

Upcoming Meetings & Events

UNDERSTANDING AND IMPLEMENTING LANGUAGE ACCESS IN NONPROFIT WORK – JULY 16

On Thursday, July 16 at 12 pm EDT, LUNA Language Services will host a lunchtime discussion with communications professionals at several nonprofits who have come to understand the importance of language access in their work and who have personal experience with sourcing and implementing resources for language support. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

ESSENTIAL AND EXPOSED: IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN A PANDEMIC – JULY 16

On Thursday, July 16, the Immigrant Youth Task Force at UCLA will host a webinar to discuss current legislation and rights of immigrant essential workers during COVID-19, with a specific focus on how the pandemic affects immigrant youth. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

IMMIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JULY 21

On Tuesday, July 21 at 7 PM EDT, the Dover Town Library will host a webinar discussing the intersection of immigration and human trafficking in the United States, including an examination of the federal definition of human trafficking, trafficking that results in migration to the United States, along with immigration remedies available for survivors of human trafficking. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

IMMIGRATION POLICY AT A TIME OF MASS UNEMPLOYMENT? – JULY 23

The Labour Party Economic Society will host a webinar on Thursday, July 23 at 2:30pm EDT. Professor Jonathan Portes of King's College London will discuss the economic issues of immigration, including whether immigration undermines minimum wage, job availability, and selection of those who can immigrate based on qualifications and education. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



Signaling: Biden on Refugees and Immigrants

By Mario Bruzzone

On June 27, presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden appeared at a [Town Hall event](#) streamed online by NBC News, among others. “We can’t go back to what it was,” Biden said, referring to immigration policies under Barack Obama’s administration. “We have to go back, build it back, better.” He outlined several policy proposals, including a legislative proposal to grant status to the 11 million undocumented people who live in the United States, support for family-based immigration and family unification, protecting DACA recipients, and restoring refugee admissions. Then he went beyond his platform: “Working with Congress to establish a bipartisan minimum of 95,000 refugees. That’s who we are. That’s how my great-great grandfather, three or four ‘greats’ back, got here.”

American politicians communicate their intentions through policy proposals, such as Biden’s promise to [increase refugee admissions](#) to 125,000 annually, and through their rhetoric. Signaling provides a qualitatively different type of information than policy proposals.

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Signaling can provide important, indirect information that would be difficult or impossible to formulate as a statement of policy. When trustworthy, signals offer a reasonable basis to infer how a politician might react to conditions too distant for policy proposals—for example, in the third year of a presidential administration, after midterm elections.

This brief is the second of two to discuss the Biden campaign’s immigration platform. Last week’s brief discussed specific aspects of the Biden campaign’s policy platform. This brief discusses how the Biden team signals its approach to immigration, inclusive of refugee issues. The analysis focuses on why signaling matters, and the facets of signaling, including prevalence, know-how, and authenticity, using examples from the Biden campaign to date.

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

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 based on 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 requirement that USCIS must 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)

• U.S. District Court Finds ICE Violates U.S. Law

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has [ruled](#) that the failure of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to consider less restrictive settings before transferring unaccompanied children to ICE detention upon turning 18 violates U.S. immigration laws. The lawsuit, *Garcia Ramirez, et. al. v. ICE*, challenged ICE's policy of transferring unaccompanied children to adult ICE detention on their 18th birthdays, without considering less restrictive placements, such as release to sponsors.

• DHS Modifies Temporary Exemptions for Nonimmigrant Students Taking Online Courses

On July 6, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) announced modifications to temporary exemptions for nonimmigrant students taking online classes due to the pandemic for the fall 2020 semester. Among other restrictions, students attending schools operating entirely online may not take a full online course load and remain in the United States. The U.S. Department of State will not issue visas to students enrolled in schools and/or programs that are fully online for the fall semester nor will U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) permit these students to enter the United States. In response, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have filed a [lawsuit](#) challenging the policy. For an entire list of restrictions, read the DHS press release [here](#).

• Administration Expands Public Health Pretext to Prohibit Asylum-Seekers

On July 9, the Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Justice (DOJ) published a [rule](#) that gives the power to the agencies to categorically disqualify asylum-seekers from protection if the government determines they could spread an infectious disease, including COVID-19, in the United States. The new regulation would expand the definition of "a danger to security" to include those who officials determine could spread a contagious disease. Further, the rule would bar asylum-seekers who have contracted COVID-19 while in the United States waiting for an asylum hearing from receiving refugee protections. The deadline to submit comments on this rule is August 10.

• Judge Rules that Courts Cannot Order Detainment of Immigrants to Thwart Deportation

On July 8, the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division [ruled](#) that courts in New Jersey cannot order criminally charged immigrants facing deportation to be detained in state custody to ensure that they are not removed from the country by federal immigration authorities before trial. In the decision, the judge wrote that "the risk of a defendant's failure to appear justifying detention must arise from the defendant's own misconduct, not the independent acts of a separate arm of government that may prevent a defendant from appearing."

