



AMERICAN GATEWAYS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2023

From the Desk of Edna Yang, Co-Executive Director

The summer heat can be unpleasant for us here in Texas, but it is deadly for some of the migrants trying to make it to the United States and flee persecution. We were glad to see [some progress](#) in the case against migrant smugglers for their atrocities last summer. But more militarization, like [river barriers](#), along our Southern border do nothing to advance human rights or reform our immigration system. These political plays only dehumanize those who are fleeing to find safety, freedom, and a chance at a better life without fear or violence for themselves and their families. We believe that Texas can do better and become a welcoming place where the dignity and humanity of immigrants is recognized and a place where immigrants can access the justice system in a fair and equitable manner.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is an important tool in America's toolkit to help immigrants who our government recognizes cannot return to their home country. After years of litigation around TPS and its termination for certain nations, the federal government has renewed this status for nationals of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Next month, our Austin office is hosting a clinic for El Salvadorans, and in the fall, we will be preparing a legal clinic to help people from Honduras and Nicaragua renew their TPS status. If you would like to volunteer at one of our clinics, please get in touch with me at ednay@americangateways.org.

We continue to do our part to support communities under attack, from LGBTQIA+ immigrants, women escaping domestic abuse and others. I'm especially proud of the work of our dedicated staff in providing necessary services at remote detention centers, where many immigrants fleeing violence are imprisoned and without our services would be left with little access to information about their legal rights and options. Through various hardships - a massive Texas ice storm, a pandemic, and record breaking heat - our dedicated staff have continued to provide legal education, information, and representation to those who otherwise would go without.

Your support matters more than ever now. We need your help to do our critical work and ensure that the fundamental rights of immigrants seeking safety and hope are protected. You can support our work through a donation [here](#).



Upcoming Events

We invite you or anyone you know to our **Virtual Immigrant Justice 101 events**, which take place quarterly. Our next event will be on September 8, 2023. You can register [here](#).

Mark your calendar for October 12th! Save the date for the **2023 Immigrant Justice Luncheon fundraiser for American Gateways** from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Holy Cross Catholic Church - Family Life Center in Austin. We will share the link to register and more information about the event in the next edition of this newsletter.

Staff Anniversaries

Join us in celebrating our staff in their work anniversaries!

[Jessica Valenzuela](#), Legal Caseworker & San Antonio Office Manager - 7 years

[Nadi Lopez](#), Legal Caseworker - 2 years



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