

Statement by Russell Smith, LMSW, CEO of Refugee Services of Texas
September 27, 2021

Refugee Services of Texas stands in solidarity with Haitian asylum seekers who have been displaced by twin natural disasters and political unrest, following the assassination of Jovenel Moïse, the president of Haiti, on July 7.

Not only has Haiti endured the assassination and attending upheaval, but the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that devastated the country in mid-August and, a few days later, the affectations caused by the tropical storm Grace.

Seeking safety and protection following civil unrest and natural calamities is a natural response to danger.

RST joins the International community in urging the Biden administration to immediately stop deportations and Title 42 expulsions of Haitians. RST supports fully restoring asylum protections to welcome displaced persons seeking a safe place to live.