

Sin Barreras/Without Barriers Policy Statement

Third Country Agreements - Dec. 2019

Sin Barreras urges you to write your Representative in Congress and your Senators asking them to pass legislation requiring the federal government to rescind “Safe Third Country Agreements,” which it has reached with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. These agreements are contrary to the language of the Immigration and Nationality Act and international law and inhumane toward people seeking protection from crime and dangerous situations.

In July 2019, under pressure from the United States, Guatemala entered into an “Asylum Cooperative Agreement” under which the Guatemalan government will process the asylum claims of people who pass through Guatemala on their way to the U.S. border. The new agreement went into effect on November 19. On November 20, the U.S. government began sending some asylum seekers from Honduras and El Salvador to Guatemala rather than permitting them to seek protection in the United States. Instead, people will be required to apply for asylum in Guatemala, a country with one of the highest rates of violence, poverty and malnutrition in the entire Western Hemisphere.