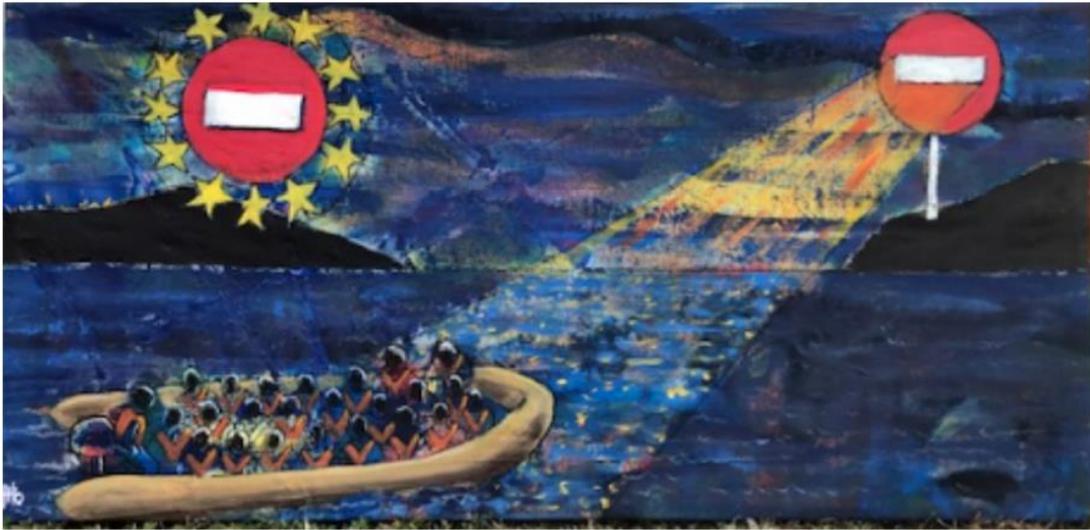


Migrant Haitian women in the line of fire



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The cry “Enough already!” resonates in various parts of the Caribbean and the Americas to denounce the abusive practices and violence against Haitian immigrants, especially women. Along with the feminization of migration, there has been a parallel increase in cases of human rights violations against women, which previously affected men more, only because they were the majority. The increase is comprised of the specific abuses against black women, which are revealed through intersectionality. The theory, conceptualized in 1989 by Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, an African-American lawyer, highlights the different facets of oppression and privilege, which are dependent on how one’s different social categories intersect. For example, a black immigrant woman will face specific discrimination based on the intersection of the social categories of being an immigrant, black, and female, which a white immigrant woman would not face, nor would a black immigrant man. This distinct intersectional discrimination affecting Haitian immigrant women is highlighted in recent events at the regional level.

The Caribbean

In July 2020, the Martinican association ASSOKA (Asosyasyon Solidarité Karaib-Caribbean Solidarity Association), which defends the rights of immigrants, published a report on the violations that immigrants in Martinique (mostly Haitian) suffer in their encounters with the Martinican authorities. It is entitled “*La mécanique de déshumanization*” (The mechanism of dehumanization). In addition to denouncing violations against immigrants in Martinique in general, the text focuses on the specific discrimination suffered by Haitian immigrant women due to the intersection of racism and sexism. These specific discriminations include: “a

disregard for the dangerous migratory route, the systematic search for the legitimacy of the paternity of children qualified as "non-French", the questioning of the domestic violence suffered, disqualifications from work, blackmail to contract work, prohibited access to medical care, interference in private life, and the lack of child protection." (p.62). In addition, in November 2020, the [Culture Egalité](#) (Culture Equality) organization, which fights for women's rights, held a [press conference](#) with ASSOKA to denounce the harassment of immigrant women (mostly Haitian) by the national police in Martinique.

More recently, on the sister island of Guadeloupe, [the Haitian Migrant Support Collective denounced the discriminatory and racist practices of the authorities against Haitian immigrants in general](#). Their indignation came after the French government chartered a private plane to deport 30 Haitian immigrants because there were no commercial flights due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It should be noted that these immigrants, without criminal records, were deported to Haiti, a country that is currently experiencing serious political instability.

Latin America

In Latin America, the discrimination, humiliation and injustice suffered by Haitian immigrant women is glaring. Only tenacious resistance allows them to carry forth this journey, which is full of deception, from Haiti and across the South American continent to Mexico. They hope to apply for asylum in the United States (US), but most are blocked in Tapachula, Mexico (borders Guatemala) instead of Tijuana (borders the US) due to the tightening of Mexican immigration policies, which was influenced by the Trump administration. The report of the [Institute for Women in Migration](#) (IMUMI), the [Haitian Bridge Alliance](#) and the [Center for Gender and Refugee Studies](#) (CGRS) "[A Journey of Hope: Haitian Women's Migration to Tapachula, Mexico](#)" reveals the intersectional abuses experienced by Haitian immigrant women during this journey and upon arrival in Tapachula. For this population hitherto invisible, this report is the first step towards defending their human rights.

The United States and the new administration under President Biden

As Joseph Biden took office as president of the U.S., he ordered a 100-day moratorium on most deportations, [not including Title 42 expulsions of those attempting to enter the US by its land border](#). The protection against the remaining deportations was then removed when a Texas judge [suspended the implementation of the moratorium](#). In practice, these maneuvers have been accompanied by a [sharp increase in the number of deportation flights to Haiti and expulsions under Title 42](#). [Activists, human rights organizations, faith leaders and organizations](#), and [congress-people](#) have denounced this uptick and have been pressing the government to stop these flights. In particular, they have observed that [pregnant women and young children have not been spared](#) from these deportations. Moreover, in at least one

case, a woman who fled Haiti after having been a victim of sexual violence was deported, and this despite the US government's knowledge [of the harm that those deported may face upon return to Haiti](#).

With all of these regional efforts to denounce the abusive and violent practices against Haitian immigrants, especially women, it is urgent for these testimonies to be heard now in order to guarantee their human rights. Let us unite with them and denounce "Enough already!" so as to make the rights of our Haitian sisters and brothers a reality.