

HOLT: Welcome back from Miami. Jose is going to lead off the questioning in this round.

DIAZ BALART: Thank you very much. Senator Harris, last month more than 130,000 migrants were apprehended at the southern border. Many of them are being detained including small children in private detention centers in Florida and throughout our countries. Most of the candidates on this stage say the conditions in these facilities are abhorrent. On January 20th, 2021, if you are president, what specifically would you do with the thousands of people—

HARRIS: Yeah

DIAZ BALART: who try to reach the United States every day and want a better life through asylum?

HARRIS: Immediately on January 20th of 2021 I will first of all we cannot forget our DACA recipients so I'm going to start there. I will immediately by executive action reinstate DACA status and DACA protection to those young people. I will further extend protection for deferral of deportation for their parents and for veterans who we have so many who are undocumented and who have served our country and fought for our democracy. I will also immediately put in place immediate process for reviewing the cases for asylum. I will release children from cages. I will get rid of the private detention centers. And I will ensure that the—this microphone that the President of the United States holds in her hand is use din a way that is about reflecting the values of our country and not about locking children up, separating them from their parents. And I have to just say that we have to think about this issue in terms of real people. A mother who pays a coyote to transport her child through their country of origin, through the entire country of Mexico facing unknown peril to come here why would that mother do that? I will tell you. Because she has decided for that child to remain where they are is worse. But what does Donald Trump do? He says go back to where you came from. That is

not reflective of our America and our values and it has got to end.

DIAZ BALART: (INAUDIBLE) Hickenlooper day one if you are—day one at the White House how do you respond?

WILLIAMSON: With these—with these children?

DIAZ BALART: Let me get to you in—in—in just a second.

WILLIAMSON: I'm sorry.

DIAZ BALART: Governor, day one, thousands of men, women and children cross the border asking for asylum for a better life. What do you do? One, day one, hour one?

HICKENLOOPER: Certainly the images we've seen this week just compound the emotional impact that the world is judging us by. If you had ever told me any time in my life that this country would sanction federal agents to take children from the arms of their parents, put them in cages, actually put them up for adoption—in Colorado we call that kidnapping. I—I would have called you— I would have told you it was unbelievable. And the first thing we have to do is recognize the humanitarian crisis on the border for what it is and make sure there are the sufficient facil-facilities in place so that women and children are not separated from their families. The children are with their families. We have to make sure that—that ICE is completely reformed. And they begin looking at their job in a humanitarian way where they are addressing the whole needs of the people that they are engaged with along the border. And we have to make sure, ultimately, that we provide not just shelter, but food, clothing and access to medical care.

DIAZ BALART: Ms. Williamson.

WILLIAMSON: Yes, what Donald Trump has done to these children and it's not just in Colorado, Governor, you're right—it is kidnapping. And it's extremely important for us to realize that.

If you forcibly take a child from their parents arms you are kidnapping them. And if you take a lot of children and you put them in a detainment center thus inflicting chronic trauma upon them that's called child abuse. This is collective child abuse. This is collective child abuse. And when this is crime—both of those things are a crime and if your government does it that doesn't make it less of a crime. These are state-sponsored crimes. And what President—and what President Trump has done is not only attack these children, not only demonize these immigrants, he is attacking a basic principle of America's moral core. We open our hearts to the stranger. This is extremely important and it's also important for all of us remember and I have great respect for everyone who is on this—on this—on this stage but we are going to talk about what to do about healthcare. Well, where have you been guys? Because if it's not just the matter of a plan and I haven't heard anybody on this stage who has talked about American foreign policy in Latin America and how we might have in the last few decades contributed to something being more helpful(SP).

DIAZ-BALART: Senator Gillibrand what would you do as President with a reality?

