THIRD COUNTRY DEPORTATION REMOVALS

Since February 2025, the United States has dramatically expanded deporting people to countries where they have no citizenship, family, or ties, often with little or no notice, and without a meaningful chance to contest it. In some cases, the individual may not speak the language or be familiar with the culture of the country to which they are deported.

This practice, known as a third-country removal or deportation, typically happens when the U.S. government cannot deport someone to their home country because of diplomatic breakdowns, safety concerns, or refusal by their nation to accept them.

Under a series of often-secret agreements, the Trump administration has deported some 25,000 people to more than two dozen countries. The number of third country deportations/removals occurring today is unprecedented in the history of the US.

At the end of September, the US Supreme Court allowed for the continuation of deporting people to third countries while the justices consider whether the policy is legal. An earlier appeals court ruling had placed a halt on the deportations.

Currently, no legislation has been put forward rectifying this policy while the Supreme Court considers its legality.

Below are resources regarding this important issue and how this policy affects the lives of those deported and those of their loved ones.

RESOURCES

https://refugees.org/tcdtracker/

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/supreme-court-lets-trump-continue-deporting-people-to-3rd-countries-while-justices-consider-policy

https://www.npr.org/2026/10/05/nx-s1-5986309/npr-spoke-to-cuban-men-now-stuck-in-limbo-in-central-african-republic

https://www.ms.now/news/third-country-deportation-trump-sends-texas-pastor-ghana

KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT – S. 1748

As AI and Data Centers have garnered our attention and concern, Senate Bill 1748-Kids Online Safety Act is an attempt by the US Senate to address areas of social media platforms which may negatively affect youth under age 17.

In May 2025, the bill was introduced in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. After the committee revised it, the bill gained broad bipartisan support in August 2026, with 76 senators signing as co-sponsors. It is now awaiting advancement to the full Senate for debate and a vote.

A summary of the bill and the names of the bill's co-sponsors may be found here https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/1748.

When the Senate reconvenes in November, encourage your senators even if they are cosponsors of the bill to bring the bill forward to a vote on the Senate floor. https://www.congressweb.com/GSNAC/392

DEATH PENALTY: A CALL TO COURAGEOUS COMMUNION

The ongoing controversy surrounding the death penalty raises valid questions about human dignity, justice, and the sanctity of life. On the World Day Against the Death Penalty, the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph joined the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and the Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN) in challenging the U.S. Department of Defense's announced intention to publicly execute Nidal Hasan. Their shared message calls attention to the contradiction between state-sponsored killing and the Gospel's call to protect life and reject violence. While recognizing the profound suffering experienced by victims and their families, these faith leaders affirm that respect for life must extend to every person, including those who have committed serious harm.

Rooted in the example of Jesus, who responded to violence with mercy and forgiveness, the Sisters of Saint Joseph invite us to embrace nonviolence as a daily commitment—not only in our opposition to the death penalty, but also in our words, actions, and responses to the suffering of others. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious reminds us that we must never lose sight of the humanity of any person, even while seeking justice and remembering those who have been harmed.

RESOURCES

Pope Leo XIV Rejects the Death Penalty
Vatican News

U.S. Catholic Bishops
UCCB President's Statement

Sisters of Saint Joseph U.S. Federation Statement
Statement and Call to Courageous Communion

Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)
LCWR Statement on the Dignity of Life and Nonviolence

CELEBRATING BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH

November is **Black Catholic History Month**, a time to honor the contributions of Black Catholics to the Church, remember their spiritual ancestors, and celebrate the rich history of Black Catholic faith and spirituality. Established in 1990 by the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, this observance coincides with All Saints' Day (November 1), All Souls' Day (November 2), and the Feast of St. Martin de Porres (November 3).

This month can be a time to learn more about the seven Black Catholics who are on the path to canonization. One of these is Mother Mary Lange of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. Elizabeth Lange was born in Santiago de Cuba, most likely in the French speaking part of the city and was a well-educated young woman of comfortable status. In the early 1800's, Elizabeth left her home in Cuba to seek refuge during conflict in the United States. Once arrived, she was directed to Baltimore, Maryland where other French-speaking Catholic refugees were also looking for better opportunity. Elizabeth was a strong and loving and deeply spiritual woman who had a passion for educating her fellow Caribbean immigrants. She sacrificed her own money to offer free education to children from her home, and in 1828, she worked with the Archbishop James Whitfield to open a school for girls and founded a religious order which became the first religious order for African American women. Mother Mary Lange persevered through poverty and racial injustice and was able to live in close union with God until 1882. She is remembered for her sacrifice and devotion.

Article by: Jackson Savokinas and Kathy Finke

RESOURCES

Black Catholic History 2026 (National Black Catholic Congress)

Mother Mary Lange Website

Celebrating Black Catholic History Month by LaKeshia N. Myers