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**State Representative Marie Woodson, State Senator Shevrin Jones, and
State Representative Dotie Joseph React to the Humanitarian Crisis
Taking Place at the U.S. Southern Border**

Tallahassee, Fla. – State **Representative Marie Woodson (D-Hollywood)** and State **Senator Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens)** held a press conference today in reaction to the humanitarian crisis taking place at the U.S. Southern border. Several other State Representatives and State Senators attended and spoke at the press conference in a show of solidarity with the migrants at the border.

“To say that I am angry and hurt is an understatement. The images of U.S. border agents on horseback charging at Haitian migrants and whipping them are horrifying to say the least. To think this is happening in the United States of America in 2021 is appalling. To add insult to injury, this is happening in the same country with a shameful history of mistreating people of color and immigrants. The images of white officers on horseback chasing Black men have echoes of the historical injustices suffered by Black people in the United States. You would think the images are straight out of a plantation from the 1600s. This should not be happening,” said **Representative Woodson**. “As President Biden stated after the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti, [‘The United States remains a close and enduring friend to the people of Haiti, and we will be there in the aftermath of this tragedy.’](#) It is my sincere hope that the Biden administration corrects this major and important issue and finds humane solutions to this crisis. I call on him to stop the mass deportations at the border, to meet with the National Haitian American Elected Officials Network (NHAEON) to find solutions, and to put an end to the practice of Title 42.”

“I want to give a heartfelt thank you to all of my colleagues who attended the press conference **Senator Jones** and I held today. Your support and solidarity is priceless and brings me great comfort. I am confident that together we can find ways to make this situation better,” added **Representative Woodson**.

Senator Jones stated, “These images are not from 1892, this is from 2021, and every one of us should be outraged. Our Haitian brothers and sisters have gone through the assassination of a president, a catastrophic earthquake, constant political unrest, gang violence, and the list goes on. This is not a border issue, this is America’s litmus test of humanity and empathy, and the Biden Administration must act!”

Representative Dotie Joseph urged the Biden administration to immediately stop

deporting Haitian migrants, complete a thorough investigation of the mounted immigration agents who were whipping migrants; and build back an immigration system that better assesses migrant claims in a non-discriminatory manner that comports with our humanitarian obligations under U.S. refugee and international law.

“As a Haitian immigrant and attorney, I want to reaffirm that immigrants are people with rights, many of whom migrated to the United States legally. President Biden campaigned on reforming our broken immigration system with dignity and human rights at the forefront, and now is the time for him to follow through on that promise,” said **Representative Joseph**.

The full press conference can be viewed on The Florida Channel; <https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/9-22-21-democrats-press-conference-9-immigration/>

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