



## For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Shakira Croce, Director of Communications

[scroce@amidacareny.org](mailto:scroce@amidacareny.org), (917)-565-4444

## Amida Care Responds to Recent Actions Against Haitian Asylum Seekers at the Border

**New York, NY** (September 24, 2021) -- Amida Care, New York's largest Medicaid Special Needs Plan designed for people affected by HIV, released the following statement from President and CEO Doug Wirth, denouncing the [treatment of Haitian migrants](#) attempting to cross the Rio Grande, who were violently charged by agents on horseback, as we've seen in disturbing images and videos:

"I am saddened and angered by the recent unspeakable and inhumane actions by the U.S. Border Patrol in Texas. Is this our response to a humanitarian crisis? Let us join the many lawmakers as well as civil rights and immigrant advocates in denouncing the treatment of Haitian migrants attempting to cross the Rio Grande, who were violently charged by agents on horseback, as we've seen in disturbing images and videos.

This was the latest in a series of heartless actions, including detention and forced flights back to Haiti, against Haitians who are fleeing earthquakes and political unrest. The Biden-Harris administration has enabled these actions under a U.S. policy known as [Title 42](#), which singles out asylum seekers crossing into the country at land borders for expulsion – particularly those from Central America, Africa, and Haiti who are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and Latinx. These evictions are purportedly for public health reasons but are clearly [discriminatory](#), as thousands of other travelers are allowed to enter the U.S.

It's unacceptable that instead of bringing people to safety through transit centers and, ultimately, to new lives in the U.S. and elsewhere, vulnerable migrants and asylum-seekers are being sent back to danger in the very places they're fleeing.

This connects to the bigger picture in the U.S. of issues highlighted by the Black Lives Matter movement, underscoring the need for conscious reckoning with human rights, racial justice, and for leaders to speak out against atrocities and discrimination. Just as Amida Care has always taken a stand against discrimination, we call on the current administration to halt flights carrying asylum-seekers back to Haiti and rescind Title 42 so that everyone seeking protection can petition for safety."

**Amida Care Inc.** is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and people who are of transgender experience or homeless (regardless of HIV status). Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit [www.amidacareny.org](http://www.amidacareny.org).