GILLIBRAND: Well, one of the worst things about President Trump that he has done to this country is he has torn apart the moral fabric of who we are. When he started separating children at the border from their parents the fact that seven children have died in his custody, the fact that dozens of children have been separated from their parents and they have no plan to reunite them so I would do a few things. First, I would fight for comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship. Second, I would reform how we treat asylum-seekers at the border. I would have a community-based treatment center where you are doing it within the communities where asylum-seekers are given lawyers, where there is real immigration judges, not employees of the Atty. Gen. but appointed for life and have a community-based system. I would fund borders security but the worst thing President Trump has done is he has diverted the funds away from cross-border terrorism, cross-border human

trafficking, drug trafficking and gun trafficking and he is given that money to the for-profit prisons. I would not be spending money in for profit prisons—

DIAZ-BALART: We had—

GILLIBRAND: —to lock up children and asylum-seekers.

DIAZ-BALART: We had a very spirited debate on this stage last night on the topic of decriminalization of the border. If—if you would be so kind raise your hand if you think it should be a civil offense rather than a crime to cross the border without documentation? Can we keep the hands up so we can see them?

BUTTIGIEG: Let's remember that's not just a theoretical exercise, that criminalization that is the basis for family separation. You do away with that it is no longer possible. Of course it wouldn't be possible anyway in my presidency because it is dead wrong. We have got to talk about one other thing because the Republican Party likes to cloak itself in the language of religion. Now our party doesn't talk about that as much largely for a very good reason which was we are committed to the separation of church and state and we stand for people of any religion and people of no religion. But we should call out hypocrisy when we see it in for a party that associates itself with Christianity to say that it is okay to suggest that God would smile on the division of families at the hands of federal agents, that God would condone putting children in cages has lost all claim to ever use religious language again.

DIAZ-BALART: Mr. vice president I don't know if you raised your hand or word just asking to speak—

BIDEN: Look—

DIAZ-BALART: Would you decriminalize crossing the border without documents?

BIDEN: The first thing I would do is unite families. I would surge immediately billions of dollars' worth of help to the region the immediately. Look, I talk about foreign policy. I am the guy that got a bipartisan agreement at the very end of the campaign, at the very end of our term to spend \$740 million to deal with the problem and that was to go to the root cause of why people are leaving in the first place. It was working. We saw as you know a net decrease in the number of children who were coming. The crisis was updated and along came this President and he said he immediately discontinued that. We all talk about these things, I did it. I did it. Now look, second thing—second thing we have to do, the law now requires the reuniting of those families. We would reunite those families period and if not we would put those children in a circumstance where they were safe until we could find their parents. And lastly the idea that he is in court with his Justice Department saying children in cages do not need a bed, do not need a blanket, do not need a toothbrush—

DIAZ-BALART: Vice President—

BIDEN: That is outrageous.

DIAZ-BALART: The Obama-Biden administration was— The Obama-Biden administration deported more than three million Americans. My question to you is if an individual is living in the United States of America without documents and that is his only offense, should that person be deported?

BIDEN: Depending if they committed a—a major crime, they should be deported. And the President was left in his—President Obama I think did a heck of a job. To compare him to what—what this guy is doing is absolutely, I find—close to immoral. But the fact is that, look, we should not be locking people up. We should be making sure we change the circumstance, as we did, why they would leave in the first place. And those who come seeking asylum, we should immediately have the capacity to absorb them, keep them safe until they can be heard.

DIAZ-BALART: A 15-second, if you could, if you wish to answer, should someone who is here without documents, and that is his only offense, should that person be deported?

BIDEN: That person should not be the focus of deportation. We should fundamentally change the way we deal with things.

DIAZ-BALART: Senator?

SANDERS: I want to—

WILLIAMSON: I think it's important

SANDERS: —Suggest that I agree with a lot of what Kamala just said, and that is on day one we take out our executive order pen and we rescind every damn thing on this issue that Trump has done. Number two—number two, picking up on the point that Joe made, we got a look at the root causes. And you have a situation where Honduras, among other things, is a failing state, massive corruption. You got gangs who are telling families that if a 10-year-old does not join their gang, their family is going to be killed. What we have got to do on day one and invite the presidents and the leadership of Central America and Mexico together. This is a hemispheric—

DIAZ-BALART: Thank you

SANDERS: Problem that we have got to address.

