

Human mobility in Latin America will be a reality for a while.

Here are five workable proposals.

1. **Work with reformers in Central America** to address the root causes of violence, corruption and lack of economic opportunities driving irregular migration from the region. Target assistance first to the communities sending the most migrants.
2. **Recognize Mexico's role** in supporting Central American migrants and asylum seekers, and help Mexico punish smuggling, assaults on migrants, and related corruption.
3. **Expand and modernize our land ports of entry** to improve drug interdiction and streamline processing of asylum seekers. Expand processing capacity in every border sector to eliminate the need for "waitlists" in Mexico, and hire or contract civilian personnel to handle processing.
4. Implement effective, inexpensive, and non-intrusive **alternatives to detention programs** while asylum seekers await hearings inside the United States.
5. Reduce that wait time in the United States, to the minimum time that due process requires, by **investing in an independent immigration adjudication system** with enough judges and courts.

Meanwhile, stop doing things that aggravate the humanitarian crisis.

1. **Stop construction of border walls**, especially in rural and wilderness areas where they offer no significant tactical advantage.
2. **Pull back the active-duty military and National Guard deployments.**
Instead, improve salaries, conditions, and incentives for CBP officers and Border Patrol agents (while improving accountability over them) so that those agencies may reach their legally mandated staffing levels.
3. **End "Remain in Mexico," "metering," "safe" third country arrangements, the HARP and PACR programs, the transit ban,** and other measures that have all but eliminated the legal right to seek asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border.
4. **Relieve CBP and Border Patrol of border migration management responsibilities like holding and processing,** allowing them to focus on terrorism, drug interdiction, and other security and law enforcement threats. Assign border migration duties to another, civilian agency.