



Federally Funded NGOs: Final Leg of the Cartels' Chain of Trafficking

A growing number of federal taxpayer funded nonprofits known as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are encouraging and aiding the flood of migrants pouring over the Southwest border. The pandemonium at the border is expected to worsen if Title 42 is fully eliminated and the U.S. Border Control Patrol (USBP) loses the ability to expel migrants back to their countries of origin.

On the southern border, an ever-growing network of cartels are running lucrative human trafficking operations with migrants paying thousands of dollars to be smuggled into America. Once in America, NGOs complete many of the migrants' journeys by providing a place for them to stay and then arranging travel to their destination of choice.

BACKGROUND

- **Biden's chaos at the southern border is expected to worsen if Title 42 is eliminated.**
 - The U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) and the Office of Field Operations (OFO) encountered 1,273,020 migrants on the Southwest border over 6 months from February 2022 through the end of July 2022.¹
 - This is a 586% increase in encounters from the same period of time (February 2020 through July 2020) under Trump administration policies.²
 - There were 565,977 Title 42 expulsions during the 6-month period from February 2022 through the end of July 2022.³
 - Title 42 allows the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may prohibit entry into the United States from another country if there is a "serious danger of the introduction" of a communicable disease from the country of origin, in order to protect the "interest of the public health."⁴ (For more on Title 42, see *Biden's COVID-19 Border Crisis*)⁵
 - On April 1, 2022, the CDC announced it was ending Title 42 enforcement as of May 23, 2022.⁶ On May 20th, a federal judge in Louisiana blocked the Biden Administration from ending the policy.⁷ The White House announced plans to appeal the ruling.⁸
 - If Title 42 is eliminated, the Department of Homeland Security estimates that as many as 18,000 migrants per day, over 6 million a year, will be crossing the southern border.⁹
- **Cartels are the winners from the Biden administration's destructive border policy.**
 - Cartels have become sophisticated human smuggling organizations to get migrants across the border.^{10,11}
 - They have advertised on social media, developed a complicated wrist band system to keep track of their "clients," and use families they are smuggling as decoys to distract agents while they run drugs and criminals across a different area of the border.¹²
 - These operations have made cartels extremely wealthy, with experts estimating border traffickers earning as much as \$14 million a day from their human and drug smuggling operations.¹³
 - Migrants paying cartels are often subjected to horrific conditions, with women and children being extremely vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.¹⁴

- **Role of Federal funded NGOs – the final leg of the cartel’s chain of trafficking.**
 - A network of nonprofits aid the flood of migrants illegally coming over America’s southern border.¹⁵
 - The Biden administration is coordinating closely with these NGOs, including having the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) bus migrants to nonprofit shelters and providing federal tax-payer funding.¹⁶
 - These NGOs house migrants in hotels, purchase airplane tickets, and provide instructions on how to get through TSA without proper ID along with how to enroll children into school once they reach their final destination^{17,18,19}
 - Some NGOs operating in Mexico are coaching migrants on how to recover “repressed memories” of hardship to get around American asylum laws.²⁰
 - Watchdog groups, such as Judicial Watch and Catholic Vote, along with Congressional Republicans have demanded answers and transparency from the Biden Administration and these NGOs about the services they provide that encourage, transport, and harbor aliens to enter the United States.^{21, 22, 23}
 - Although these nonprofits may have altruistic motivations, they are facilitating a humanitarian crisis and completing the work of cartels by getting migrants to their final travel destinations.

- **Taxpayer money is funding the network of nonprofits that are exasperating this humanitarian crisis.**
 - FEMA provides grants to nonprofits that deliver direct services to migrants released from DHS custody.²⁴
 - The FEMA grants can be used for food, lodging, personal supplies, and transportation costs.^{25,26}
 - The United Nations funnels American taxpayer money to migrants in the form of “Refugee Travel Loans” made through resettlement NGOs.²⁷
 - Many of these loans have not been paid back by the migrants and the NGOs can keep up to 25% of the funding they receive.
 - Use of NGOs will increase. In an April 26, 2022 memo, DHS Secretary Mayorkas laid out plans to bolster, “...the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to receive noncitizens after they have been processed by CBP...”²⁸

POLICY SOLUTIONS

Many nonprofits that are part of the NGO community do important work, but there needs to be more transparency and oversight of taxpayer funds and the activities these NGOs are doing on the border that worsen this crisis.

- Congress should continue to press the Biden administration for more details on how they partner with NGOs and plan to expand their capacity.²⁹
- Nonprofits that receive federal funds should publicly report the number of migrants they have harbored and transported.
- NGOs that transport migrants to different communities should notify the appropriate local, state, and federal law enforcement, public health, child welfare, and education agencies before releasing these individuals into communities.
- Congress could pass legislation such as H.R. 6773, the Protecting Federal Funding for Human Trafficking and Smuggling Act³⁰ which would defund any U.S. nonprofit that violates federal law and regulation by harboring, transporting, and encouraging illegal immigrants.
- Refugee Travel Loans need greater transparency and oversight of lack of repayment of taxpayer funds.
- State Department policies for collecting Refugee Travel Loans need to be reviewed to ensure proper procedures are in place to track loans and collect repayment.

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² Ibid.

³ U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Nationwide Enforcement Encounters: Title 8 Enforcement Actions and Title 42 Expulsions 2022. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics/title-8-and-title-42-statistics>

⁴ U.S. Code. 42 USC 265 <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title42/chapter6A/subchapter2/partG&edition=prelim> and “Nationwide Enforcement Encounters: Title 8 Enforcement Actions and Title 42 Expulsions.” U.S. Customs and Border Protection. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics/title-8-and-title-42-statistics>

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¹⁴ Department of Homeland Security: ICE. Human Smuggling Equals Gave Danger, Big Money. June, 21, 2022 <https://www.ice.gov/features/human-smuggling-danger>

¹⁵ Houston Keene. Texas Rep. Gooden, Presses Catholic Charities, other NGOs about Role in Border Crisis. February 10, 2022. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/texas-rep-good-presses-catholic-charities-ngo-border-crisis>

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