

CONFRONTING RACISM AT THE U.S. - MEXICO BORDER

Understanding the Legacy of Colonialism, Racism and their impacts on Migration
from Haiti Today

By

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Via Getty Images





Why are Haitians coming?

- Extreme Violence
- Political instability (Assassination of Haiti's President in July 2021)
- Natural Disasters (2010, 2016, 2021)
- Extreme Poverty
- Lack of Services (i.e., medical services)
- Socio-economic instability

Paying for Freedom

- “But a different history is written in ledgers and banking statements. **They reveal a debt so large, and so lasting, that it would help cement Haiti’s path to poverty and underdevelopment.**
- **Haiti became the first and only country where the descendants of enslaved people paid the families of their former masters for generations.”** – New York Times, Haitian debt investigation

Racism

- Brazil: Migration Policy Institute reports that many Haitians worked longer hours and earned lower wages than Brazilians, and the economic downturn exacerbated their challenges
- Chile: 2019 government survey found that almost half of Haitian respondents in Chile said they had experienced discrimination because of their race or inability to speak Spanish.
- Argentina: Jose, 31 year-old Male.



Racism at the US-Mexico border

- “Indiferencia”
- Abuse
- Lack of access to services
- No access to asylum
- “Why not me? because of the color of my skin?”



Humanitarian Assistance

- Food
- Baby Formula
- Diapers
- Housing (Shelter and Rental Assistance)
- Access to Services: Medical Services, Legal Services and Employment



U.S. expulsions

UN OIM report on the number of migrants returned to Haiti by the United States:

- May 2022 - 4,655 83% *Second Highest Month after September 2021*
- Since January 2022 - 13,891* 77%
- May 2022 - Countries with the highest level of removal flights were Haiti (36) Guatemala (32) Honduras (30) Colombia (21) and El Salvador (12).

* *This number does not include number of migrants expelled into Mexico or other countries.*