



## *League of United Latin American Citizens*

### **LULAC OPPOSES THE MISTREATMENT OF TRANSGENDER ASYLUM SEEKERS**

The League of United Latin American Citizens oppose any treatment of immigrants in the United States, regardless of their status. LULAC continues its strong opposition to the harsh and inhumane treatment of documented and undocumented persons in private prisons, detention centers, and makeshift holding centers. Due to the recent shocking stories of mistreatment of Transgender people in the U.S. immigration detention system, LULAC demands that the federal government adopts policies that provide safer conditions for individuals who are exercising a human right to seek asylum in the United States.

**WHEREAS**, coming to the United States as a Transgender person in order to escape persecution or maltreatment is considered by U.S. immigration policy to be a meritable reason to request asylum;

**WHEREAS** the National Center for Transgender Equality estimates there are currently between 15,000 and 50,000 undocumented Transgender immigrants living in the United States, but these numbers may be underreported since many are reluctant to self-report as Transgender due, in part, to fear of maltreatment by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials and persecution they faced at home;

**WHEREAS** Transgender people come to the United States to seek asylum and safety, however, they are met with further mistreatment and discrimination, with ICE detaining some Transgender women in all-male facilities;

**WHEREAS** Obama-era guidance on best practices for treatment of Transgender immigrants exist, the guidance is not mandatory and facilities often do not follow it;

**WHEREAS** LULAC mourns the death of Transgender Asylum Seeker Roxsana Hernandez Rodriguez of Honduras, who joined a caravan in the spring of 2018 to seek asylum in the United States, only to die in ICE custody on May 25, 2018;

**WHEREAS** Roxsana appeared to have been physically abused before her death, suffered from dehydration, along with complications from HIV, according to an independent autopsy;

**WHEREAS** the Cibola County Correctional Center in New Mexico where Roxsana died is operated by CoreCivic- one of the largest private prison operators- which received \$1.8 billion to detain immigrants, but could not afford enough security, separate holding rooms, or a bottled water to keep Roxsana safe, secured and hydrated during her detainment;

**WHEREAS** results of a recent U.S. Transgender Survey conducted by National Center for Transgender Equality, show that nearly half of all Transgender people held in detention facilities were placed in

solitary confinement, nearly one third were denied access to transition-related medical care, and one in four were subjected to physical abuse;

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that LULAC Council 11125 calls on LULAC and its membership to oppose the mistreatment of Transgender Asylum Seekers by urging the federal government to adopt better policies:

- Prioritize the development and expansion of alternatives to detention for Transgender women and other non-citizens considered members of vulnerable populations;
- Review and revise its policy on immigration detention of Transgender women- were such detentions are consistent with U.S. and international law, develop and implement a clearly articulated strategy to house Transgender women in safe and humane conditions that ensure respect for their human rights;
- Never detain Transgender women with men, or in prolonged solitary confinement;
- Take immediate steps to investigate and halt abusive practices; and
- Monitor conditions in which Transgender women are being held at detention facilities, and ensure settings are free from abuse and respectful of their specific medical and mental health needs

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2019 LULAC National Convention on July 13, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Domingo Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Domingo Garcia  
LULAC National President