

Department of Justice Actions to Address the Influx of Migrants Crossing the Southwest Border in the United States:

Focusing the department's immigration processing resources on recent border crossers. Prioritizing cases involving migrants that have recently crossed the southwest border so that these cases are processed more quickly and fairly, and will take action to increase immigration court capacity.

- Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) will re-prioritize its dockets to focus on recent border crossers. The new priorities will be unaccompanied children who recently crossed the southwest border; families who recently crossed the border and are held in detention; families who recently crossed the border but are on “alternatives to detention;” and other detained cases.
- To allocate resources with these priorities, EOIR will reassign immigration judges in immigration courts around the country from their current dockets to hear the cases of individuals falling in these four groups. In appropriate cases, EOIR will save relocation costs by utilizing modern technology and allowing judges to hear cases via video teleconference. Cases not falling into one of these groups may be rescheduled to accommodate higher priority cases.
- DOJ will also be sending to the Federal Register this week a regulation allowing for the appointment of temporary immigration judges. These immigration judges will provide additional capacity and focus on key priorities while swiftly and effectively processing cases.
- The department will redouble efforts to work with Mexican authorities to apprehend smugglers aiding unaccompanied minors in crossing the southwest border.
- DOJ is seeking funding to establish legal and law enforcement advisors at U.S. embassies in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to aid those countries' law enforcement officials in identifying, disrupting and dismantling immigrant smuggling operations. The department would also work to establish a police-vetted unit to collaborate with prosecutors on violent crime.
 - Legal advisors would be able to work with foreign police and prosecutors to develop and build capacities to effectively handle ongoing complex investigations, emphasizing the investigation of human smuggling organizations; improve communication between law enforcement and prosecutors regarding enforcement actions on the border, particularly in cases involving human smugglers; and help create teams of human trafficking prosecutors and organized crime prosecutors who could respond when needed on short notice.