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Office of the Director

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20536



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

March 31, 2025

TO: ICE Leadership

FROM: Todd Lyons  
Acting Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Lyons".

SUBJECT: **Updated Terminology for Communications  
Materials and Internal and External Communications**

This memorandum updates the January 21, 2025, memorandum *Updated Terminology for Communications and Materials*. That memo instituted the following terminology changes:

| <u>Previous</u>                   | <u>Updated</u>                      |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Noncitizen                        | <b>Alien</b>                        |
| Noncitizenship                    | <b>Alienage</b>                     |
| Unaccompanied noncitizen children | <b>Unaccompanied Alien Children</b> |

In addition to those changes, which remain in effect, ICE will adopt the following terminology for all communications materials and internal and external communications:

| <u>Previous</u>                                | <u>Updated</u>                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Undocumented Noncitizen;<br>Undocumented Alien | <b>Illegal alien</b><br><br><i>Note: ICE personnel may use the term "undocumented" when quoting language from a relevant statute or regulation.</i> |
| Special Interest Undocumented Individual       | <b>Special Interest Alien</b>                                                                                                                       |
| International Student                          | <b>Foreign Student</b>                                                                                                                              |
| Asylum Seeker                                  | <b>Asylum Applicant</b>                                                                                                                             |

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