



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201  
[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr)

## **Survivors of Torture Program for Nicaraguan Former Political Prisoners**

Dear Colleague Letter 23-16

February 16, 2023

Dear Colleague:

As reported in the news, 222 former political prisoners from Nicaragua arrived in the United States on Thursday, February 9, 2023. These vulnerable individuals were granted humanitarian parole and are now resettling in various locations throughout the country. While their current immigration status does not provide eligibility for refugee program assistance,<sup>1</sup> they may apply for assistance from ORR-funded Survivors of Torture (SOT) grantees in their communities. The Center for Victims of Torture has prepared [this memo](#), which, if grantees include in the case file when determining eligibility, ORR considers sufficient to show SOT program eligibility for each of the Nicaraguan political prisoners.

ORR strongly encourages all SOT programs to determine eligibility for applicants from this group as quickly as possible, so that they may quickly begin to receive the services and assistance that will help them in their adjustment to their new home.

If you have any questions about this DCL, please contact Lauren Edwards, Senior Advisor, at [lauren.edwards@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:lauren.edwards@acf.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

Robin Dunn Marcos  
Director  
Office of Refugee Resettlement

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<sup>1</sup> For information about eligibility for ORR refugee program services, see [ORR Policy Letter 16-01, Documentation Requirements for The Refugee Resettlement Program](#).