



**FAITH**  
IN FLORIDA

BUILDING A BELOVED  
**COMMUNITY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2023

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### **WEDNESDAY: Faith in Florida Calls Upon Both the Biden Administration and Gov. Ron DeSantis to Offer Support for Haitian Refugees**

**Orlando, FL.-** [Faith in Florida](#) and its network of 800 congregations statewide express unwavering solidarity with Haiti. We call upon leaders in both the United States and Florida to extend compassionate support and humanitarian aid to Haitian refugees. Families are living in fear, and many are being forced to flee their country. Over 80 percent of the capital, Port-au-Prince, has been taken over by gangs. Since the beginning of 2024 alone, these gangs have claimed the lives of over 1,100 people and injured nearly 700 others. Their reign of terror includes systematic rape, indiscriminate kidnapping, and mass killings, all carried out with impunity. The seizure of the country's largest port, Autorite' Portuaire Nationale, by these gangs poses a serious threat to the nation's food supply chain, potentially leading to food shortages.

"In 1804, Haiti demonstrated an ability to overcome seemingly insuperable challenges and yet made history to be the first free black republic in the world. Today, they remain a resilient and powerful nation, capable of achieving great things once again," **said Faith in Florida Haitian Immigration Organizer Nathalie Setoute.** "Haiti deserves autonomy to determine its own path forward, with decisions made by leaders who understand their country best. Any involvement from foreign governments should align with the aspirations and needs of the Haitian people, fostering a clear path to democracy and effective governance."

Since Haiti's declaration of independence from France in 1804, colonial powers, including the United States, have sought to control and exploit the country through military intervention, neoliberal economic policies, and political interference. Therefore, we believe that the United States has a responsibility to reparatory justice to Haiti. However, rather than acting quickly to help, the U.S. is delaying support. They're moving slowly in processing asylum requests and openly turning away refugees, particularly in Florida.

Over [270,000](#) residents in Florida are Haitian and have family members who are currently displaced because of this crisis. Unfortunately, instead of showing support for these families, Governor Ron DeSantis, yet again, has demonstrated a lack of concern for the people he was voted to serve. He has now sent thousands of officers deployed to the Key West border, criminalizing refugees who are in need of assistance and compassion.

In our places of worship and homes, undocumented immigrants and their families enrich our cultural and social life. All people of faith are called to love and welcome our neighbors. When we see our immigrant brothers and sisters being targeted, it is our moral obligation to stand up for them and stand up for righteousness. We need extended protections to extend and redesignate the Republic of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and impose a moratorium on deportations. Also, immediate humanitarian support demands that included a comprehensive and compassionate response from the United States and other foreign countries.

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*Faith in Florida (FIF) is about people, power, and change. Through a network of congregations and community leaders in South, Central, and North Florida, we unite people of faith to act in a unified moral voice for racial, economic, environmental, and social justice.*

*FIF has over 800 congregations, representing over 35 counties and 160,000 families. Over the past year, the Faith and Florida Team spoke with over 249,000 working-class Voters of Color. As a result, during the 2020 election cycle, we produced a 60% voter turnout rate at the polls. Visit [www.faithinflorida.org](http://www.faithinflorida.org) for more information.*