Around the World in International Migration

• Denmark Reviews Residence Permits for Syrian Refugees

The government of Denmark recently [announced](#) that it will review the residence permits for 900 Syrian refugees from Damascus, stating that conditions in the Syrian capital no longer warrant their temporary protected status. Immigration and Integration Minister Mattias Tesfaye said: “Last year, almost 100,000 refugees returned to Syria from the surrounding areas. Of course, their countrymen who have been granted protection in Europe must also go home when conditions in Syria permit. In recent weeks, the Independent Refugee Board has ruled that five people from Damascus Province are not entitled to temporary protection because conditions in the area have improved. Therefore, I have now decided that we must quickly review the pile of cases with refugees from Damascus to investigate who no longer needs protection in Denmark.” The decision has come under heavy criticism as other governments in Europe, such as Germany, have deemed that it is unsafe for refugees to be repatriated to Syria amid widespread human rights concerns and violence.

• Burundian Refugees Pressured to Return Home from Tanzania

Recent reports that Burundian refugees are being pressured to return to Burundi from Tanzania have come on the heels of the election of President Evariste Ndayishimiye in June. Hundreds of thousands of Burundians fled to Tanzania due to violence, conflict, and extrajudicial conflict at the hands of the former president. The government of Tanzania now believes that Burundi is safe to return to based on President Ndayishimiye’s statement that, “Burundians should feel free to speak out. Burundians should be able to listen to each other, but outsiders should not dictate what to do.” However, it is unclear for refugees that it is safe. UNHCR stated that, “we expect that there will be calls for refugees from Burundi to go back home from senior government officials in Tanzania and Burundi. UNHCR continues to stand by the position that all returns must be voluntary and the result of a free and informed choice by refugees.”

• Bangladesh Refuses to Move Rohingya Refugees from Flooded Island

More than 300 Rohingya refugees are stranded on the flooded island of Bhashan Char in the Bay of Bengal after being placed there in April, despite [concerns](#) raised by UNHCR. Authorities in Bangladesh gave the refugees an ultimatum – stay on the island or return to Myanmar. Bangladesh placed the refugees under the policy that doing so was to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the overcrowded refugee camp at Cox’s Bazar where 700,000 Rohingya fled in 2017 to escape a Myanmar military clampdown. However, it has been reported that refugees on Bhashan Char have little freedom of movement or adequate access to food, safe water, and medical care.

• Australia Suspends Hong Kong Extradition Treaty

On July 9, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison decided to suspend its treaty with Hong Kong that previously allowed the government of China to extradite Hong Kong citizens from Australia. Morrison [cited](#) that China’s recent “National Security Law erodes the democratic principles that have underpinned Hong Kong’s society and the One Country, Two Systems framework.” The government also announced a pathway to permanent residency in Australia for Hong Kong citizens looking to leave the city due to the imposition of the law. Current students or skilled visa holders in Australia from Hong Kong will be afforded an extra five years on their visa, with a pathway to permanent residency, and future students or skilled visa applicants will also be granted those five extra years, should their applications be successful. In response, the Embassy of China in Canberra said in a statement that it, “urges the Australian side to immediately stop meddling... otherwise it will lead to nothing but lifting a rock only to hit its own feet.”

Whispers from Washington

Current Capitol Hill Considerations

FY 2021 DHS Appropriations

The appropriations [bill](#) for Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 is currently being considered. On July 7, the Homeland Security Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations held a markup [hearing](#) regarding the funds.

The most significant sections of the bill do the following:

- Prohibits construction of border barriers;
- Bars Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from removing the family members of unaccompanied alien children (UAC);
- Prohibits the removal of individuals with pending U-visas and T-visas;
- Greatly reduces the funding levels of ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The House is aiming to pass all 12 spending bills by the end of the month before Congress recesses for one month starting August 7.

Some Members of Congress Seek to Limit Scope of Next COVID-19 Stimulus Check

Congress plans to propose the latest version of a COVID-19 relief bill that includes a second round of stimulus checks. House Democrats had previously proposed additional stimulus checks in May with the [Heroes Act](#), which was largely ignored by the Senate.

However, there will likely be enumerated limits on those who will receive stimulus checks. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has suggested those earning less than \$40,000 would qualify, which is lower than the \$75,000 in the Heroes Act. Further, the Administration has stated that it wants the checks to be larger than the previous amount of \$1,200.

If Congress can complete the bill negotiations quickly, these checks may be expected in September. However, if it doesn't complete the stimulus package by the start of the August break, the package will be considered starting on September 8.

It is unclear at this point if refugees, immigrants, and other related populations are included.

Global Gigabyte

Chajen Dang Yien ran from conflict in South Sudan and spent years away from her family in a Kenyan refugee camp. Now she is aiming to qualify for the 800m competition at the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2021.

Her athletic ability did not go unnoticed in the camp and soon she was referred to the Peace Centre, a program for talented refugee athletes. Of the training base she says, "It has really changed me as an athlete and a person. I have learned that refugees are just like any other people. I am connected to lots of other nationalities. I have learned to get on with them. I have learned ways that I think I will be able to help my parents. There is a very good spirit here."

Yien's ultimate goal is to advocate for peace and women's empowerment through sport. Of her goal she says, "Bringing sport to women is vital, too. In Africa we used to say that if you educate one woman in a village, you educate the whole village. We can do that in sport."

Read more [here](#).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact

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