

Upcoming Meetings & Events

IMMIGRATION HISTORY TIMELINE—APR. 27

On Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00 PM EDT, join the Arizona-based immigration organization BorderLinks for a workshop examining the history of U.S. immigration policy and learn how these policies have shaped the modern immigration landscape. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

IMMIGRATION MATTERS: CONVERSATIONS WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS—MAY 1

On Saturday, May 1 at 2:00 PM PDT, Orbit Law will host a webinar to discuss new immigration policies under the Biden administration. The webinar is part of a series intended to provide information and resources to community groups, and is held in collaboration with various non-profits. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRATION SINCE 1965—MAY 4

On Tuesday, May 4 at 9:00 PM EDT, learn about the history of immigration from Mexico and Central America in the first of a three-part series. Professor Carlos Solomon will discuss the damage caused by US involvement in Latin America. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



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USCRI Fact Sheet: Arriving Unaccompanied Children, April 2021

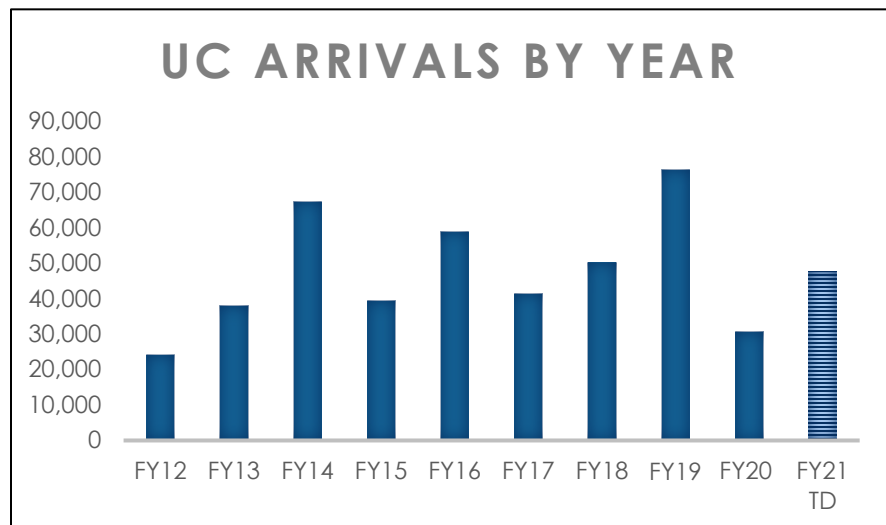
By Mario Bruzzone

This week, the P&A Report highlights our new Fact Sheet on Arrivals of unaccompanied children. To view the full USCRI Fact Sheet, click [here](#).

Arrivals of Unaccompanied Children

Since the federal fiscal year (FY21) began in October 2020, approximately 37,000 UCs have arrived in the United States for processing. FY21 arrivals-to-date have exceeded all years since 2017.1 Most observers expect that FY21 will approximate

or exceed other recent years of high arrivals: 2014, 2016, and 2019. Many UCs entering the United States were expelled under the prior Administration’s use of Title 42 to deny access to protection, in place from March to November 2020. Many other UCs would have come in FY20 but delayed their journeys because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Because of these two factors, experts are uncertain whether 2021 arrivals represent a true “surge” year, or whether 2021 arrivals are in line with recent averages, best approximated by averaging FY20 and FY21 arrivals.



U.S. Issue Updates

• **President Biden Changes Refugee Allocations but Keeps 15k Cap**

On Friday, April 16, the Biden Administration issued a revised Presidential Determination (PD) on refugee admissions that changed allocation categories while retaining the prior administration's cap of 15,000 refugees during the 2021 fiscal year. While the new administration had held the required consultations with Congress within weeks of entering office, it had failed to issue new directions for refugee admissions until now. Soon after, and after significant criticism from both humanitarian organizations and Democratic allies, the administration reversed course, saying that a revised cap would come by May 15.

• **DHS Announces F-1 Extensions for Syrian and Venezuelans**

On Wednesday, April 21, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced an extension of Special Student Relief for Syrian and Iranian students present on F-1 visas who are experiencing economic hardship due to humanitarian crises in their respective countries. The notices allow individuals with current F-1 visas to request employment authorization, work increased hours while school is in session, or reduce course loads while maintaining status. To read the Federal Register notice for Syrian students, click [here](#). To read the Federal Register notice for Venezuelan students, click [here](#).

• **House Passes NO BAN Act and Access to Counsel Act**

On Wednesday, April 21, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the NO BAN Act (H.R. 1333) and the Access to Counsel Act (H.R. 1573). Both bills are formally endorsed by the Biden Administration, a rare step. Sponsored by Rep. Judy Chu, the NO BAN Act would revise certain parts of immigration law to prohibit discrimination based on religion and would limit the power of the Executive to issue travel bans. The Access to Counsel Act, sponsored by Rep. Pramila Jayapal, would ensure that individuals held by Border Patrol at ports of entry have a legal right to contact family or legal advisors. Both bills head to the Senate, where their passage is uncertain. Read the NO BAN Act [here](#) and the Access to Counsel Act [here](#).

