

# Trump's Second Inauguration: Border Emergency Declared and Deportation Looms for Millions

Trump's inaugural speech declares a national border emergency, sparking fears of mass deportation and uncertainty for millions of immigrants.

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According to 47th President Donald Trump, “the golden age of America begins right now.” But many Americans are questioning to whom that 'golden age' applies. For many undocumented immigrants, this statement, delivered during his inauguration just four days ago, has ignited fear for their lives, families, and futures in the United States.

“First, I will declare a national emergency at our southern border,” said Trump. “All illegal entry will immediately be halted, and we will begin the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens back to the places from which they came. We will reinstate my Remain in Mexico policy.”

The declaration drew a standing ovation from the predominantly white crowd at the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C., where Trump marked the start of his second presidential term.

Declaring a transitional time for America to be “greater, stronger, and far more exceptional than ever before,” Trump listed off his intended immigration policy changes he plans to sign off immediately. With mention of invoking the Remain in Mexico policy, the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, military border enforcement, and revoking birthright citizenship, undocumented immigrants—specifically from the southern border—fear for their future.

The impact of these policies extends beyond the undocumented, influencing American shared communities, workplaces, and families. Business owners may be left without any workers, and children may lose their parents and homes. Many are left questioning how far these measures will go, and whether Trump's rhetoric will translate into actionable policies or remain political posturing.

In an interview in Santa Barbara, former undocumented UK immigrant Garreth Kelly spoke on the unpredictability of Trump. “There is fearful uncertainty about what's going to happen,” he

said. “It’s hard to tell if Trump is all talk, no one really knows what this ‘mass deportation’ is going to look like.”

Kelly, now documented after an eight-year process, is a professional filmmaker in Santa Barbara with many immigration-related productions. Along with uncertainty, he emphasized his fear for immigrants of color, who often face racial profiling by law enforcement and dehumanization in films and in the press.

He points out that over the past decade, many media outlets have moved away from using language such as “illegal” to describe undocumented immigrants. Trump’s speech and repetition of terms like “aliens,” “illegals,” and “criminals,” suggests a shift in the opposite direction.

“Terminology describing these immigrants is dehumanizing, as no human being is illegal,” said Kelly.

Now secure in his citizenship, Kelly expresses deep concern for fellow immigrants in his community and across the country who are in the process of documentation. He fears that their hard work and contributions to America’s culture and economy are at risk of being not only disrespected, but entirely wiped away.