

VEPPEX | AMAVEX

GENERAL REPORT

MIGRATION SITUATION OF VENEZUELANS IN THE UNITED STATES

Loss of protection, documentary instability, and increased risk of detention and removal

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Asociación Multicultural de Activistas Voz y Expresión (AMAVEX, INC.)
Directed to the United States Congress and Secretary of State Marco Rubio
Cutoff date: August 22, 2026**

Washington, D.C. / Miami, Florida

Executive Summary

The migration situation of Venezuelans in the United States has become more unstable during 2025 and 2026. The termination and litigation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), the reduction of parole pathways, changes in employment authorizations, the increase in exposure to detention, and the expansion of removals to third countries affect differently former or current TPS beneficiaries, persons admitted under parole, asylum applicants with pending cases, persons protected under the Convention Against Torture (CAT) or withholding of removal, persons with final orders under ICE supervision, and mixed-status families.

These categories are not equivalent. A work permit, a pending application, or an order of supervision do not by themselves constitute permanent residence or guarantee that a person cannot be detained. However, they demonstrate a formal and continuous relationship with the immigration system. When the rules on protection, employment authorization, detention, and documentation change while cases remain pending, the impact is transferred immediately to employment, housing, mobility, legal defense, and family stability.

CENTRAL CONCLUSION

The decisions adopted during 2025 and 2026 have reduced or made more unstable protections, authorizations, and documentary mechanisms on which numerous Venezuelans depend to remain, work, and continue their immigration proceedings. The United States may enforce its immigration laws, but custody and removal decisions must be individualized, respect due process, and allow persons to comply lawfully with the system's own requirements.

Main Findings

- The 2020 Census recorded 605,381 persons of Venezuelan origin in the United States, an increase of 181,5 % compared with 2010. That figure serves as a demographic reference and should not be interpreted as a current count of persons subject to immigration measures.¹
- Decisions concerning TPS have affected hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans and continue to be subject to litigation, judicial orders, and changes concerning the validity of documents and employment authorizations.²
- Asylum applicants face prolonged waiting periods and frequently depend on employment authorizations to remain within the formal economy. In February 2026, DHS proposed extending to 365 days the waiting period for certain initial EAD applications based on pending asylum; as of the cutoff date, it is a proposal and not a final rule.³

¹U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Detailed DHC-A; Venezuelan population increased from 215,023 in 2010 to 605,381 in 2020 (181.5%).

²See 90 Fed. Reg. 5961 (Jan. 17, 2025); 90 Fed. Reg. 9040 (Feb. 5, 2025); 90 Fed. Reg. 43225 (Sept. 8, 2025); National TPS Alliance v. Noem, No. 25-5724 (9th Cir. Jan. 28, 2026).

- The loss or interruption of an employment authorization may cause dismissal, loss of health insurance or housing, indebtedness, and difficulties renewing licenses or professional credentials while the immigration process remains open.
- Between July and August 2026, national news sources documented at least three detentions of Venezuelan persons or persons born in Venezuela who had employment authorization; one of those cases also had a valid driver's license and a pending asylum application.⁴
- Persons under CAT, withholding, or an order of supervision may be protected against removal to a particular country or remain at liberty under conditions, but those protections do not amount to permanent residence or constitute an absolute guarantee against a new detention.⁵
- Removals to third countries pose specific risks for persons with final orders and humanitarian protections. The agreement with Liberia provides for receiving up to 1,200 third-country nationals in one year and contemplates, according to Liberian authorities, persons coming from Latin America, including Venezuelans.⁶
- The invocation of the Alien Enemies Act in relation to Tren de Aragua incorporated Venezuelan nationality within an extraordinary national-security category applicable to certain Venezuelan citizens identified as members of that organization, which increases the need for individualized evidence and effective judicial review.⁷
- Fragmentation among USCIS, ICE, the SAVE system, employers, and state agencies may leave persons registered with the Federal Government without documentation accepted for working, driving, or identifying themselves while their immigration situation remains pending.⁸

