

כל אחד הוא אור קטן וכולנו אור איתן * באנו חשך לגרש
EACH OF US IS A SMALL LIGHT, TOGETHER OUR LIGHT IS STRONG – WE HAVE COME TO EXPEL THE DARKNESS

This Chanukah (Dec. 10 – 18, 2020):
Liberation for those living in camps on our border!

Light a Chanukah candle for asylum seekers blocked from entering the US!

Then write a letter or postcard to the new administration to support the immediate end to MPP!

(Please make sure to send your letters, as detailed below, by the end of Chanukah—Dec. 18!)



HELP END THE MIGRANT “PROTECTION” PROTOCOLS (MPP)

This "postcard"/letter" action was initiated by asylum seekers in the tent camp in Matamoros, MX, at the US/MX border, who are stuck there under MPP, the Migrant Protection Protocols, also called "Remain in Mexico". 600 postcards were written by people in the camp urging an end to the inhumane MPP, and delivered to Representative Vela of Texas, who gave them to Dr. Jill Biden earlier this fall.

The idea is to urge Dr. Biden to take on Ending MPP as her special First Lady Project. She visited the migrants in Matamoros in late 2019 and saw the horrible reality for herself. Now this action has become nationwide, and here is where we come in. Letters in support of the migrants' pleas to end MPP will be flowing in from all over the US to President-Elect Biden, First Lady-Elect Dr. Jill Biden, and Vice President-Elect Harris delivered by individual US congressional representatives. (We are adding Doug Emhoff, our first Jewish second gentleman-elect!)

Locally, this effort is being coordinated by Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice of Western MA. The plan here is to collect as many "postcards"/letters as possible, which then will be sent to Congressman McGovern, who has agreed to get these to the Biden team.

THE ACTION

Please print out the postcard/letter attached below, sign your name, and write your town, state and zip code after your signature. Please then send it in an envelope to:

Annique Boomsma
66 Harkness Rd., Pelham MA 01002

Annique will collect them all **by December 20th** and send to the contact at Congressman McGovern's office, who has agreed to make sure they will get delivered to President-Elect Biden, First Lady-Elect Dr. Jill Biden, Vice President-Elect Harris, and Second Gentleman-Elect Emhoff. Thank you for participating.

Please share this with your networks!

Dear President-Elect Joe Biden; First Lady-Elect Dr. Jill Biden; Vice President- Elect Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman-Elect Doug Emhoff,

Congratulations on the election!

Thank you for your comprehensive, fair and compassionate Immigration platform, which we urge you to implement with a great sense of urgency. It contains many long overdue promises for immigration justice.



As you know, President Trump's deeply flawed **Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)** continues to cause incredible suffering for people trapped at the **US-Mexico border**. According to US tradition and law, migrants have the right to seek asylum in the US. Under Trump's MPP, migrants have been returned to Mexico to wait for the duration of their immigration proceedings. Their pain and suffering has been exacerbated because proceedings have stopped due to the coronavirus pandemic. The migrants live in utterly inhumane and increasingly life-threatening conditions.

For well over a year, migrants have lived in camps in Matamoros and other cities along the border. These families, including children and newborns, are stuck. They live on the streets or in nylon tents. They are vulnerable to severe weather, as well as to attacks by human traffickers and criminal groups that assault, rape, kidnap, and torture people. This is a humanitarian crisis. It is unacceptable. We must not look away for another minute.

On a trip in 2019, Dr. Jill Biden visited the tent camp in Matamoros and saw the horrid reality caused by MPP. MPP does NOT protect migrants. It causes them continued, likely permanent trauma. After escaping dangerous and violent conditions in their home countries, these men, women, and children came to the United States pleading for safety and protection.

These people have suffered far too much already! I ask you to fulfill your just immigration policy proposals – for migrants and refugees. **Thank you so much for all you can do to end MPP as soon as possible. Lives are at stake!**

Thank you,