DIAZ-BALART: Congressman Swalwell? What do you do?

SWALWELL: Day one?

DIAZ-BALART: No. If someone is here without documents and that is their only offense, is that person to be deported?

SWALWELL: No, that person can be a part of this great American experience. That person can contribute. My congressional district is one of the most diverse in America, and we see the

benefits when people contribute and they become a part of the community and they're not in the shadow economy. Day one for me, families are reunited. This president, though, for immigrants, there is nothing he will not do to separate a family, cage a child, or erase their existence by weaponizing the census. And there is nothing that we cannot do in the courts and that I will not do as president to reverse that and to make sure that families always belong together.

DIAZ-BALART: Senator Harris?

HARRIS: Well, thank you. I will say, no, absolutely not. They should not be deported. And I actually--this was one of the very few issues with which I disagreed with the administration, with whom I otherwise had a great relationship and a great deal of respect. But on the secure communities issue, I was Attorney General of California. I led the second largest Department of Justice in the United States, second only to the United States Department of Justice, in a state of 40 million people. And on this issue, I disagreed with my president, because the policy was to allow deportation of people who, by ICE's own definition, were non-criminals. So, as Attorney General and the chief law officer of the state of California, I issued a directive to the sheriffs of my state that they did not have to comply with detainers and instead should make decisions based on the best interest of public safety of their community. Because what I saw--and I was tracking it every day. I was tracking it and saw that--that parents, people who had not committed a crime even by ICE's own definition, were being deported. And--but I have to add a point here. The problem with this kind of policy, and I know it as a prosecutor--

DIAZ-BALART: Senator--

HARRIS: I want a rape victim to be able to run in the middle--

DIAZ-BALART: Senator--

HARRIS: Of a-to run in the middle of the street and waved down a police officer and report the crime against her. I want anybody who has been the victim-

DIAZ-BALART: Senator-

HARRIS: Of any real crime-

DIAZ-BALART: Senator-

HARRIS: To be able to do that-

DIAZ-BALART: Your time-

HARRIS: And not be afraid that, if they do that-

DIAZ-BALART: Senator-

HARRIS: They will be deported because the abuser-

DIAZ-BALART: Senator-

HARRIS: Will tell them it is they who is the criminal. It is wrong.

HOLT: We're going to turn-

HARRIS: It is wrong-

HOLT: We're going to turn to the issue of trade now, if we can.

HOLT: Last night we ask the candidates on this stage to name the greatest geopolitical threat facing the U.S. Four of them mentioned China. U.S. businesses say China steals our intellectual property and party leaders on both sides accuse China of manipulating their currency to keep the cost of goods artificially low.

I'll ask this to Senator Bennet to start off with, how would you stand up to China?

BENNET: I think that, first of all, the biggest—the biggest threat to our national security right now is Russia, not China. And, second, on China we've got comp—because of what they've done with our election. In China, I think the president's been right to push back on China but he's done it in completely the wrong way. We should mobilize the entire rest of the world who all have a shared interest in pushing back on China's mercantilist trade policies and I think we can do that. I'd like to answer the other question before this as well.

HOLT: You—you have the time—

BENNET: When I—when I—when I see these kids at the border, I see my mom because I know she sees herself because she was separated from her parents for years during the holocaust in Poland. And for Donald Trump to be doing what he's doing to children and their families at the borders I say this as somebody who wrote the immigration bill in 2013 that created a pathway to citizenship for 11 million people in this country that had the most progressive DREAM Act that's ever been conceived, much less passed, it got 68 votes in the Senate, that had \$46 billion of border security in it that was sophisticated 21st century border security, not a medieval wall that the president has—

HOLT: Senator, the time—sorry—

BENNET: Turned the border of the United States into a symbol of nativist hostility that the whole world is looking at when what we should be represented by is—

HOLT: Senator, thank you.

BENNET: The Statue of Liberty, which has brought my parents to this country to begin with. We need to make a change.