

Our purpose at LGHP is to support the people of La Gonâve, Haiti. Today, we want to highlight an escalating and frightening situation for Haitian migrants in Springfield, Ohio. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters as harassment towards Haitian migrants increases in the wake of false claims targeting them.

After more than 30 years as partners with our friends in Haiti, spending time together has taught us what we have in common and how we can learn from one another. Under the TPS program, or Temporary Protected Status, Haitians legally seek refuge in the U.S. to escape crippling financial circumstances and danger at home. Many migrants were granted TPS after the 2010 earthquake. Some of La Gonâve's best and brightest have been drawn out of the country through TPS, leaving a gap in expert school teachers, healthcare workers, and other professions. The person working in a factory or warehouse in the U.S. may have been a business owner or nurse in Haiti.

The Haitian diaspora in the U.S. share their stories and the hardships they are facing. The news about misrepresentation and lies projected onto Haitian migrants in the U.S. has created shock waves in Haiti as well. Those who left their home country to work incredibly hard in search of a better life find racism and intolerance on the other side.

As followers of Jesus, we see the attributes Haitians share with Christ— injustice, sorrow, enduring hope, radical forgiveness and long-suffering. We correct our well-intentioned friends who ask if voodoo is a possibility as they search for a simple “good” explanation, a hope that this is all just an unintentional misunderstanding. We reply that it's unfortunately a very intentional ugliness, a strategy to frame an “outsider” as deserving of scorn, fear and casting-out. It's not about the pets, it was never about the pets.

We are dedicated to supporting the Haitian community, both at home and abroad. It is our hope that one day, through partnerships like ours, Haitians will create a country they do not need to flee. In the meantime, let us use this time to be advocates for Haiti and serve as examples of **compassion and respect.**



If you would like to see weekly updates about La Gonâve, follow us on Instagram or Facebook by clicking the links below.