

Upcoming Meetings & Events

UNSTABLE GROUND: THE IMPACT OF CHANGING IMMIGRATION POLICY ON ARAB AMERICANS AND OTHER COMMUNITIES – JUNE 23

On Tuesday, June 23 at 2 PM EDT, the National Arab American Bar Association (NAABA) will host a webinar to discuss the impact of recent changes and potential future changes on Arab Americans and other vulnerable immigrant communities. To register, click [here](#).

MOTHER JONES IN CONVERSATION WITH DIANE GUERRERO – JUNE 25

Mother Jones magazine will host a virtual conversation with actress and activist Diane Guerrero on Thursday, June 25 at 4 PM EDT. On and off camera, the *Orange Is the New Black* actress works to amplify immigrant stories, change immigrant narratives in mass culture, and advance reform efforts to better protect and support immigrants in the US. The discussion will include how COVID-19 is devastating Latinx communities, how the Administration has upended asylum, and how immigrants are depicted on screen. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

VIRTUAL ASYLUM ADVOCACY DAYS – JULY 14 - 16

The Asylum Working Group (AWG) and the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) will facilitate virtual advocacy days from Tuesday, July 14 - Thursday, July 16 to demand that Congress defund the Administration's harmful anti-asylum policies and restore asylum protections. To participate, please [RSVP here](#) by Friday, June 26th.



DACA, DREAMers, and How to Protect Young Immigrants in the U.S.

By **Mario Bruzzone and Kelly Ann Whelan**

On June 18, the Supreme Court ruled that the Department of Homeland Security had improperly ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA is very much a stopgap. It protects from deportation approximately [700,000 young immigrants](#) who were brought to this country as children. DACA also allows work authorization. But DACA provides no path to citizenship. The Supreme Court only blocked the end of DACA on a procedural violation. A legislative solution is the only way to stabilize the lives of young immigrants and to fully integrate them into the communities where they already live and contribute.

This brief covers the history of DACA, explains the Supreme Court's decision, and describes four priorities for any legislative solution.

History of DACA

The development of DACA arose from the Congressional failure to pass the [Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act](#) (DREAM Act). The DREAM Act was first

introduced in 2001 and subsequently reintroduced several times through 2012, each time failing to pass. Under the DREAM Act, qualifying immigrants who entered the United States as minors and met certain requirements would be able to gain temporary conditional residency with the right to work, and eventually could qualify for permanent residency. In addition, members of Congress attempted to include the DREAM Act language in other immigration bills, such as the [Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act](#) of 2006, which also failed.

In 2012, President Obama initiated the policy [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#) (DACA). Under DACA, eligible individuals are protected from deportation for 2-year periods and are eligible for a work permit.

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

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ASYLUM COMMENTS

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have published a [proposed rule](#) that would have an extremely detrimental impact on access to asylum protections. The proposed rule removes many categories of protection, bars the granting of asylum on the basis of gender, and changes the definition of persecution, among other things. Formal comments on the rule are due on Wednesday, July 15 and can be submitted [here](#).

Final Rule Announcement: USCIS Not Required to Adjudicate EAD Applications Within 30 Days

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a final rule removing the regulatory provision stating that USCIS is required to adjudicate applications for Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) within 30 days from the date an asylum applicant files the initial Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. The rule also removes the requirement that asylum applicants submit EAD renewal requests to USCIS 90 days before the expiration of their current EAD and instead may file up to 180 days prior. Read the rule [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)

[COVID-19 Bill #4: Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act](#) (April 23, 2020)

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

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

[The HEROES Act](#) (May 12, 2020)

[The Impact of COVID-19 in Refugee Camps](#) (June 9, 2020)

• Supreme Court Overturns Administration's Termination of DACA

On June 18, the Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision to overturn the Administration's termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, the issue in the case *Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California*. In his [opinion](#), Chief Justice Roberts wrote that, the termination of the policy was "arbitrary and capricious" and violated federal laws and administrative procedure. As a result of its ruling, nearly 640,000 people living in the United States are now temporarily protected from deportation. The Administration may try again to terminate the program.

• USCIS Furloughs Delayed Until August

On June 15, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) confirmed reports that it plans to furlough employees. However, the nationwide furlough of 13,400 workers will not begin until August 3, 2020. A USCIS spokesperson said in a statement that, "We previously anticipated the furlough to begin on July 20, but we have received additional revenue and have identified cost savings to extend the potential furlough date to Aug. 3 in the event Congress does not provide emergency funding. We continue to work with Congress to provide the necessary funding to avert this unfortunate consequence." While Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) has pushed to have USCIS funding included in the next bill, there has been little movement by Congress to do so.

• DHS and DOJ Postpone MPP Hearings and In-Person Services Through July 17

The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Justice (DOJ) have announced that they have extended the postponement of Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) hearings and in-person document services through July 17. The Departments [stated](#) that the postponement "will alleviate the need for travel within Mexico to a U.S. port of entry while pandemic conditions in Mexico remain severe. We anticipate the resumption of hearings on July 20, 2020, so long as public health and safety indicators support hearing reinstatement at that time." As of March 2020, around 65,000 people had been put into MPP, with only 517 successfully gaining asylum out of 44,916 completed cases.

