



Office of Immigrant Affairs



Newsletter | October 2022

Mayor Todd Gloria created the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) in July 2022 to ensure that the City of San Diego is addressing the needs of our diverse immigrant and refugee communities and to develop resources and inclusive policies for immigrants in San Diego. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your family, friends, and colleagues. Thank you for your support!

The Month In Review

Mayor Todd Gloria Joins Iranian-American Community During San Diego Rally

On October 1st, Mayor Gloria and Executive Director Rita Fernandez joined San Diego's Iranian-American community during a rally in response to the unjust killing of Mahsa Amini. Mayor Gloria shared his support for their cause and shared that San Diego stands in solidarity with the women of Iran and all of their allies who are advocating for women's rights.



County of San Diego's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) Launches Welcome Center

Earlier this month, the OIA team joined the County's OIRA team for the launch of their Welcome Center in National City. OIA applauds the County's efforts to assist immigrant communities by providing them resources and services to succeed. During the event, Vice Chair for the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, Nora Vargas, shared that this center will help San Diego's immigrant community to not only survive, but also to thrive.







Immigration Panel During U.S.-Mexico Mayors' Community Summit

Sister Cities International held a community summit for U.S.-Mexico mayors in the binational region of San Diego-Tijuana. During the summit, panel discussions and events tackled important topics in U.S.-Mexico relationships and the border region. On October 13th, the summit held a panel to discuss "Immigration Today: Understanding People and Movement in a Complicated World" where our Executive Director, Rita Fernandez, was invited to speak alongside Eva A. Millona, USCIS Chief of the Office of Citizenship, Partnership, and Engagement and Ariel Ruiz, Policy Analyst at the Migration Policy Institute. Rita highlighted the importance of immigration policy advocacy from a local government perspective, especially in a binational region, while also discussing OIA's mission and goals.





Visit from United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to San Diego-Tijuana Border
Officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in the U.S. visited the San Diego-Tijuana binational region. The Head of Strategic Communications and Outreach, the External Relations Officer for U.S. Refugee Issues, and the Senior Liaison Officer for the U.S. Southern Border stopped by City Hall to meet with the OIA team to discuss the office's mission, plans, and commitments to supporting San Diego's immigrant and refugee communities.



The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in San Diego Hosts Annual Fundraiser

On October 20th the IRC of San Diego held their annual fundraiser, California's Taste of the IRC, featuring food from the different immigrant-owned businesses here in San Diego. This was their first in-person fundraiser event in California since the COVID-19 pandemic, and Executive Director Rita Fernandez was able to attend on behalf of OIA to promote the IRC's mission of supporting immigrants and refugees.



Southwestern College Hosts Undocumented Student Action Week Legislative Luncheon - Our OIA Executive Director was invited to Southwestern College's Undocumented Student Action Week Legislative Luncheon, where she joined San Diego regional leaders to speak with undocumented students about the importance of inclusive immigration policies in the U.S.

advocacy at the local. Rita was one of two speakers. Kenia Zamarripa, the Executive Director for International Business Affairs for the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, also discussed San Diego's binational culture and the vital contributions that migrants have on San Diego's economy, society, and culture.





Resources

We are hosting our first **Know Your Rights Clinic!**

OIA is partnering with Casa Cornelia Law Center to host a “Know Your Rights Clinic” for immigrants living in San Diego on December 1st. Casa Cornelia attorneys will provide information about their services and offer limited free legal consultations after the presentation. For more information about the time and the location of the event, please email us at ImmigrantAffairs@sandiego.gov, and let us know the languages you speak (for purposes of the presentation).

California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued a consumer alert advising California tenants of their rights and protections under state law: Californians who believe their landlord has violated their tenant rights or are facing eviction should seek legal help immediately. For more information and resources, visit oag.ca.gov/housing.

The alert is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), [Armenian \(Eastern\)](#), [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#), [Chinese \(Traditional\)](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Hindi](#), [Hmong](#), [Italian](#), [Japanese](#), [Khmer](#), [Korean](#), [Lao](#), [Portuguese](#), [Punjabi](#), [Russian](#), [Tagalog](#), [Telugu](#), [Thai](#), [Ukrainian](#), and [Vietnamese](#).



ROB BONTA

Attorney General

Policy Updates & Other News

Global

U.S. announces Amy Pope's nomination to become the Director General of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) based in Geneva, Switzerland: The IOM is a United Nations agency based in Geneva, Switzerland and was created to advise countries on migration issues. Amy Pope currently serves as the Deputy Director General for Management and Reform at the IOM, and prior to that she served as the White House's Senior Advisor for Migration. Pope has experience working with governments, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders on issues involving migration and other international matters.

Federal

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extends and re-designates [Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\) for Burma \(Myanmar\)](#): DHS announced the extension of TPS for Burma (Myanmar) for an additional 18 months due to extraordinary conditions in the country that prevent individuals from safely returning and residing there. Additionally, DHS is allowing Burmese nationals residing in the U.S. as of September 2022 to become eligible for TPS.

