

VENEZUELAN MIGRATION CRISIS AND THE U.S. POLICIES

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After the Supreme Court's ruling [issued](#) on December 27, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [declared](#) that *“the Title 42 public health order will remain in effect and individuals who attempt to enter the United States unlawfully will continue to be expelled to Mexico or their home country”*.

Consequently, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) new border enforcement measures on January 5, 2023, to *“increase security at the border and reduce the number of individuals crossing unlawfully between ports of entry”, including a “new and expanded legal pathways to the United States”*.

This new pathway is a modification of the parole process implemented in October 2022 in response to the increasing numbers of Venezuelan crossing the border. The DHS decided to increase border control *“to reduce the number of people arriving at our Southwest border and create a more orderly and safe process for people fleeing the humanitarian and economic crisis in Venezuela”*. To disincentive the irregular migration, it was also announced a special parole process *“to lawfully and safely bring up to 24,000 qualifying Venezuelans into the United States”*.

After the decision to maintain the application of Title 42, the Biden-Harris Administration decided to expand this parole to Nicaraguans, Haitians, and Cuban, increasing the number of beneficiaries to up to 30,000 individuals per month (from all four nationalities). Although the new parole applies to different nationalities, the number of Venezuelans that could benefit from this measure could be greater than the maximum limit fixed in 2022, considering that as of December 27, 2022, DHS [authorized](#) travel for more than 15,700 Venezuelan beneficiaries, almost 65% of the total 2022 quota.

Therefore, the parole could alleviate the situation of some Venezuelans and provide a safe, regular, and orderly pathway to entry into the U.S. But the Venezuela crisis requires much more than this.

As was [ruled](#) by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the complex humanitarian emergency and gross human rights violations caused the migration crisis in Venezuela. Following the [Los Angeles Declaration](#) and the [2018 Global Compacts](#), those are the root causes that should be tackled.

And those causes still need to be solved. Despite the economic growth registered in 2022, Venezuela is the [most unequal country](#) in the unequal region of the world. The local currency [devaluated](#) by 73%, while the estimated [inflation](#) rate in 2022 was 305%. In

January 2023, thousands of teachers [protested](#) for a better salary: the minimum wage in Venezuela is approximately 7 dollars *per month*.

The human rights situation had yet to improve. In September 2022, the UN Fact Finding [detailed](#) responsibilities for crimes against humanity. And in November, the ICC Prosecutor [requested](#) authorization to continue the investigation regarding Venezuela, considering the lack of genuine reforms to ensure an impartial and effective investigation by the Government of Venezuela.

What is needed is a U.S. strategy for addressing the root causes of migration in Venezuela with a regional approach similar to the one [approved](#) regarding Central America. The parole process for Venezuela is an alleviation policy that does not address the root causes. Without that comprehensive strategy, the humanitarian [crisis](#) of Venezuelan migrants and refugees will continue.