Three Immediate Actions Requested

1. TO CONGRESS: Require DHS and ICE to provide periodic and disaggregated information on the detention of Venezuelans and convene an oversight hearing on detentions, employment authorizations, pending asylum proceedings, TPS, CAT, withholding, and orders of supervision.
2. TO DHS, ICE, AND USCIS: Protect documentary and employment continuity when interruptions result from government delays; apply individualized custody criteria and use alternatives to detention when appropriate; and prioritize, within current authority and criteria, adjudications whose delay may cause severe financial loss or other humanitarian consequences.
3. TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE: Provide Congress with the documentation, guarantees, and monitoring mechanisms related to the removal agreement with Liberia, and coordinate with DHS

³DHS, Employment Authorization Reform for Asylum Applicants, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, DHS Docket No. USCIS-2025-0370 (scheduled for publication Feb. 23, 2026). The 365-day waiting period is proposed, not a final rule as of Aug. 22, 2026.

⁴CBS News, Aug. 7, 2026 (Yasmin Suarez Reyes); Associated Press, Aug. 2026 (Oswaldo Pirela); Houston Chronicle, Aug. 21, 2026 (Luis Morales Pérez).

⁵See 8 C.F.R. §§ 1208.16(c), 1208.17(a) (CAT); ICE Form I-220B, Order of Supervision.

⁶Reuters, Aug. 20, 2026 (U.S.-Liberia arrangement for up to 1,200 third-country deportees over 12 months).

⁷Proclamation 10903 (Mar. 15, 2025); A.A.R.P. v. Trump, No. 24A1007 (U.S. May 16, 2025).

⁸USCIS SAVE Verification Process Fact Sheet; SAVE CaseCheck. SAVE verifies immigration information but does not itself determine eligibility for a state or federal benefit or license.

the individual verification of safeguards before any transfer of a Venezuelan citizen to that or another third country.

1. Purpose, Scope, and Methodology

This joint VEPPEX and AMAVEX report provides the United States Congress and Secretary of State Marco Rubio with a general assessment of the migration situation of Venezuelans in the country, with a cutoff date of August 22, 2026. Its purpose is to support legislative oversight, diplomatic and consular action, and the development of safeguards applicable to DHS, USCIS, ICE, and the Department of State.

The research is based on official public sources, including USCIS, DHS, ICE, the Federal Register, the Department of Justice, decisions of federal courts and the Supreme Court, the Census, and the Florida Legislature. It also uses news sources of recognized standing to document recent cases and events. The figures correspond to different populations and dates and should not be added automatically.

METHODOLOGICAL LIMITATION

DHS and ICE do not publish a national count that simultaneously cross-references Venezuelan nationality, custody status, valid EAD, state license, pending asylum application, CAT or withholding protection, order of supervision, and criminal history. The cited cases represent a documented public minimum and not an estimate of the national universe. This report also does not substitute for the individual legal analysis of a case.

2. Size and Characteristics of the Venezuelan Community

The 2020 Census counted 605,381 persons of Venezuelan origin in the United States, compared with 215,023 in 2010. That growth of 181,5 % was the fastest among the detailed Hispanic groups during the decade. Florida concentrated the largest Venezuelan population, and Miami-Dade recorded 117,576 persons in the cited measurement. These data describe a 2020 demographic base and do not equal the current number of Venezuelans subject to immigration measures.⁹

The Venezuelan community is legally heterogeneous: it includes naturalized citizens, permanent residents, persons with visas, asylum applicants, TPS beneficiaries or former beneficiaries, persons admitted under parole, individuals with CAT protection or withholding, and persons subject to final orders of removal. Public responses should recognize those differences and avoid presenting all Venezuelans as a uniform category.

⁹U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Detailed DHC-A; U.S. Census Bureau, An Overview of Hispanics in America (2024) (Miami-Dade County: 117,576 persons of Venezuelan origin in the cited 2020 measure).

