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## Trump's 'public charge' policy shows lack of empathy on green-card holders

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The Trump administration says it would allow customs and border officials to consider denying immigrants green card eligibility if they will rely on assistance programs, which the government refers to as a "public charge." This policy is to take effect Oct. 15.

As a green-card holder and a survivor of gender-based violence, I know firsthand how difficult it already is to receive critical public benefits. The Trump administration's new rule not only puts more of a burden on vulnerable communities, but it also shows a complete

lack of empathy for immigrants coming to this country in search of safety.

I fled Niger after experiencing horrific and traumatic sexual violence, only to come to the United States to then become a survivor of human trafficking. After 10 years of living here and finally obtaining a green card, I still face obstacles trying to access critical government assistance for myself and my family. Immigrant survivors of gender-based violence do not gain asylum and access to public benefits overnight.

The process is burdensome and can last decades.

The immigration crisis, manufactured by this administration, does not just impact survivors of gender-based violence arriving from Central America. It impacts all immigrants seeking to start a new life in America.

I urge administration officials to put in the shoes of immigrant families who have no other option than to flee for their safety and to prioritize human rights over politics.

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