

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

### “THE IMPACT OF TRUMP’S EXECUTIVE ORDER AND COVID-19 ON US IMMIGRATION” – MAY 5

The South Asian Bar Association of North America will host a webinar on Tuesday, May 5th at 2 PM EDT on President Trump’s most recent Executive Order, its impact on U.S. immigration, and the particular effects it has on the South Asian immigrant community. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

### IMMIGRATION COURTS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 – MAY 6

On Wednesday, May 6 at 11 AM PDT, USC’s Immigrants and Global Migrants Initiative will present a Zoom Fireside Chat with Judge Ashley Tabaddor, President of the National Association of Immigration Judges, to discuss immigration courts in the time of COVID-19. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

### WHY PEOPLE MIGRATE AND HOW ARE THEY RECEIVED: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – MAY 7

The Heurich House Museum and the Bipartisan Policy Center present “Once Upon an American Dream,” a three-part panel series exploring the stages of the immigrant experience in America: migration, arrival, and integration.

The first panel will take place on Thursday, May 7 at 4 PM EDT. The panel will discuss the following: arriving immigrants have traditionally received a great deal of support from other immigrants as well as their local communities. How does this support, or lack thereof, shape their experiences and their trajectory for success in America? How does this compare to the experiences of immigrants past?

For more information and to register, click [here](#).



## COVID-19 and Unaccompanied Children

By **Mario Bruzzone**

On March 20, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an [unprecedented order](#) to bar the entry of all “nonessential” travelers at U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico. The Administration cited a 1944 public health statute as legal authority for the move, and deputized employees of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) to enforce the order, among other agencies. Almost immediately, the U.S. government began expulsions of any individual deemed to be a “serious danger to the introduction” of COVID-19 into the United States, per a [CBP operational memorandum](#). The CBP memo noted that the CDC order supersedes other parts of federal law, particularly Title 8 and Title 19.

The CDC order set aside most protections for unaccompanied children, as well as those laws that protect asylum seekers and other individuals in need of protection. Before the CDC order, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPRA) governed how CBP and other agencies handled situations

involving unaccompanied children. Among other requirements, under the TVPPRA unaccompanied children from non-contiguous countries must be transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) within 72 hours. The TVPPRA is meant to protect unaccompanied children from becoming victims of trafficking and to remove them from trafficking situations. More broadly, unaccompanied children have immediate and acute needs for a stable environment, with access to medical care, psychological care, and appropriate space for their cognitive and social development.

This policy brief describes the legal basis for the CDC order, and the interpretation used to support the new policy of border expulsions. It then describes the outstanding obligations to unaccompanied children at the U.S. border, and the protective procedures that should remain in place to ensure that they will not be subject to exploitation, trafficking, or violence.

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](#).

### FEDERAL REGISTER ANNOUNCEMENT, COMMENTS DUE – MAY 11

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has proposed to change the requirements for Form I-864, Affidavit of Support, and related Forms I-864A and I-864EZ, which would impose significant burdens on immigrant families. These burdens would include requiring the sponsor to provide detailed bank account information and notarization of forms. Submit comments [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 \(April 27\)](#)

### • Administration Sued Over Blocking Stimulus Checks to Americans Married to Immigrants

On Friday, April 24, a man in Illinois married to an immigrant filed suit against the Administration. Under the [CARES Act](#), Americans with immigrant spouses who use an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) to file taxes are excluded from receiving stimulus checks intended to assist taxpayers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The lawsuit challenges the provision on the constitutional ground that individuals have the right to marry the spouse of their choice. The plaintiff seeks injunction barring the IRS from enforcing the disputed provision and a decision that the provision is unconstitutional. Read the plaintiff's brief [here](#).

### • Asylum Agreement with Honduras Finalized

On April 30, the United States finalized an [Asylum Cooperative Agreement](#) (ACA) with Honduras. Similar to the one with [Guatemala](#), the ACA will allow the government to send those seeking asylum in the United States to Honduras to apply for protection there. Human rights experts have voiced deep concern over the decision, noting that Honduras does not meet the legal requirements for a safe country for asylum-seekers under U.S. and international law. Further, the U.S. State Department [reported](#) last year that many migrants are vulnerable to attacks by criminal groups there.