• **DHS to Make 22,000 H-2B Visas Available Non-Agricultural Workers**

On Tuesday, April 20, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it would make 22,000 additional visas available for H-2B workers. 6000 visas will be reserved for individuals from the "Northern Triangle" countries of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, showing the focus the Biden Administration is putting on that region. DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said that the action "demonstrates DHS's commitment to expanding lawful pathways for opportunity in the United States to individuals from the Northern Triangle." Mayorkas said that DHS will publish a new temporary final rule in the Federal Register, with visas to be made available "in the coming months." To read DHS's announcement, click [here](#).

U.S. Issue Updates (cont'd)

• **Senate Passes COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act**

On Thursday, April 22, the U.S. Senate voted to pass the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (S.937). Sponsored by Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, the bill would assist in creating a better reporting structure for anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) hate crimes, expedite Department of Justice reviews into COVID-19-related hate crimes, and direct both the Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Attorney General to create a list of techniques to reduce the usage of racist language to describe COVID-19. The bill comes during a wave of hate crimes against the AAPI community, fueled by rhetoric from many politicians, public figures, and the media. The bill passed 94 to 1 in the Senate, with only Senator Josh Hawley voting against it, and now heads to the House. To read the text of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, click [here](#).

Around the World in International Migration

• **ASEAN Demands Myanmar Military End Crackdowns Immediately**

Over the weekend, leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) called on Myanmar's military to immediately cease its violent crackdown on protestors and to release political prisoners. Since the February military coup, more than 700 people have been murdered, thousands have been detained, and almost a quarter of a million civilians have been displaced. The ASEAN members have drafted "Five Points of Consensus" that include the cessation of violence, constructive dialogue amongst opposing parties, a special envoy from ASEAN to facilitate mediation, provision of humanitarian assistance, and a delegation to visit Myanmar and meet with concerned parties.

The newly formed civilian National Unity Government in Myanmar, a group of pro-democracy leaders opposed to the coup, have welcomed ASEAN's input. General Min Aung Hlaing, head of Myanmar's army, was less enthusiastic but said he was "not opposed" to a visit by ASEAN and would consider some of the suggestions raised..

• **Over 100 Migrants Feared Drowned after Europe and Libya Ignored Calls for Rescue**

SOS Méditerranée, a humanitarian group that works to save migrants making dangerous journeys by sea, reports that about 130 migrants are feared to have drowned last Thursday when their rubber boat capsized in international waters off the coast of Libya. The small boat was unable to withstand the waves that were reaching over eighteen feet high. The hotline Alarm Phone alerted the international community that the migrants were in grave danger, but both European and Libyan authorities refused to take responsibility and send rescue. By the time SOS was able to respond, workers found only the overturned boat and ten bodies. They were unable to identify any survivors.

This incident comes after Italian prosecutors brought migrant smuggling charges last month against charities such as Save the Children and Médecins Sans Frontières for their rescues of migrants at sea. Several of these organizations have had their boats seized by the Italian authorities and have been unable to continue responding to such alerts.

Around the World in International Migration

• South Africa to Deport or Integrate Refugees in Cape Town Over Two Weeks

A group of refugees who have been housed in temporary shelters in Cape Town since late 2019 has been given an ultimatum by South Africa: integrate into the community or be repatriated to their countries of origin. The integration and repatriation processes are set to take place over just two weeks, at which time the shelters will be vacated and service provision will immediately end.

The announcement exemplifies South Africa's history of tense relationships with refugees. The temporary settlements were established in late 2019 after South African police brutally cracked down on refugees who were protesting xenophobia in the country and asking to be resettled in Canada. Police fired rubber bullets and water cannons, dragging protestors away from UNHCR buildings. South Africa's Home Affairs Minister, Aaron Motsoaledi, denies that the temporary shelters are "refugee camps" and characterizes the refugees' options as generous, stating that anyone left in the shelters after the two-week period "will be dealt with by the law enforcement agencies."

While over 100 protestors have already agreed to be repatriated, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has warned that any repatriation must be voluntary and that no one can be repatriated to a place where their lives will be in danger.

• Severe Droughts Threaten Somalia with Record Displacement

The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) finds that over 112,000 Somalis have been displaced so far in 2021, and one third have been displaced by drought. The Norwegian Refugee Council warns that if these conditions continue, Somalia could see record displacement this year, even as displacement in 2020 reached 1.3 million. More than 80% of the country is reportedly experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions. The UN warns that women and girls often face the greatest danger in such crises, as they are forced to provide for families, they have little access to hygiene necessities and medical care, and they are vulnerable to gender-based violence. The UN has appealed to the international community for \$1.09 billion to respond to the drought, but only 13% of the necessary funds have been donated so far.

If you have any questions
or comments, please
contact the
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Division at policy@uscrimail.org.