



EAST BAY
SANCTUARY COVENANT

Please join EBSC in speaking out against the Trump administration's attacks on asylum laws and policies.

"The Trump administration is waging an all-out battle on asylum protections. The government's proposed bans would have a huge and detrimental impact on the vulnerable populations we serve — victims of gender-based violence, indigenous Guatemalans, LGBT individuals, and unaccompanied children. Our clients deserve safety and protection under U.S. and international asylum law."

- Michael Smith, EBSC's Director of Refugee Rights

EBSC is lead plaintiff in two current lawsuits – EBSC v. Trump and EBSC v. Barr

EBSC V. TRUMP

In November 2018, when the Trump administration tried to deny asylum rights to anyone who couldn't reach an official port of entry – a potential death sentence for thousands of people – we took them to court.

Status: PENDING. We won a temporary Supreme Court injunction, but expect a prolonged court battle and need the resources to see it through.

EBSC V. BARR

In July 2019, we joined a new ACLU-led lawsuit challenging the administration's racist and unlawful ban on people seeking asylum if they passed through a third country to reach the U.S.

Status: PENDING. We won another injunction, but in September 2019, the Supreme Court issued a devastating decision to remove it – adding even more urgency to our case.

Why do these lawsuits matter?

The words on the Statue of Liberty -- **"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..."** – exemplify core values for our country and illustrate why EBSC exists. Founded in 1982, EBSC has one of the largest asylum programs in the country and has filed almost 4,000 asylum cases with an over 97% success rate - demonstrating that our clients have legitimate cases that are being approved by the U.S. government.

These attacks are another example of the Trump administration rewriting the law to discriminate against refugees of color from poor countries.



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Facts about EBSC v. Trump

- The government's rule violates international and domestic laws that specifically state that any individual in the U.S. or arriving at the border – “whether or not at a designated port of arrival” – has a **legal right to apply for asylum**. These laws apply to people who are already in the U.S. and are unable to return to their home country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.
- **80% of EBSC clients enter the U.S. without inspection after fleeing atrocious forms of persecution. They have never heard of asylum.** They are fleeing for their lives and may not have a passport or proper documentation. Most do not know there's a designated port of entry. They are just trying to find safety. All of these people deserve the opportunity to ask for asylum and have an immigration officer review their case.
- **EBSC serves clients who are extremely poor, uneducated, and marginally literate. It is impossible for them to get a visa to come to the U.S.** Only people with money, resources, and connections can get visas.
- **80% of EBSC clients are victims of rape and sexual abuse, including male and female children.**
- **Over 90% of EBSC clients have suffered terrible forms of persecution leading to extreme Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression.** The trauma is compounded on the dangerous journey north. Due to the extent of the trauma, it may take years for them to feel safe enough to come out of the shadows to apply for asylum.
- **Many EBSC clients come from Mexico and are fleeing violence and persecution there, including LGBTQ clients and survivors of gender-based violence.** This shows why people may not want to obtain asylum in Mexico and are not safe waiting there.
- **Going forward, 80% of EBSC clients would be unable to apply for asylum. The ramifications of the Trump administration's actions will be long-reaching for people who are genuinely deserving of asylum protection.** EBSC's asylum program reaching the most traumatized populations would be terminated.

Facts about EBSC v. Barr

- **The administration's rule is clearly unlawful.** While this lawsuit is working its way through the appeals process, there is a desperate need to have a nationwide injunction so that asylum seekers are not sent back into life threatening danger while this case is being litigated. **The stakes in this case could not be higher. This case would effectively end asylum at the southern border for everyone except Mexicans.**
- **The Trump administration's attempts to dismantle asylum protections upend four decades of law.** Since enacting the asylum statute in 1980, Congress has made it absolutely clear that you can apply for asylum in the U.S. even if you did not enter through a legal port of entry or if you transited through another country. The Trump administration's policies are racist and xenophobic, harming primarily refugees of color who are fleeing atrocious persecution and violence.