### • Federal Judge Upholds COVID-19 Immigration Ban

A federal judge in Oregon has upheld the Administration's immigration ban that was released via [executive order](#). Immigration advocacy groups had filed an emergency [motion](#) on April 25 seeking a temporary order to block the ban on visa services for children of immigrants who are at risk of turning 21 and aging out of their preferential underage status for the processing of visas. While U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon recognized the hardship to children at this time, he wrote in his [ruling](#) that, "[it] is a matter for Congress to fix, not the courts."

### • Malaysia and Bangladesh Refuse Entry of Rohingya Refugees

For more than two months, boats carrying Rohingya refugees have not been allowed to come ashore in Malaysia and Bangladesh. Both the Malaysian navy and the Bangladeshi coast guard have blocked boats carrying several hundred refugees, including many children, from entering territorial waters. Many refugees on the boats have died with many more in desperate need of medical attention and food. Both governments seek to justify their actions as a preventative measure against COVID-19. However, reports of human rights abuses against the Rohingya have been common in recent years. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Michelle Bachelet warned of a "human tragedy of terrible proportions" unless action is taken. UNHCR estimates that there are over one million Rohingya refugees globally and has [stated](#) that they are "the most persecuted minority in the world."

### • Finland to Take In 100 Unaccompanied Refugee Children

The government of Finland has [announced](#) that it will accept 100 unaccompanied refugee children and 75 adults from overcrowded refugee camps in Greece, Cyprus, Malta, and Italy. Finnish Interior Minister Maria Ohisalo stated that the decision hopefully will "alleviate the humanitarian situation" of refugees. Refugees will be housed in Finland in specially designed shipping containers that have electricity, heating, air conditioning, and sanitation.

# USCRI Time Machine

*This week's Time Machine revisits USCRI's April 1990 report **Early Warning Is Not Enough: The Failure to Prevent Starvation in Ethiopia**. In the 1980s, around one million Ethiopians died of starvation. An additional several hundred thousand made the arduous journey to refugee camps, seeking food. In 1990, it appeared that the situation would repeat itself. To avert crisis in the future, USCRI had the following recommendations:*

**“Need for Early Warning:** In 1984, the Ethiopian government withheld information about the evolving famine from the international community for political reasons. It was not until foreign journalists secretly filmed scenes of suffering and starvation and showed these on western television that the Ethiopian government acknowledged what was happening and allowed international assistance to begin reaching those in need. This withholding of information about the famine and the consequent delay in beginning an international relief effort cost countless lives. The Ethiopian government was widely and justly condemned for its actions.”

**“Coordination of Relief Efforts:** According to a private organization familiar with the 1984-85 famine, The Development GAP, ‘The 1984-85 Ethiopian relief effort was fundamentally marred by the lack of coordination between those foreign governments and organizations working through government channels and those working from Sudan through the liberation movements. This resulted in a

polarization within the international aid community, an increased flow of refugees to Sudan and significant expenditure on emergency airlifts when ground transportation might have been otherwise possible.”

**“Averting Mass Migration:** As the experience of 1984-85 clearly proved, large-scale population displacement is a major cause of high rates of serious illness and death. People often do not leave their villages and homes until they are already in a weakened physical condition. The trek across inhospitable terrain—for days or sometimes weeks—further weakens them. Many die en route. Others who arrive at food distribution centers or refugee camps are too weak or ill to be able to eat the food that they find, and they also die. Those who initially survive the trek must still face the many diseases and epidemics that are rampant when massive populations are thrust together in one place, often without an adequate water supply, basic sanitation, or enough food. Preventing mass migrations in search of food is therefore one of the key objectives to be achieved in a famine relief effort. In order to prevent migration, however, food has to reach people where they live (or at least within reasonable walking distance thereof).”

## Global Gigabyte

Dabir Choudhury is 100 years old and lives in London, United Kingdom.

During this Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Chodhury, who is fasting, pledged to walk 100 laps around his communal garden in an effort to raise money for refugees during the COVID-19 crisis, including those in the Gaza Strip, Syria, and Yemen, among others.

In the first nine hours, donors gave over £6,000 (\$7,515). Chodhury has renewed his pledge and has said that he will not stop walking until donations stop.

“We are fighting together,” he said.

Read more [here](#).

If you have any questions  
or comments, please  
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