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March 5, 2025

President Donald J. Trump

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20500

To The Executive Office of the President of the United States,

On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, we write to this administration to condemn the recent actions perpetrated against Black immigrants across the United States. President Trump is carrying out one of the most violent campaigns that we have seen against any vulnerable community in recent history, and it must come to a swift and immediate end. The actions of this administration toward Black immigrants are not only unconscionable, but they represent a long and deep-rooted anti-Black history that we will not allow our communities to re-live.

The story of 56-year-old Nurul Amin Shah Alam highlights the perilous cost of human life that has resulted in this administration giving limitless power to federal officers to carry out aggressive anti-immigration orders. Mr. Shah Alam, a nearly blind refugee, was abandoned at a local coffee shop with no way to return home after spending most of last year in custody. The callous actions of the agents led to the eventual death of Mr. Shah Alam, who was found four miles from the location where he was dropped during severe weather conditions. In addition to the fact that Mr. Shah Alam was nearly legally blind, he spoke little to no English, severely impacting his ability to navigate his release from custody without assistance. The Border Patrol Officers' inhumane behavior reveals that for this administration's falsely touted "immigration agenda," cruelty is the point.

President Trump has failed in almost every promise he has made to the American people, and his efforts to rectify the immigration system are no different. Rather than resolving legitimate issues and pathways to citizenship, this administration launched an assault on all immigrant communities in the United States, regardless of status.

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Black immigrants have carried the consequences of these irresponsible, disorganized, racially charged, and extremely volatile efforts. Minnesota has welcomed over 100,000 refugees since 1970, with a large proportion of these individuals hailing from Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Burma, and Ukraine. In recent years, the majority of refugees who have fled their countries and sought safety in Minnesota are from Black nations. The President's targeted attacks on this community are a deeper reflection of his bigger anti-Black agenda being executed with complete disregard for human life.

The Trump administration's persecution of Black immigrant communities is not limited to Minnesota. On January 14th, the Department of State announced that it will suspend the issuance of immigrant visas to nationals of 75 countries, with the ban taking effect on January 21, 2026. This decision overwhelmingly targets Black nations. African countries are the most heavily represented on the banned list, with 39 African nationalities affected, approximately 70 percent of all African countries. Nearly 90 percent of African immigrant visa applicants would be barred under this policy. Similarly, eleven of the thirteen sovereign Caribbean states—about 85 %—are on the banned list.

The policies instituted by this administration are dangerous, and the tactics they are using are all too familiar to this Caucus - we have been here before. Utilizing federal systems to surveil and criminalize Black communities is history repeating itself. Black families and communities are being destroyed by institutions founded in anti-Blackness, and although we are not surprised, we refuse to stand by while this administration drags our country back in time.

The Congressional Black Caucus demands that the administration cease all operations created to disenfranchise and displace Black immigrant communities across the country. This includes, but is not limited to, a reinstatement of Temporary Protected Status for Black nations, the immediate halt to Operation "Post-Admission Refugee Reverification and Integrity Strengthening" (PARRIS), and moving forward, cooperation with our Caucus to build back the communities that have been destroyed by the callous actions of this administration. It is time for President Trump to rein in this perpetuation of violence before any more Americans are hurt. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvette D. Clarke" with "M.C." written in smaller letters below the name.

U.S. Representative Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09)
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus