

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

### IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IN THE AGE OF COVID-19 – MAY 14

The United Democratic Club will host a webinar on Thursday, May 14 at 5:30PM PDT about the “unsafe, unjust, and at some times illegal practices” of immigration enforcement in the United States during this time. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

### REVISITING NATIONAL SECURITY, EPIDEMICS, AND US IMMIGRATION POLICY – MAY 26

The Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at UC San Diego will host a webinar on Tuesday, May 26 at 12:00PM PDT. The webinar will discuss epidemics through history and how contagions can alter the fates of civilizations, national security, and immigration policies. There will also be a discussion about how historical findings from centuries ago have pertinence for a modern world with vaccines and sophisticated medicine. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

### STUCK AT HOME: IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19 – MAY 27

Immigrant and refugee communities are particularly vulnerable to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking at all times. During stay at home orders due to COVID-19 victims are isolated, trapped, and unable to reach out to others for support. Join the Access, Inc. Sexual Assault Victim Empowerment (SAVE) for an in-depth conversation of this issue and the interventions needed to address the problem. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, May 27 at 11AM PDT. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



## Toy Guns in War Zones: Children at the Intersection of Trafficking and Conflict

By Kelly Ann Whelan

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has drastically changed life as we knew it. Yet one thing that has not changed is the presence of armed conflict in many parts of the world, even if those conflicts currently receive less media attention. Ongoing conflict occurs on nearly every continent in varying degrees. And all conflicts involve children, either directly in combatant and support roles, or indirectly in the effects of conflict on health, population displacement, and development.

While the number of children directly involved is unknown, an estimated one in six children worldwide live in a conflict zone and an estimated two out of three children live in a conflict-affected country. Since 2010, the United Nations has verified more than 170,000 grave violations against children in conflict – the equivalent of more than 45 verified violations every day for the last 10 years. Conflict makes children particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of exploitation and human trafficking, even more so in today’s environment of closed borders and stringent restrictions on migration.

In this brief, we discuss trafficking of children in the context of armed conflict and how a current conflict under the conditions of COVID-19 negatively affects children’s ability to seek protection.

### Children as Soldiers, Cooks, and Miners

Under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their additional protocols, an “armed conflict” is defined as a protracted armed confrontation between two or more states, between a state(s) and an armed group(s) or between armed groups within a state. Here, we are going to focus on the trafficking that armed groups employ to exploit children in various ways.

Read this week’s full brief [here](#).

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### USCIS EXTENDS OFFICE CLOSURE UNTIL JUNE 4

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced that it will reopen its offices on June 4, 2020. For the latest information on the status of an office, check [here](#).

### USCRI COVID-19 RESOURCES

[Nonprofit Organizations and the CARES Act](#)

[COVID-19 Bill #1: Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act](#) (March 6)

[COVID-19 Bill #2: Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) (March 18)

[COVID-19 Bill #3: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) (March 28)

[Bill Preview: Coronavirus Immigrant Families Protection Act](#) (April 6)

[Executive Order: Suspension of Immigration Following COVID-19 Outbreak](#) (April 23)

[Flores Enforcement Actions and COVID-19](#) (April 27)

### • Third Circuit Rules that it has Jurisdiction on Claims of Ineffective Counsel and Due Process in Immigration Court

On April 27, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the petitioner in the case *Calderon-Rosas v. Barr*. The case concerned a plaintiff whose attorney was disbarred soon after his case, and in which Calderon-Rosas produced 100 pages of evidence that his prior attorney had not submitted. The Third Circuit overturned the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) denial, deciding that Calderon-Rosas had suffered ineffective counsel and ruling that the BIA was wrong on both the legal standard and the merits. The government also claimed the Third Circuit did not have jurisdiction to hear the case, which the court denied. Read the ruling [here](#).

### • Ninth Circuit Upholds Preliminary Injunction on Administration's Health-Insurance Requirement for Immigrants

On May 4, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a preliminary injunction on Presidential Proclamation 9945. The Proclamation, issued in October, bars the entry of immigrants to the U.S. who cannot demonstrate that they will be covered by approved health insurance plans within 30 days of entry. Read the Ninth Circuit's order [here](#).

### • Federal Government Abandons Appeal of Ruling Forcing Quick EAD Adjudication

On May 5, the U.S. government dropped its appeal in the case *NWIRP v. USCIS*. The case concerned the obligation of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to either adjudicate applications for employment authorization documents (EADs) or issue interim employment authorization. A U.S. District Court had ruled in plaintiffs' favor in 2018, and the government had appealed to the Ninth Circuit. Read the motion to dismiss [here](#).

### • BIA Rules NTAs Missing Information are not Deficient

On May 8, the BIA ruled against the petitioner in *Matter of Herrera-Vasquez*. Jonathan Herrera-Vasquez received a Notice to Appear (NTA) missing information about where and how he entered the United States. The BIA ruled that this information did not render the charging document invalid, overruling an immigration judge who had said that the absence of this information prevented Herrera-Vasquez from coming to court with the information necessary to contest his case. Read the BIA ruling [here](#).

### • MPP Hearings Postponed through June 19

On May 10, the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) announced that all hearings for individuals placed in the so-called Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) have been postponed through June 19. MPP forces individuals with asylum claims and other claims for protection to wait for their hearings in Mexico. Read EOIR's announcement [here](#).

# USCRI Time Machine

*This week's Time Machine looks to our report [Sea Change: Australia's New Approach to Asylum Seekers](#), published in 2002. Last week, the United States accepted three refugees from immigration detention in Australia despite the general ban on refugee entries, and recently completed the formal steps necessary to establish an Asylum Cooperative Agreement with Honduras. Australia has now had a similarly hostile environment for refugees and asylum claimants, with troubling consequences for people in need of protection in its region and worldwide.*

"When it initiated the Regional Cooperation Arrangements, Australia said that it would not accept for resettlement any persons intercepted under the arrangements and approved as refugees by UNHCR. This stance, they said, was to avoid 'rewarding these people with an outcome they have sought, and possibly giving rise to further irregular people movement into Indonesia [sic].' Instead, Australia hoped other resettlement countries would admit these individuals as part of an international 'burden sharing' arrangement.

"U.S. officials reportedly took issue with Australia's position, believing that Australia should participate in the resettlement effort, at least by reuniting refugees with family members in Australia. Subsequently, Australia agreed to resettle those refugees with 'family links' in Australia, saying it did so 'in accordance with the

principle of burden sharing.' The United States then began resettlement interviews in Jakarta, as did a number of other countries.

"As of October 31, 2001, UNHCR had submitted the cases of 498 recognized refugees to at least twelve resettlement countries, including the United States, Canada, Sweden, and Australia. The resettlement countries had collectively issued resettlement decisions for 172 persons, with 93 persons being accepted (primarily by Sweden, Canada, and the United States). Australia had accepted one person. Thus far, 39 persons had departed Indonesia during 2001, including the one accepted by Australia.

"Although the resettlement countries had yet to decide on most cases, the approval rates, particularly for the United States, were much lower than anticipated by the Australian government and UNHCR. The United States had approved only 36 percent of the cases it had decided, with indications that the vast majority of remaining cases would likely be denied. These results prompted complaints by the Australian government that the United States was not adequately participating in the effort to find durable solutions for the refugees."

## Global Gigabyte

In Chad, schools have been closed since mid-March due to COVID-19. But that hasn't stopped schoolteachers from making sure that Chad's 100,000 refugee students can continue to learn. At the level of health communication, teachers are contributing to the distribution of posters and information materials, as well as engaging with students and their families to raise awareness around prevention measures and social distancing.

"I have been recommending to wash hands frequently, avoid crowds and not gather in the streets during this period," confirms Fatimé Ali Rifa, a teacher in Touloum refugee camp.

"For the students, the closure of the schools affects their schedules, as they won't be able to finish the program," says Abdallah Ahmat, math teacher in Djabal refugee camp. "The community is worried; it is not sure what will happen with the future of our children. The question is when is this all going to finish?"

Potential plans for the future are being put in place for when schools will be reopened. These include intensifying the courses to allow students to catch up and arranging for each class to include no more than 10 students. Alternatively, students may study from home in groups of three or four, and will be monitored by teachers willing to go from home to home to check what the students are doing and try to go through old materials with them.

Read more [here](#).

If you have any questions  
or comments, please  
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