3. Erosion of Temporary Protections

3.1 Temporary Protected Status

Venezuela was subject to TPS designations in 2021 and 2023. In January 2025, DHS announced an extension that would have allowed approximately 607,000 beneficiaries to retain protection until October 2026, provided that they remained eligible. Subsequently, DHS revoked that extension and published the termination of the 2023 designation, followed by the termination of the 2021 designation.¹⁰

The litigation continues to be decisive. On January 28, 2026, the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the Secretary of Homeland Security exceeded her statutory authority in attempting to terminate Venezuela's TPS before the expiration date of the 2025 extension. Prior emergency orders of the Supreme Court had allowed certain terminations to take effect while the litigation continued. The Government filed a petition for certiorari on July 9, 2026; as of August 22, 2026, that petition remained pending before the Supreme Court. In practice, the validity of documents and authorizations may depend on the applicable designation, the date of issuance, re-registration, and the judicial orders in effect.¹¹

Federal data published in 2025 reported 268,156 approved beneficiaries under the 2021 designation and 4,813 under the 2023 designation, in addition to approximately 400,152 pending applications across both designations as of June 24, 2025. These figures illustrate the magnitude of the impact, but they should not be presented as an updated count of beneficiaries protected in August 2026.¹²

PRACTICAL EFFECT

When the validity of TPS or an EAD changes because of administrative announcements, judicial decisions, and emergency orders, employers, state agencies, and beneficiaries may receive different messages about the same document. The result may be loss of employment, denial of services, or interruption of documentation before there is a final resolution.

3.2 Parole, Pending Asylum, and Other Temporary Pathways

The termination of the parole program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans (CHNV) affected an estimated multinational population of 532,000 persons. For Venezuelans, the loss of parole

¹⁰Extension of the 2023 Designation of Venezuela for TPS, 90 Fed. Reg. 5961 (Jan. 17, 2025); Vacatur of 2025 TPS Decision for Venezuela, 90 Fed. Reg. 8805 (Feb. 3, 2025); Termination of the October 3, 2023 Designation, 90 Fed. Reg. 9040 (Feb. 5, 2025); Termination of the 2021 Designation, 90 Fed. Reg. 43225 (Sept. 8, 2025).

¹¹National TPS Alliance v. Noem, No. 25-5724 (9th Cir. Jan. 28, 2026). See also U.S. Supreme Court docket No. 26-48, petition for certiorari filed July 9, 2026; petition pending as of Aug. 22, 2026.

¹²Termination of the 2021 Designation of Venezuela for TPS, 90 Fed. Reg. 43225 & n.50 (Sept. 8, 2025) (268,156 approved under 2021 designation; 4,813 approved under 2023 designation; 400,152 pending across both designations as of June 24, 2025).

may mean the simultaneous termination of the associated employment authorization and the authorized period of stay, unless there is another independent immigration basis.¹³

Asylum applicants constitute another group especially exposed to uncertainty. A pending asylum case does not amount to residence or permanent status, but many persons have spent years identified before the Government, awaiting an interview or decision and renewing work permits. In addition, the Annual Asylum Fee framework requires annual payment from certain applicants with a pending Form I-589. On August 5, 2026, a federal court prevented the application, under the interim rule of April 29, 2026, of certain consequences for failure to pay; USCIS reopened the portal for late payments while the litigation continues.¹⁴

4. Work Permits and Economic Pressure

The work permit connects the immigration system with a person's ability to remain within the formal economy. Since October 30, 2025, numerous EAD renewals ceased to receive the general automatic extension of up to 540 days, with limited exceptions. USCIS allows a request for expedited processing when there is, among other factors, severe financial loss, but the decision is discretionary and requires individual evidence. In February 2026, DHS also proposed extending from 180 to 365 days the waiting period for certain initial EAD applications based on pending asylum and adding other requirements; as of the cutoff date, that proposal does not constitute a final rule in effect.¹⁵

The interruption of employment may produce cumulative effects: dismissal, inability to pay for housing, loss of health insurance, delinquency on loans, loss of a vehicle, and difficulty supporting children or other dependents. It may also prevent renewal of professional or driver's licenses when the state requires valid and verifiable immigration documentation.

Problems Identified

- Adjudication times that exceed the remaining validity of the prior document.
- Interruptions between the validity of the prior document and adjudication of the renewal, with different responses from employers or state agencies.
- Absence of a uniform priority pathway for persons required to report to ICE.
- Difficulty demonstrating severe financial loss sufficiently in advance to obtain an expedited decision before the harm occurs.
- Lack of coordination among USCIS, SAVE, employers, and state motor-vehicle departments.

¹³DHS, Termination of Parole Processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans, 90 Fed. Reg. (Mar. 25, 2025) (approximately 532,000 individuals covered by CHNV parole processes).

