



AMERICAN GATEWAYS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2024

From the Desk of Edna Yang, Co-Executive Director

Happy New Year!

We had a busier holiday season than anticipated. Congress debated changes to the country's asylum laws, candidates spouted fiery anti-immigrant rhetoric, and thousands of migrants seeking safety converged on the U.S. - Mexico border.

At American Gateways, we are doing everything we can to support our clients and to advocate for compassionate, common-sense policies.

That includes joining a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Texas Senate Bill 4, a hateful new law that would make unauthorized entry into the state a class B misdemeanor. This would become a felony depending on the person's criminal history and, notably, would let a state judge or county magistrate order the person deported, despite the fact they have the right to apply for immigration relief under our federal laws.

This discriminatory, unconstitutional law should not go into effect, even for a second, so we have sought an [injunction](#) to block the law before it ever starts. As we know, even rumors of state and local officials acting as federal immigration officials creates unnecessary fear and confusion in our communities.

Meanwhile we are keeping a watchful eye on Congress, as lawmakers debate the best ways to manage the Southern border while also honoring the dignity of people escaping persecution in their home countries.

The thousands of people moving toward Texas represent a long-simmering humanitarian

crisis. In our work we have seen how the underfunded, understaffed immigration courts create a backlog that means months or years for people to have a chance to make their cases for asylum. When most of the resources go to “border security” instead of immigration courts and processing of cases, then there are severe delays for years that threaten people’s legal rights and humanity. We all recognize that our current system is broken. It’s time to take a look at realistic solutions that will help not only those coming and seeking protection, but also the communities that are receiving them.

So 2024 is starting off with a flurry of challenges and shows no signs of slowing. We will be here, as we have been for nearly 40 years – advocating for immigrants and their families.

Thank you for your continued support, and we will keep you updated on ways you can be involved. You can support our work through a donation [here](#).

Donate Today

Staff Anniversaries

Join us in celebrating our staff in their work anniversaries!

[Erika Gonzalez](#), Outreach & Communication Coordinator: DOJ Accredited Representative - 9 years

[Chris Anderson](#), Accountant - 6 years

[Rosa Hernandez](#), Grants and Operations Manager - 5 years

[Robert Painter](#), Legal Director - 10 years



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