

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE

## People of the Rio Grande Valley

---

---

**TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:**

WHEREAS, in a transparent attempt to distract from his failed leadership, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has issued a disaster declaration for the Texas counties lining the Texas-Mexico border; and

WHEREAS, his disastrous leadership failed to protect Texans during the COVID-19 pandemic that has taken more than 50,000 lives and this year's deadly winter storm that took 700 lives; and

WHEREAS, instead of leading and fixing the serious issues that are harming and killing Texans, he attempts to scapegoat new immigrants and asylum seekers at our border; and

WHEREAS, he shames and blames Black, brown and working-class communities who have struggled to work, feed their families, and secure healthcare during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, he continues to devote billions of dollars to target, militarize, surveil, and hurt border residents; and

WHEREAS, our calls to follow the lead of border residents to revitalize and demilitarize the border have gone unanswered;

WHEREAS, there are numerous reports of families and individuals suffering as a result of the lack of real investment in border communities so that all people thrive and live without fear;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE Rio Grande Valley, in accordance with the authority vested in us as the people who suffer from the State of Texas' racism and know the solutions for our future, do hereby certify that the ongoing failure of leadership from Governor Greg Abbott poses an ingoing and imminent threat of state-sanctioned widespread loss of civil and human rights in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties. We do hereby declare a state of disaster for all listed counties covered by this disaster declaration and for all Texas counties affected. For his failure to lead through the pandemic and protect Texans from disaster after disaster, we declare his governorship a disaster.

We therefore call on all people of good conscience to donate to organizations who are supporting new immigrants, asylum seekers, colonia residents, and low-income residents along the border. These organizations are providing the leadership that Governor Abbott has failed to deliver.

Donate by visiting [lupenet.org/declaration](https://lupenet.org/declaration).



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have hereunto signed our name in the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas, on the 2nd of June, 2021.

---

**La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)**  
**Angry Tias and Abuelas**  
**Asylum Seeker Network of Support**  
**Team Brownsville**  
**The Sidewalk School**