¹⁴USCIS, Annual Asylum Fee alert; Venez. Ass'n of Mass. v. USCIS, No. 1:26-cv-13038-NMG (D. Mass. Aug. 5, 2026) (staying implementation of consequences for failure to pay the AAF while the case remains pending).

¹⁵DHS, Removal of the Automatic Extension of Employment Authorization Documents, Interim Final Rule (effective Oct. 30, 2025); USCIS Policy Manual, Vol. 1, Part A, Ch. 5 (expedite criteria); DHS, Employment Authorization Reform for Asylum Applicants, proposed rule (2026).

5. Detention, Supervision, and Enforcement

The framework governing enforcement actions in courthouses changed significantly in 2026. On June 24, a federal judge vacated 2025 policies that had expanded immigration arrests in courthouses and their immediate surroundings, reinstating prior restrictions; that decision may remain subject to review. Outside that context, immigration arrests may occur in workplaces, airports, public roads, and during other contacts with authorities, according to the legal basis applicable to each case.¹⁶

An order of supervision, commonly documented through Form I-220B, establishes conditions of liberty and appearance for a person with a final order. Prolonged compliance, a known address, regular appearance, and the absence of recent convictions are relevant factors in evaluating custody, but the I-220B does not constitute an absolute guarantee against a new detention.¹⁷

5.1 Detentions Despite Valid Documentation or Pending Proceedings

VEPPEX and AMAVEX alert Congress to detentions of Venezuelan persons or persons born in Venezuela who, at the time of arrest, had documents issued by the Government itself or pending immigration proceedings. An EAD authorizes employment, a state license authorizes driving, and an asylum application keeps a protection proceeding open; none of those instruments, by itself, confers residence or immunity from detention. Their existence, however, demonstrates formal interaction with the system and reinforces the need for individualized custody decisions, explained and subject to review.

Verified Public Cases: July-August 2026

- Yasmin Suarez Reyes, born in Venezuela and a Spanish citizen, was detained by ICE on July 24, 2026, at the Houston airport. CBS News verified that she had lawfully entered in October 2023 under the Visa Waiver Program, applied for asylum in January 2024 before that admission expired, maintained the application pending, and had obtained a work permit and a Texas driver's license. CBS News reported that she remained detained at the Montgomery Processing Center in early August.¹⁸
- Oswaldo Pirela, Venezuelan and a catchers coach in the San Diego Padres minor-league system, was detained by ICE on August 16, 2026, upon arriving at the El Paso airport for work reasons. Associated Press reported that he had applied for asylum in 2015; his family stated that he maintained employment authorization, while DHS maintained that his authorized period of stay had expired. Federal records placed him in custody in El Paso at the time of the report.¹⁹
- Luis Morales Pérez, a Venezuelan pastor in Houston, was detained by ICE on August 6, 2026, at George Bush Intercontinental Airport. The Houston Chronicle reported that he had valid employment authorization and a pending asylum application. On August 19, he was released after

¹⁶Reuters, June 24, 2026, reporting the federal district court decision vacating the 2025 courthouse-arrest policies and reinstating prior restrictions; subsequent review may affect the operative framework.

¹⁷ICE Form I-220B, Order of Supervision (conditions of release and consequences for noncompliance).

¹⁸CBS News, "Trump voter pleads for fiancée's release after ICE arrest," updated Aug. 7, 2026.

¹⁹Associated Press, "Venezuelan former baseball player working for San Diego Padres is detained by ICE," Aug. 2026.

posting a \$12,000 bond and remained subject to monitoring while his immigration proceeding continues.²⁰

SCOPE OF THE DATA

This review identifies at least three documented public cases within a 24-day period in which the detained persons had employment authorization; one of them simultaneously had an EAD, driver's license, and pending asylum. There is no public federal figure that makes it possible to calculate the national universe. Congress should require that data from DHS and ICE and avoid inferences from isolated news cases.

