

Upcoming Meetings & Events

RACE, MIGRATION AND POLICING (PART 1 IN THE SANCTUARY: WHAT NEXT? SERIES) – NOV. 6

On Friday, November 6 at 5:30 PM EDT, the InterReligious Task Force on Central America will host an education session about how immigration courts work. There will also be a discussion about how unaccompanied children are forced to navigate immigration courts alone. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

CONFESSIONS OF A QUEER ARAB: MY EXPERIENCE AS AN LGBT REFUGEE – NOV. 7

On Saturday, November 7 at 2:00 PM EDT, join Refugee Action St. Andrews (RASA) for a webinar and Q&A session with Egyptian refugee and LGBT activist Shrouk El-Attar. El-Attar won UNHCR's Young Woman of the Year award in 2018 for her refugee rights work in the United Kingdom. El-Attar will discuss the challenges she faces due to her different identities as Arab, queer, and a refugee. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



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Long-Term Effects of COVID-19 on Refugee Girls' Education

Part I of II: Barriers to Equal Access

By Chloe Canetti

The Covid-19 pandemic has taken 1.6 billion students out of classrooms around the globe. Although students everywhere are struggling to access education during the pandemic, the problem is especially exacerbated for girls. Girls in lower-income countries face unique challenges both in getting to school and in staying enrolled. These challenges include everything from lack of funding, to sexist norms about girls' education, to outright gender-based violence.

And it is even worse for refugee girls. Refugee children in general are disadvantaged, with only 61% of refugee children having access to primary school education compared to the global average of 91%. However, in large refugee-hosting countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia, there are only seven refugee girls for every ten refugee boys in primary school. The

problem of accessing education for this population is not new, but it is worsening during the pandemic, threatening to reverse the recent progress that has been made in educational gender parity.

Refugee girls face a unique intersection of obstacles to obtaining an education, both as females and as displaced people. They face both the systemic discrimination, limiting gender norms, and outright violence that girls face globally, and also the lack of economic resources, lack of access to healthcare, and again, violence, that refugees face. These obstacles only get worse as refugee girls grow. As girls get older, their school costs rise, they face greater risk of sexual assault or other gender-based violence, and they are often assigned disproportionate amounts of housework compared to their male peers.

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS REDESIGNATION COUNTRY: SUDAN

The Department of Homeland Security announced on October 30 that it would be extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) until May 2, 2022. The announcement stated that a redesignation “is warranted because the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions supporting South Sudan’s TPS designation remain.” For more information on how to re-register for TPS, please click [here](#).

• Presidential Determination Signed, Refugee Admissions Goal Set at 15k

The Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions (PD) was [signed](#) on October 27th, almost one month into Fiscal Year 2021. Now that the PD has been signed, refugee admissions that were on hold since the beginning of October can recommence. This year’s PD marks the lowest refugee admissions goal set in the U.S. refugee program’s history, and it contains restrictions on the categories of refugees such that substantially fewer than 15,000 refugees are expected to actually be resettled this year. The Administration also noted that the 15,000 includes more than 6,000 refugees who could not be settled in FY2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

• TRAC Releases FY2020 Asylum Statistics

Transaction Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University has released [new data](#) on asylum statistics, showing that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, almost 60,000 asylum cases were decided this year. That is the second highest number of cases in one year since FY2000. However, the denial rate for asylum this year was at a record high of 71.6%, as compared to 54.6% at the end of the previous administration in FY2016. TRAC’s statistics demonstrate the importance of asylum-seekers having legal representation in their cases. In FY2020, self-represented asylum-seekers were about half as likely to win their cases (17.7%) as those with legal counsel (31.1%). The higher denial rates in FY2020 partly reflect the rise in self-represented asylum-seekers this year, up 5% from last year. Cases from the Northern Triangle represented the majority of asylum decisions in FY2020. However, they also had some of the highest denial rates, with Honduras having the highest denial rate at 87.3%. By contrast, asylum-seekers from China, India, Cameroon and Venezuela all had over a 50% approval rate.

• Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Rules TPS Holders Eligible to Adjust Status

Last Tuesday, the Eighth Circuit [ruled](#) in favor of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders in a decision that will give them a smoother path to getting a green card. TPS is a temporary immigration status granted to immigrants from certain designated countries when conditions in their home countries make it temporarily unsafe for them to return. The Administration has been attempting to repeal TPS for most of the currently-designated countries, and to make it more difficult for TPS holders to eventually get green cards. To get a green card, an immigrant must have been “inspected and admitted” to the United States, meaning that the person entered the United States legally through a port of entry. However, many TPS holders do not enter the country this way, and only encounter immigration authorities when they are going through the TPS process. The question before the 8th Circuit was whether a grant of TPS effectively makes a person “inspected and admitted” even if the person was not actually inspected at a port of entry. The 8th Circuit ruled that a grant of TPS status makes a person “inspected and admitted” for purposes of getting a green card, even if the person originally came to the United States without inspection. This decision will make it easier for TPS holders to become lawful permanent residents.

