

## Vice President Kamala Harris: A Leader on Border Security, Transnational Criminal Organizations, Regional Migration and Immigration Reform

Trump and Republicans are trying to distract from their efforts to take away women's reproductive rights, dismantle Medicare and the Affordable Care Act and erode the accomplishments of the Biden-Harris administration by attacking the Vice President's robust record on immigration and security. Since her tenure as a Senator and Attorney General of California, and now as the Vice President, VP Kamala Harris has been one of the nation's foremost leaders on immigration reform, efforts to [combat transnational crime](#), and [strengthen border security](#). In stark contrast to Republican Vice President nominee J.D. Vance who has echoed Trump's nativist record, endorsing [Project 2025](#), [mass deportation and detention](#) of Dreamers and long-settled immigrants, and blocked bipartisan efforts to fix our immigration system in his short time in the Senate, VP Harris has been a steadfast supporter of immigration reform since her time in the Senate, [championing citizenship for dreamers and the longtime undocumented](#), efforts to [keep families together](#), and smart border security measures. She can be counted on to do even more to strengthen our security and deliver for immigrant communities in her second term.

The Biden-Harris administration has dramatically [improved regional cooperation on migration management](#), [worked to address the root causes of hemispheric migration](#), and [created lawful pathways to citizenship](#). While Vice President Harris took on the responsibility and challenge of addressing the root causes of global migration, Republicans attempted to falsely brand her the "border czar" when that was not and is not her role. The border is the responsibility of DHS and DHS has sharply [reduced migration](#) through the southern border in recent months. When elected, President Biden asked the Vice President to focus on Latin American migration and to begin to [rebuild](#) what most experts consider to be an essential if relatively new component of rising to the challenge of managing and mitigating the worldwide surge in international migration.

**As Vice President and leader of the [Root Causes Strategy](#), VP Harris focuses on improving security, economic conditions, human rights, and governance in the Western Hemisphere, to ensure that people can remain in their countries of origin rather than migrating to the U.S. The VP has taken the following critical steps:**

- Mobilized more than [\\$5.2 billion](#) in private sector investments in the region from more than 47 companies, [including](#) giants like Microsoft, Mastercard, and Nespresso. These investments helped to create over 250,000 jobs in the region, provided funding for small businesses, and supported the [economic inclusion of women](#).
- Provided significant economic and humanitarian assistance to El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, to address immediate humanitarian needs of people in the region. In April

2021, Harris [announced](#) \$310 million in U.S. Government support to address acute factors contributing to migration in the region.

- Successfully [appealed](#) to the United Nations to launch the 2021 - 2022 Humanitarian Response Plans for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras - through which the United States has provided almost \$169 million towards humanitarian efforts in the Northern Triangle region.
- Launched “[In Her Hands](#),” an initiative focused on women’s economic empowerment, in collaboration with the Partnership for Central America. By 2030, the initiative aims to provide 5 million women in Guatemala with job support, financial literacy, and technical training.

### **VP Harris has led the fight to keep the DACA program**

- **VP Harris fought Trump’s move to end DACA.** In 2017, Trump announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that helps Dreamers who are Americans in all but their paperwork to live and work in the U.S. As a member of the Senate Judiciary and Homeland Security committees, VP Harris helped to lead oversight efforts over Trump’s decision to terminate this successful program. VP Harris conducted extensive questioning and investigation through hearings with DHS Secretary John Kelly and DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.
- **During her tenure in the Senate, VP Harris established herself as a champion of relief and protections for Dreamers and the longtime undocumented.** She [urged Congress to act](#) to create clear pathways to citizenship for dreamers, TPS holders, and farmworkers, while uplifting and highlighting the contributions of immigrants in the care sector. As a Senator, VP Harris supported [executive actions](#) to help Dreamers remain in the U.S. She co-led a [letter](#) calling on DHS to immediately comply with the Supreme Court’s decision rejecting the Trump Administration’s rescission of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and requiring the Administration to reopen DACA for new applicants.
- **The Biden-Harris administration has worked to strengthen the DACA program.** The administration issued a regulation to fortify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). The administration and the State Department just released a [new policy](#) that will streamline Dreamers’ access to visas and the administration is working on a new parole in place [policy](#) to allow U.S. citizen spouses to remain together. The administration also reversed an earlier rule to allow Dreamers to [access healthcare through the ACA](#).

### **VP Harris has led efforts to combat Transnational Criminal Organizations**

- As Attorney General of California, VP Harris led efforts to design a [plan](#) to combat Transnational Criminal Organizations.

- Upon taking office, the Biden-Harris Administration issued an [Executive Order](#) that created a new U.S. Council on Transnational Organized Crime to develop whole-of-government plans to combat transnational organized crime. In 2023, VP Harris convened Attorneys General from 7 states and D.C. on efforts to disrupt the illicit fentanyl supply chain.
- Created [Joint Task Force Alpha](#), an anti-smuggling and anti-human trafficking task force intended to address irregular migration throughout Mexico and the Northern Triangle region. Joint Task Force Alpha is implemented in [cooperation](#) with local law enforcement in the countries where it operates.
- During her tenure in the Senate, co-sponsored rare [bipartisan legislation](#) with Senator Cornyn (R-TX) that improved the identification of missing persons and unidentified remains in the border region, including with respect to migrants.

**VP Harris and the Biden Administration created lawful, fair, and humane migration pathways in cooperation with our regional partners.**

- VP Harris and the administration created [safe and orderly lawful pathways processes](#) that have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of these individuals encountered at our southern border.
- Worked with the Guatemalan, Honduran, and El Salvadoran governments to improve access to [H-2B visas](#), allowing seasonal workers to lawfully migrate to the United States. These partnerships regularize labor migration and help the U.S. address its labor shortage, while expanding access to seasonal work opportunities to people from the Northern Triangle.

**VP Harris helped to lead efforts in the Senate to investigate Trump's harmful family separation policy**

- As a Senator serving on the Senate Judiciary and Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committees, VP Harris led efforts to conduct oversight of Trump's separation of families at the border. In 2018, she grilled DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen on the separations. She also [co-sponsored legislation](#) to end the horrible practice.