As additional context—not specific to Venezuelans or persons with EAD—TRAC reported 65,765 persons in ICE detention as of July 11, 2026; 46,436 (70.6 %) had no criminal conviction. In June 2026, 43,138 detention admissions were recorded. These figures describe the scale of the system, but they should not be presented as the number of Venezuelans affected.²¹

5.2 Tren de Aragua, Alien Enemies Act, and Risk of Collective Stigmatization

Tren de Aragua is a real criminal organization whose members should be investigated and prosecuted with individualized evidence. The Department of Justice has brought charges for serious offenses against alleged members. The existence of that organization, however, does not turn the Venezuelan community into a criminal population or permit individualized evidence to be replaced by nationality, tattoos, appearance, circumstantial associations, or place of origin.²²

Presidential Proclamation 10903, of March 15, 2025, invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 on the ground that Tren de Aragua was carrying out an “invasion” or “predatory incursion.” The measure is expressly directed at certain Venezuelan citizens 14 years of age or older who are deemed members of the organization, are in the United States, and are not naturalized citizens or permanent residents. Therefore, Venezuelan nationality forms part of the formal criteria of an extraordinary detention and expulsion authority.²³

The Supreme Court has recognized that persons designated under this authority must receive notice and an effective opportunity to challenge their classification and removal through habeas corpus. In *A.A.R.P. v. Trump*, the Court concluded that the notice initially used was insufficient to permit a genuine challenge. Other federal courts have examined whether the activities attributed to a criminal organization satisfy the historical concepts of “invasion” or “predatory incursion” used by the law.²⁴

²⁰Houston Chronicle, “Houston pastor released by ICE ... after posting bond,” Aug. 21, 2026 (detained Aug. 6; released Aug. 19 on \$12,000 bond; valid work authorization and pending asylum claim reported).

²¹TRAC Immigration, Immigration Detention Quick Facts: 65,765 persons detained by ICE as of July 11, 2026; 46,436 (70.6%) had no criminal convictions; 43,138 detention bookings in June 2026.

²²U.S. Department of Justice, federal racketeering and violent-offense charges against alleged Tren de Aragua members. Criminal allegations require individualized proof and adjudication.

²³Proclamation 10903, Invocation of the Alien Enemies Act Regarding the Invasion of the United States by Tren de Aragua (Mar. 15, 2025).

²⁴*A.A.R.P. v. Trump*, No. 24A1007 (U.S. May 16, 2025); *Trump v. J.G.G.*, No. 24A931 (U.S. Apr. 7, 2025).

INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT

The policy does not declare every Venezuelan an enemy. However, the combination of a criminal organization of Venezuelan origin, an invasion narrative, and an extraordinary authority expressly applicable to certain citizens of Venezuela increases the risk of collective suspicion and classification errors. Criminal membership must be supported by individualized evidence and be subject to effective judicial review.

Concurrent Effects

- The Tren de Aragua narrative presents part of Venezuelan migration as a national-security matter and not solely as an ordinary immigration or criminal matter.
- The Alien Enemies Act establishes an extraordinary mechanism of apprehension, detention, and removal distinct from ordinary immigration proceedings.
- The termination of TPS and parole reduces bases for stay and employment authorization for large groups.
- Restrictions, interruptions, and delays involving EAD may make it difficult to work, drive, maintain housing, and continue a legal defense.
- Considered together, these measures increase the exposure of certain Venezuelans to loss of documentation, arrest, or removal, even when they have maintained formal contact with the immigration system.

CUMULATIVE EFFECT

The measures analyzed respond to different legal authorities and objectives. The report does not presume a single intention behind all of them. It does document that, by coinciding in time, they produce a cumulative effect of reduced immigration and documentary stability for Venezuelans who are not citizens and do not have permanent residence.

5.3 Protection Under the Convention Against Torture

CAT protection, including deferral of removal, prevents removal to the country with respect to which it was determined that the person would probably face torture, while the protection remains in effect. It does not grant permanent residence, does not necessarily eliminate the final order, and does not by itself prevent all detention. As a result, some persons may remain under supervision for long periods without a permanent immigration solution.²⁵

²⁵ 8 C.F.R. §§ 1208.16(c), 1208.17(a); see also 8 C.F.R. § 241.5 regarding orders of supervision.

INDIVIDUAL REVIEW OF CUSTODY

The re-detention of a person who has complied for years with the conditions of supervision should be based on an individualized and documented assessment of current circumstances, with effective review mechanisms. A mere change in a general policy should not replace that assessment.