United States Issue Updates (cont'd)

• Virginia Senate passes law to allow state inspection of ICE facilities

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam signed into law a [bill](#) that requires Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centers to meet Virginia health and safety standards by categorizing the centers as “local correctional facilities.” This law will also allow the state to enter ICE facilities without advance permission from the agency, for health and safety inspections. The new law comes after a COVID-19 outbreak in Virginia’s Farmville detention center infected over 90% of its detainees, killing one. The outbreak was the largest coronavirus outbreak in any ICE facility. The CDC soon visited the site at the behest of Governor Northam, finding that delays in testing made it difficult for the center to respond quickly and quarantine detainees. The new law will allow greater oversight over ICE activities in the centers and hold ICE to a higher standard of care for detainee health.

• Second Circuit Affirms Government Burden to Justify Detentions

Last week, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that DHS maintains the [burden](#) to show that immigrants in deportation proceedings are a “flight risk” or a danger to their communities in order to keep them in detention. The case stems from a habeas corpus petition by Alejandro Velasco Lopez, who was kept in detention for fifteen months without any justification by DHS. DHS argued in Lopez’s bond hearings that Lopez himself had the burden to show that he was *not* a flight risk or a danger.

According to the [attorneys](#) who represented Lopez, this ruling will give those in deportation proceedings more due process, and will act as a check on DHS authority to incarcerate immigrants without justification.

Around the World in International Migration

• 140 Migrants Drown in Shipwreck Near Senegal

Last week, a boat carrying 200 migrants caught fire off the coast of Senegal, capsizing and leaving 140 dead. Nearby fishermen were able to save 59 others and recover 20 of the bodies. The wreck is the deadliest shipwreck recorded this year. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that at least 14 other boats carrying almost 700 people tried to make the same journey from Senegal to the Canary Islands this September, with over one quarter of them encountering difficulties.

Although the journey to the Canary Islands is a dangerous one, more and more migrants are attempting the journey this year due to increased dangers in their home countries and the restriction of other migration options resulting from pandemic-related border closures. About one third of these migrants come from Mali, with others coming from Morocco, Cote d’Ivoire, Senegal, and Guinea. Migrants cite increasing violence and unrest in the Sahel region as the reason for their journeys.

Around the World in International Migration (cont'd)

• Canadians Now More Welcoming to Immigrants

A study released last week found that Canadians are becoming increasingly pro-immigrant, even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The research shows that even Canadians living in rural and more economically depressed areas are more open to immigration than they used to be. Although the data did not reveal the exact reasons for this trend, researchers believed there could be several possible explanations. First, instead of causing Canadians to draw inward and become more protective, the pandemic may have caused them to feel more united in a common struggle. Second, the pro-immigrant stance could be a backlash to the anti-immigrant rhetoric circulating in the United States, a way for Canadians to set themselves apart from their neighbors to the south. And finally, the researchers surmised that the new statistics reflect the belief that immigrants help create and build businesses, building opportunities for native Canadians.

• Newly Released Africa Migration Report Debunks Stereotypes of African Migrants

The first-ever Africa Migration Report, created by the IOM and the African Union Commission, challenges many commonly-held misperceptions about African migration. One of the main narratives disrupted by the report is that African migrants overwhelmingly desire to move north and make it to Europe. The research shows that, in fact, 80% of Africans who plan to migrate want to migrate within Africa. Furthermore, Africans make up only 14% of the global migrant population, overshadowed by Asians (41%) and Europeans (24%). The report aims to shed light on how African migration policies have been driven by European models that do not fit the reality of migration on the ground. For instance, many Africans regularly move across country borders, aligning themselves geographically more by ethnic and community associations as opposed to lines drawn by colonial powers. Therefore, certain border security measures, passport laws, and immigration flow restrictions may not make as much sense in Africa as in Europe. The goal of the report is to refocus African migration policies to reflect actual African needs, not western assumptions about migration.

Whispers from Washington

Current Capitol Hill Considerations

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Urges Administration to Suspend Expanded Expedited Removals

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) led by Chairman Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20) sent a letter to Acting Secretary Wolf and Senior Official Performing the Duties of the ICE Director Pham urging the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to suspend implementation of expanded expedited removal (ER). ER has far fewer procedural protections than formal removal proceedings with the foreign-born citizens possessing no right to counsel, no right to a hearing, and no right to appeal.

Castro, joined by Representative Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-07), Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA-44), Adriano Espaillat (D-NY-13), Veronica Escobar (D-TX-16), and others wrote that, "The agency's implementation of this consequential policy lacks meaningful transparency and appears rushed."

Although the D.C. Circuit Court recently lifted the injunction, significant constitutional concerns about expanded ER remain unresolved. The key legal question left open by the circuit court's decision is whether due process considerations limit the use of expedited removal in the interior of the United States. The Supreme Court has recognized that foreign-born citizens who have physically entered the United States, even unlawfully, are "persons" under the Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause.

Read the entire text of the letter [here](#).

Global Gigabyte

The Lebanese theatrical nonprofit Seenaryo teaches drama, dance, and song to refugee communities, building confidence and self-esteem through the creative arts, while its teacher-support app has brought imaginative new learning techniques to hundreds of classrooms across Jordan and Lebanon.

Initially, Seenaryo worked solely with Syrian and Palestinian refugees.

“Very quickly, within a year, we realized it was neither particularly helpful in terms of existing tensions between communities nor reaching the neediest beneficiaries if we just focused on refugees, so we widened the focus to work with all marginalized people regardless of nationality,” founder Victoria Lupton, a British expat, says.

To read more, click [here](#).

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or comments, please
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