swiftly publish guidance in response to the May 18, 2022, letter from the American Immigration Lawyers Association². The letter from AILA highlighted the need to provide guidance to those with terminated court cases following ICE Principal Legal Advisor Kerry Doyle's April 4, 2022, memo directing attorneys of the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor to broadly use prosecutorial discretion, including to seek dismissal of proceedings. This guidance is needed so asylum seekers and their counsel know how to navigate affirmative asylum claims and applications for work authorization before the immigration court if a case is terminated.

We appreciate that in your December 7, 2022, response to our letter you agreed with our concerns about the need for clear, comprehensive guidance for those whose cases have been dismissed. Nonetheless, we continue to await the guidance and policies your letter indicated that USCIS was working on with the Department of Justice's Executive Office of Immigration Review and ICE.

We write today to reiterate our concerns and request an update on the timeline for publishing any relevant policies and guidance. In your response, please detail the range of topics and statuses covered by the guidance for affected potential asylum seekers, including application filings, work authorization documents, filing deadlines, dependents, and appeals and referrals of cases. Additionally, we request a meeting with you or your relevant staff for an update on this necessary guidance. Without guidance, we remain concerned that asylum seekers will continue to be forced

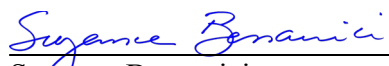
¹ [Bonamici Leads Call for Guidance to Help Asylum Seekers](#)


² [AILA Asylum & Refugee Committee Requests Guidance from DHS on Asylum Applications Processing after the Doyle Memo](#)


to refile their applications for work authorization and cause greater delays of their applications by being reentered into the existing backlog.

We appreciate your work and service to protect the rights of those seeking asylum. We look forward to an update on this guidance and appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

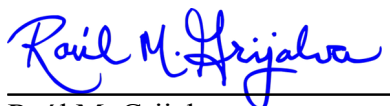
Sincerely,

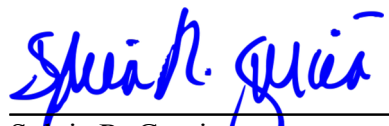

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

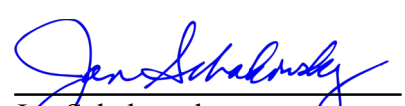

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

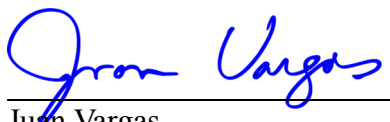

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

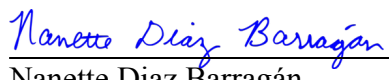

Sheila Jackson Lee
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