

November 14, 2022

The Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We are 56 immigrants who identify as survivors of human trafficking. Although we have experienced different kinds of trafficking and carry unique trauma, the one thing we have in common is that we use marijuana to cope with what has happened to us.

Marijuana is critical in helping us manage the complex and compounded trauma that stays with us long after being trafficked. It helps regulate physical and mental symptoms associated with high levels of trauma such as chronic anxiety, intense feelings ranging from aggression to depression, hypervigilance, and physical issues like severe stomach pains. Marijuana helps many of us sleep through the night without having nightmares that make us feel like we are still being trafficked. We experience a range of these symptoms on a daily basis. Marijuana is one of the few therapy tools that is accessible, affordable, and effective.

However, by leaving almost all immigrants out of the Pardon and by keeping marijuana on the federal drug schedule, we will continue to be criminalized for trying to cope with our exploitation. We will still live in fear of removal proceedings, detention, and deportation. Also, almost all of us signing this letter identify as Black or brown. We know based on a lifetime of experience that we will be treated differently than white immigrant trafficking survivors at every point of the criminal and immigration legal process.

In short, the short comings of the Pardon keep us in circumstances that make us vulnerable to being re-trafficked.

We believe that the Biden Administration can do more for immigrant trafficking survivors and we would like to directly share our experiences. For any information regarding this letter or for a meeting with us, please contact Sabrina Talukder at Sabrina.talukder@lls.edu

Sincerely,

E.C.	K.E.	A.S.	O.D.	P.K.
J.L.V.P.	K.W.	L.D.	M.S.	F.N.
E.N.	B.V.	W.I.	Y.C.	W.T.
S.A.	J.L.	P.A.	L.Z.	I.L.
J.A.R.	A.J.	C.E.	T.N.	S.H.
E.L.C.	R.B.	T.A.	J.W.	C.C.
D.S.	J.P.	R.J.	G.M.	A.S.
R.D.	C.J.	L.I.	S.E.	A.M.

R.W.
L.L.
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M.A.
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R.L.V.R.B.
J.M.L.
C.W.