5th Circuit Court of Appeals rules against Deferred Action for Childhood Action (DACA), making the case likely to go to the Supreme Court: A Texas-based U.S. District Court judge ruled last year that DACA was illegal, finding that the program had not been subjected to the appropriate public notice and comment periods required under the federal Administrative Procedures Act. However, he left the program temporarily intact, pending appeal. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals then [ruled on October 5th](#) that the initial DACA program was unlawful, due to "substantive defects," but ordered a lower court review of the new Biden administration revisions. The new DACA rule, issued by President Biden in August, is scheduled to take effect on October 31, 2022 and changes little about the program substantively, but it was subject to public comment as part of the formal rule-making process intended to improve its chances of surviving legal scrutiny. This case is now likely to go to the Supreme Court,

marking the third time the DACA program has made it to the highest court in the nation. Currently, over 600,000 people are enrolled in DACA.

Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas provides an [update](#) on the reunification of children separated by their families under the “zero-tolerance” policy from the previous administration: On October 7th, Secretary Mayorkas shared that DHS reunified more than 500 children who were separated from their parents under the “zero-tolerance” policy created during the Trump administration. The Biden-Harris Administration Family Reunification Task Force, specifically public servants from the Departments of State, Justice, and Health & Human Services, have been collaborating and working tirelessly to reunify these families. Secretary Mayorkas stated that “[w]hile the Department of Homeland Security and the Task Force take great pride in this accomplishment, we also know that this important work isn’t finished.”

DHS announces new migration policy for Venezuelan migrants at the US-Mexico border: The Biden-Harris administration announced on October 12, 2022 a new migration enforcement process for Venezuelans. According to DHS, the process was created in tandem with Mexico and is meant “to reduce the number of people arriving at our Southwest border and create a more orderly and safe process for people fleeing the humanitarian and economic crisis in Venezuela.” Though few explicit details about the process have been released, DHS stated that effective immediately, Venezuelans who enter the United States at ports of entry without authorization will be returned to Mexico. The administration is justifying this action using Title 42, a Trump-era regulation in which migrants can be refused entry in the U.S. using public health and safety rationale. In addition, a new process, derived from the Uniting for Ukraine program, will be implemented to lawfully bring up to 24,000 qualifying Venezuelans into the United States.

To be eligible for the new program, Venezuelans must have a supporter in the United States who will provide financial and other support, pass rigorous biometric and biographic national security and public safety screening and vetting, and complete vaccinations and other public health requirements. Venezuelans are also being told not to migrate through Mexico in an effort to reach the U.S border. Supporters must first submit an [I-134, Declaration of Financial Support](#) form for a Venezuelan national, the Venezuelan national(s) must then submit biographic information and a request in the Customs & Border Patrol mobile app, and then DHS will process the forms and on a case-by-case basis, grant advance authorization to travel and a temporary period of parole for up to 2 years for some migrants. Updated information on the program will be posted [here](#).

DHS announces [TPS designation for Ethiopia](#) for 18 months: As of October 20, 2022 Ethiopia was given temporary protection status for the first time, due to the country’s conflicts and violence and a humanitarian crisis involving severe food shortages, flooding, drought, and displacement. Individuals eligible for TPS under this designation must have continuously resided in the U.S. since October 20, 2022. Individuals who attempt to travel to the U.S. after October 20, 2022 will not be eligible for TPS under this designation.

California passes legislation addressing [Human Trafficking, Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Protections for Non-Citizens Survivors \(AB 2169, Gipson\)](#): This piece of legislation provides relief for and protects immigrants who have survived human trafficking, intimate partner violence, and/or sexual violence. More specifically, the bill allows for noncitizen survivors of trafficking and violence to erase their sentences and eliminate the ongoing consequences of legally invalid convictions and arrests.

California Governor passes a series of acts that advance immigrant worker rights: Governor Newsom passed multiple pieces of legislation to advance and protect California's immigrant workforce. One bill passed is the [Fast Food Accountability and Standards \(FAST\) Recovery Act \(AB 257, Holden\)](#), which addresses issues in the fast food restaurant industry and establishes minimum employment standards regarding wages, hours, and other conditions. Another bill, the [Agricultural Labor Relations Voting Choice Act \(AB 2183, Stone\)](#), protects agricultural workers' right to vote for union representation by modernizing the voting system. The expansion of the [Paid Family Leave \(SB 951, Durazo\)](#) bill addresses low-wage workers' inability to afford to take time off to care for a newborn child or family members. Lastly, the [California Food Retail Code \(SB 972, Gonzalez\)](#) updates the existing code to ease the process for street vendors to get permits and to remove criminal penalties for street vending.

Join our team!

Interested in immigration policy and supporting immigrant communities in San Diego? Join us!

We are currently recruiting interns at the Office of Immigrant Affairs for policy, communications, or outreach projects. To learn more and apply, click below



[Learn more and apply here](#)

For any other inquiries please contact us via email at ImmigrantAffairs@sandiego.gov.

Thank you,
Office of Immigrant Affairs

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