6. Removals to Third Countries

Persons with final orders may face attempts at removal to countries other than their nationality. In *D.V.D. v. DHS*, the District Court for Massachusetts entered a final judgment on February 25, 2026, declaring unlawful the challenged third-country-removal policy and recognizing, for the class defined in the case, the right to meaningful notice and an effective opportunity to raise a country-specific objection to the destination country. On March 16, 2026, the First Circuit granted a stay of that judgment while the appeal continues. Therefore, the legal regime remains in active litigation, and its practical application may depend on judicial orders and individual circumstances.²⁶

For Venezuelans with CAT, withholding, or other protections, a risk determination regarding Venezuela does not automatically resolve the risk that may exist in another country. Because the procedural regime for third-country removals remains in litigation, VEPPEX and AMAVEX recommend that, before any transfer, there be sufficient notice of the destination and a real opportunity to raise a specific fear and seek legal review in accordance with the legal framework and applicable judicial orders.

Recommended Minimum Safeguards

- Written notice, in a language that can be understood, identifying sufficiently in advance the proposed country.
- Reasonable time to consult legal representation and gather information on specific risks in the destination country.
- An effective mechanism to present a specific fear and obtain an individual review before the transfer.
- Temporary suspension of the transfer while a pending application or review related to persecution or torture exists, when legally applicable.
- Aggregated public record of receiving countries, diplomatic assurances, and transfer outcomes, preserving sensitive personal data.

²⁶*D.V.D. v. DHS*, U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, final judgment Feb. 25, 2026; First Circuit stay pending appeal granted Mar. 16, 2026. See Reuters, Mar. 16, 2026. The procedural regime remained in active litigation as of Aug. 22, 2026.

7. Recent Removal Cases and Need for Oversight

NOTE OF PRECISION: The first flight destined for Liberia carried 20 persons. United States authorities did not publicly disclose the nationalities of the full group and, according to Reuters, five passengers did not disembark in Liberia and were later transferred to Equatorial Guinea. This report does not attribute Venezuelan nationality to any person without independent confirmation.²⁷

7.1 Transfers to Liberia

On August 20, 2026, a flight from the United States arrived at Roberts International Airport, near Monrovia, with 20 persons designated for removal under an agreement through which Liberia agreed to receive up to 1,200 third-country nationals during the following 12 months. The flight departed from Louisiana and stopped in Dakar, Senegal.²⁸

United States authorities did not disclose the nationalities of the full group. Liberia's Minister of Information indicated that the program would contemplate mainly persons coming from Latin America, including nationals of Venezuela, Cuba, and Colombia. Reuters reported on August 21 that five passengers—three Cubans, one Brazilian, and one Cameroonian—refused to disembark in Liberia and were transferred to Equatorial Guinea. Therefore, the report distinguishes between the nationalities contemplated by the program and the identities actually confirmed in each transfer.²⁹

Liberian authorities stated that those received would be treated as guests, could apply for asylum or leave the country, and would receive support from international organizations. VEPPEX and AMAVEX consider it necessary for those statements to be translated into verifiable guarantees regarding freedom of movement, documentation, housing, medical care, access to representation, non-refoulement, and independent monitoring mechanisms.

Urgent Requests Regarding Liberia

- Publish the nationalities, legal bases for removal, and prior protections of the persons transferred, preserving sensitive personal data.
- Provide Congress with the full text of the agreement, its memoranda, diplomatic assurances, costs, and oversight mechanisms.
- Confirm whether any transferred person had CAT, withholding, pending asylum, or another relevant protection or restriction, and explain the individual assessment conducted with respect to Liberia.

²⁷Reuters, Aug. 20-21, 2026. The United States did not publicly disclose the nationalities of the full 20-person group; Reuters reported that five passengers who resisted disembarkation in Liberia were three Cubans, one Brazilian, and one Cameroonian and were flown onward to Equatorial Guinea.

²⁸Reuters, Aug. 20, 2026 (Liberia agreed to receive up to 1,200 third-country deportees during the following 12 months; first flight carried 20 persons).

²⁹Reuters, Aug. 20, 2026; Reuters, Aug. 21, 2026.

- Allow independent monitoring by UNHCR, IOM, attorneys, and human-rights organizations, including confidential communication with the transferred persons.

7.2 Separate Special Report on the June 24, 2026 Flight

The facts related to the June 24, 2026 deportation flight will be the subject of a separate special report by VEPPEX and AMAVEX. That document will independently examine the chronology, available documentation, testimonies, transfer and reception conditions, and the legal issues that may arise. For that reason, this general report does not develop individual testimonies, possible procedural irregularities, or attributions of responsibility related to that case.