• Supreme Court Refuses to Hear Challenge to California's Sanctuary Law

On June 15, the Supreme Court of the United States [refused](#) to grant certiorari, or review, in the case of *United States v. California*. In this case, the Administration sought to challenge the state of California's sanctuary [laws](#) protecting immigrants from deportation by partitioning local law enforcement from federal immigration authorities. Only Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas would have heard the case. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra [stated](#) that, "We're protecting Californians' right to decide how we do public safety in our state. The Trump Administration does not have the authority to commandeer state resources."

• UNHCR, IOM to Resume Refugee Departures

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) released a joint statement on June 18 announcing that the temporary suspension of resettlement departures globally will begin to be lifted. While many travel restrictions remain in place globally, UNHCR and IOM will work to a gradual return of refugee departures. However, operations will vary greatly from country to country. Read the press release [here](#).

USCRI Time Machine

This week's Time Machine turns to USCRI's August 1995 report "Burundi's Uprooted People: Caught in the Spiral of Violence." In 1993, Burundi had descended into a bloody civil war that would last until 2005. Around 300,000 people were killed and many more displaced. At the same time, genocide raged in Rwanda, which spilled over on a smaller, but equally as violent scale in Burundi.

"In our 36 years of documenting the root causes of refugee crises worldwide, rarely has USCRI encountered a political and societal emergency as complex as in present-day Burundi...It is our view that in Burundi, perhaps more than elsewhere, things are not always what they seem, and that the international community has only a superficial understanding of the deeper causes lurking behind the country's weekly killings and daily discord."

"The complexity of Burundi's political and social problems is reflected in the fact that the country has become an amalgam of population flight. Burundian Hutu refugees have fled to Zaire and Tanzania. Burundian Tutsi families are displaced in villages and in organized camps inside Burundi. Thousands of Burundian Hutu families remain internally displaced in rural areas, outside of organized camps. Refugees from Rwanda, meanwhile, have sought dangerous asylum in Burundi because they felt they had nowhere else to flee."

"In the meantime, although there has not been killing on the scale of late 1993, or genocide like that which left up to a million dead in Rwanda in 1994, there prevails a level of violence that is deadly and continues to worsen. Dozens are killed every week, some-times every day. In the worst incidents, hundreds are massacred at once. Armed gangs, both Hutu and Tutsi, terrorize the population and engage in increasing levels of criminal activity ranging from ethnically motivated killings to banditry. Some-times the gangs act at the behest of influential politicians and, in the case of Tutsi gangs, allegedly with the encouragement, or at least tacit support, of the military. At other times, they act simply out of hate, or, increasingly, for profit and opportunism. The military itself is also directly involved in the killing of civilians."

"More than 294,000 Burundians are living as refugees in neighboring countries. There are also 188,000 Rwandan refugees in Burundi and 1.7 million in Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) and Tanzania. Host countries are growing weary of their presence, not only because of the refugees' economic, social, and environmental impact, but also because extremist elements among the refugees are increasingly militant, which raises fears of expanded conflict in the region...The government claims that there are 458,000 internally displaced persons."

"It is important to note, however, that while an outbreak of massive violence nationwide remains disturbingly possible, Burundi is not to-tally without hope. The government's pursuit of a very public campaign to promote peace and unity, the so-called "pacification" campaign, even if not all of its participants are entirely genuine, gives the general population a positive message. And while some government officials may not be sincere in their support for pacification, there are some politicians and other influential Burundians who both genuinely wish for and work towards peace. Their voices are not always heard, in part because they too fear the consequences of defying the extremists who appear to have the upper hand. But moderates do exist, and urgently need to be supported and reinforced."

Sadly, even though the civil war ended in 2005, the government of Burundi continues to commit violations of international human rights law including extrajudicial executions, disappearances, arbitrary arrests, sexual violence, beatings, and intimidation of suspected political opponents. The Imbonerakure, the ruling party's youth league, along with the national intelligence service and police act generally with impunity.

Global Gigabyte

Refugees are teaching languages virtually worldwide thanks to a [NaTakallam](#), a platform that offers language learning programs delivered exclusively by refugees.

Refugee teachers offer lessons in Arabic, Spanish, Persian and French. NaTakallam, which means "we speak" in Arabic, offers lessons entirely online, allowing students to meet refugees they otherwise would not have contact with. In addition, the platform circumvents restrictions on work for refugees and asylum seekers in their new countries of residence, which means they can earn money.

One of NaTakallam's founders Aline Sara says, "I really see it as solving two problems. Refugees need access to an income, but with no work permit they're often stuck in limbo. Yet they have innate talents within them in the form of their language, their story and culture, while so many people want flexible language practice. There's an idea that people always want to train and help refugees, but really they can help us."

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or comments, please
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