8. Driver's Licenses, Identification, and the SAVE System

Driver's licenses are essential for working, attending medical appointments, complying with immigration reporting, and attending to family responsibilities. The states determine which documents they accept as proof of identity and lawful presence and use the federal SAVE system to verify immigration information. Differences between federal documents and state requirements may generate denials even when the person maintains an active proceeding or supervision before immigration authorities.³⁰

The I-220B evidences federal supervision, but it may not appear among the state documents accepted as sufficient proof of lawful presence. When an agency denies an application without completing the corresponding verification, without providing information on the SAVE case, or without explaining the basis in writing, the person may be left without a clear avenue to correct the record or request review.

In Florida, driving with a license expired for six months or less constitutes an infraction under section 322.065. Although it is a traffic infraction, a stop may generate additional practical consequences for a person with an unstable immigration situation. Therefore, difficulties in renewing documentation may extend beyond the mobility problem.³¹

Necessary Administrative Measures

- Provide every denial in writing, with the rule applied and the review deadlines.
- Provide the SAVE case number and complete additional verification when appropriate.
- Train local offices uniformly regarding documents related to supervision, CAT, withholding, and pending immigration proceedings, within the limits of applicable state law.
- Evaluate temporary or restricted mechanisms when the only barrier to issuance or renewal is a pending federal verification, when state law permits.

³⁰USCIS SAVE Verification Process Fact Sheet; SAVE CaseCheck. State and local agencies use SAVE to verify immigration information; SAVE does not itself decide eligibility for a license or benefit.

³¹Fla. Stat. § 322.065 (2025) (driving with a license expired for six months or less is an infraction subject to the penalty in § 318.18).

9. Human, Family, and Community Impact

Immigration uncertainty is not limited to the person directly affected. Many households include U.S.-citizen children, spouses with different status, older adults, and other dependents. Detention or loss of a work permit may eliminate from one day to the next the household's main source of income and affect housing, health insurance, transportation, and the ability to pay for legal representation.

There are also community effects: employers lose trained workers; churches and organizations lose volunteers; schools serve children whose families are going through separation or economic instability; and local governments face new social needs. Criminal or immigration responsibility must be evaluated individually. Venezuelan nationality does not constitute evidence of dangerousness or criminal membership.

IMPACT ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Public safety and the protection of rights are not incompatible objectives. Enforcement of immigration law may focus on individually substantiated risks and, at the same time, preserve due process and prevent administrative delays from pushing persons with pending proceedings toward loss of employment, documentation, or family stability.

10. Recommendations by Recipient

10.1 To the United States Congress

- Hold oversight hearings on the detention of Venezuelans with EAD, pending asylum applications, prior or current TPS, CAT, withholding, orders of supervision, or other relevant proceedings or protections.
- Require DHS and ICE to provide quarterly reports disaggregated by nationality, country of birth, legal basis for arrest, valid EAD, pending asylum application, TPS, CAT or withholding, criminal history, time in custody, place of detention, and case outcome.
- Request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct an audit of arrests at airports and other transit points, the quality of information used before detention, and the use of alternatives to custody for persons who regularly appear.
- Investigate the criteria used to attribute membership in Tren de Aragua, the mechanisms for correcting erroneous classifications, and compliance with the notice and judicial-review requirements established by the courts.
- Consider legislation that preserves employment continuity in timely EAD renewals when the interruption is attributable to government delays, and that establishes procedural safeguards before removals to third countries, within applicable constitutional and statutory limits.
- Fund improvements in interoperability and correction among USCIS, ICE, SAVE, and state agencies, with accessible procedures to identify and correct documentary errors.

- Exercise oversight over any final rule related to EAD for asylum applicants and over the implementation of the Annual Asylum Fee, evaluating its impact on persons whose cases remain pending for prolonged periods.
- Require a joint briefing by the Department of State, DHS, and ICE on the agreement with Liberia and the mechanisms used to assess individual risks before transfers to third countries.

10.2 To DHS and ICE

- Adopt individualized custody decisions and, when legally appropriate, provide in writing the principal reasons for arrest, transfer, and continued detention.
- Apply and document criteria for alternatives to detention when the person has no criminal convictions, appears regularly, maintains a verifiable address, and complies with the conditions imposed by ICE.
- Before a removal to a third country, provide the notice and opportunities to raise individual risk required by law and the judicial orders in effect, and retain a verifiable record of the process used.
- Publish aggregated and disaggregated data that allow Congress to evaluate detentions, re-detentions, transfers, and outcomes without exposing sensitive personal information.
- Coordinate with the Department of State the verification of assurances and reception conditions in third countries, especially when the person has CAT, withholding, or another relevant protection.

10.3 To USCIS

- Prioritize, in accordance with current expedited-processing criteria, I-765 applications when a delay may produce severe financial loss or other documented humanitarian circumstances.
- Publish stable and updated guidance for applicants, employers, and state agencies on the scope and validity of EAD and other documents during periods of litigation or regulatory transition.
- Strengthen SAVE procedures so that user agencies complete additional verification when appropriate and provide the applicant with sufficient information to follow up and correct discrepancies.
- Maintain clear and updated public information on the Annual Asylum Fee and on any final rule that modifies employment authorization for asylum applicants, expressly distinguishing regulatory proposals from rules in effect.

10.4 To the Department of State

- Provide Congress with the text of the agreement or understanding with Liberia, including memoranda, diplomatic assurances, financial commitments, and oversight mechanisms that may legally be made public.
- Inform Congress, in aggregated form and preserving sensitive personal data, of the nationalities, removal bases, and relevant immigration protections of persons transferred under third-country agreements.

- Coordinate with DHS the assessment of reception conditions and any relevant individual risk before facilitating the transfer of Venezuelan citizens to a third country.
- Promote independent monitoring mechanisms, access to international organizations, and confidential communication channels for persons received under third-country removal agreements.

11. Cooperation Offered by VEPPEX and AMAVEX to Congress and the Department of State

Line of Action	Expected Result
Venezuelan Migration Observatory	Create a secure national registry with standardized categories, documentary review, data protection, and informed consent.
Legal Committee	Integrate immigration, federal litigation, civil-rights, and administrative-law attorneys to review trends and cases of particular relevance.
Quarterly Report	Provide indicators, anonymized cases, regulatory changes, relevant litigation, and follow-up on requests made by Congress.
Congressional Liaison	Address information requests from committees and delegations from states with a high concentration of Venezuelan population.
Expert Testimony	Facilitate appearances by attorneys, specialists, and affected persons, with consent, prior preparation, and identity protection when necessary.

Transfers to Liberia and the increasing use of third countries show that immigration oversight should not be limited to the formal existence of an order of removal. It also requires examining the proposed destination, the individual risk assessment, reception conditions, traceability, and the mechanisms available to verify compliance with the assurances offered.

Conclusion

The Venezuelan community in the United States does not face a single immigration problem, but rather several overlapping sources of instability: loss or litigation of temporary protections, interruptions in employment authorization, exposure to detention, absence of permanent solutions for persons under supervision, documentary barriers, and removals to third countries.

VEPPEX and AMAVEX maintain that enforcement of immigration law must respect due process, protection against torture, individual assessment, and the real possibility of complying with the rules. A person should not be forced to choose between losing employment, driving without valid

documentation, or failing to meet family obligations because the documents on which the person depends are subject to delays, litigation, or administrative changes.

INSTITUTIONAL CONCLUSION OF VEPPEX AND AMAVEX

The cumulative effect of the decisions adopted since 2025 has reduced or made more unstable protections, employment authorizations, and documentary mechanisms on which broad sectors of the Venezuelan community depended. This does not mean that all Venezuelans lack status or that every detention is unlawful. It does describe a verifiable increase in exposure to loss of employment, detention, or removal for certain persons while their proceedings remain pending or without a permanent solution.

The narrative linked to Tren de Aragua and the application of the Alien Enemies Act add a national-security dimension that requires particular care to avoid generalizations and erroneous classifications. The response must combine congressional oversight, administrative reform, litigation when appropriate, federal-state coordination, and rigorous documentation. VEPPEX and AMAVEX commit to promoting a responsible immigration policy that distinguishes proven risks from collective stigmatization and allows Venezuelans to comply, work, and contribute lawfully.

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