

Upcoming Meetings & Events

DECOLONISING FORCED MIGRATION- MARCH 9

On Tuesday, March 9th at 10:00 AM EST, Temple University will host a discussion on the production and circulation of knowledge on forced migration. Molefi Kete Asante, head of Temple University's Africology Department and founder of the theory of Afrocentricity, will discuss the inclusion of Africans in historical narratives through the Afrocentric paradigm. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

THE NEW EUROPEAN PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM—MARCH 11

On Thursday, March 11th at 12:30 PM EST, the European Institute at the London School of Economics will host a seminar on the European Commissions' proposed Pact on Migration and Asylum. The seminar will aim to answer several questions about the pact, including how governance of return migration will be affected by the reform and how the Pact would address member states' concerns while upholding human rights. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



Recommendations to Increase Protections for Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Persons

By Chloe Canetti

The United States has traditionally been the global leader in refugee protection across both Republican and Democratic administrations. Yet, as global need reached an all-time high of 80 million people displaced in 2020, the United States set its all-time low refugee admissions goal of 15,000. U.S. refugee resettlement operates in a public-private partnership known as the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). USRAP brings the State Department, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Homeland Security together with nine non-profit organizations that work in refugee resettlement. These non-profits are known as "voluntary agencies," and they are responsible for resettling refugees in the United States. The voluntary agencies maintain a network of hundreds of affiliated local agencies around the country, which provide services to newly arrived refugees and help refugees achieve self-sufficiency in their new homes as quickly as possible.

USCRI's recommendations for addressing the challenges of the global refugee situation are:

- 1) **Place refugee warehousing at the top of the U.S. human rights agenda**
- 2) **Restore U.S. funding to UNRWA in the Middle East**
- 3) **Create a Framework for Protection of Those Displaced by Climate Events**
- 4) **Join the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the Global Compact on Refugees**

Read the full brief attached to this email.

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International Updates **P.3**

Global Gigabyte **P. 3**

THE RESILIENCE OF MIGRANT WOMEN DURING THE PANDEMIC – MARCH 16

On Tuesday, March 16 at 11:00 AM EDT, join the International Organization for Migration (IOM UK) for an event focusing on the experience of migrant women during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

SIS GLOBAL TO LOCAL: SEEKING ASYLUM – MARCH 17

On Wednesday, March 17 at 3:30 PM EST, Tazreena Sajjad and a group of panelists will speak to the struggles faced by prospective asylum seekers in the DC area. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

• Family Reunification Task Force Principles Announced

On March 1, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Ali Mayorkas laid out the principles that will guide the Family Reunification Task Force. Mayorkas stated that the Administration is now “dedicating our resources throughout the Department of Homeland Security and the federal government, and bringing our full weight to bear, to reunite children who were cruelly separated from their parents.” Michelle Brané will serve as the Executive Director of the Task Force and oversee its general operations. The Task Force was created last month via an Executive Order from President Biden. For a link to Mayorkas’s announcement, please click [here](#).

• American Dream and Promise Act Introduced

On March 3, Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40) introduced the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021 (H.R.6). The Dream and Promise Act would provide DREAMers, individuals with Temporary Protected Status, and Deferred Enforcement Departure recipients with additional protections from deportation. Approximately 2.5 million people in the United States would benefit from the bill, which was also introduced in 2019 as H.R.6. This bill’s early introduction signals its importance to House Democrats. For a link to this bill, please click [here](#).

• Farm Workforce Modernization Act Reintroduced

On March 3, Representative Zoe Lofgren (CA-19) introduced the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, as H.R.1537. The bill would reform the H-2A agricultural guest worker program, provide farm workers with better protections from deportations, and create an employment-based pathway to citizenship. The current bill is a revision of last session’s H.R. 5048, which had the support of a range of both agricultural and labor organizations. For a link to this bill, please click [here](#).

• Listening Session Held Regarding the Rise of Hate Crimes Against the AAPI Community

On March 5, the Department of Justice (DOJ) held a listening session with Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community groups regarding the rise in hate crimes against the AAPI community in the past year. In the meeting, Acting Deputy Attorney General John Carlin promised that “the Department of Justice and our component agencies are committed to bringing all of our tools to bear in supporting AAPI communities as we address the horrific rise in hate and bias incidents occurring across the country.” The listening session follows a series of actions that the Biden Administration has taken to address the pressing issue of hate crimes against the AAPI community, including a January 26th Presidential Memorandum. For a readout of this listening session, please click [here](#).

Around the World in International Migration

• UNHCR and World Food Programme Need \$266 Million to Feed East African Refugees

Last week, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) [called for](#) funding for the \$266 million needed to feed East African refugees in the next six months. The agency is facing a record budget crisis and has begun reducing refugee food rations by up to 60% in Rwanda. Rations have also been significantly cut in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda, leading to concerns that refugees may risk leaving the camps and going back home to dangerous situations. The only East African countries where refugees are still receiving full rations are Burundi and Sudan, but the World Food Programme reports that it will require \$18 million to keep rations up through August.

• 80 Migrants Thrown Overboard by Traffickers En Route from Djibouti to Yemen, 20 Die

Twenty migrants drowned last Wednesday after human traffickers threw 80 overboard during a trip from Djibouti to Yemen. The traffickers had loaded the small vessel with over 200 migrants, but thirty minutes into the trip, pushed many on board into the sea. The International Organization on Migration (IOM) [reports](#) that this is the third such incident in only six months, demonstrating the increasing desperation and vulnerability of these migrants, and their continued exploitation by traffickers. Even for migrants who successfully complete the journey to Yemen, they often end up stranded in the country and face “extreme danger, exploitation and abuse,” according to IOM. The organization has called for the traffickers to be prosecuted, and for countries to open up safe legal pathways for migration.

• Denmark Claims Damascus is Safe, Revokes Syrians’ Residency Permits

Last week, [Denmark](#) became the first European country to strip 94 Syrian refugees of their residency permits after declaring that Damascus, Syria is now safe. The decision has been called “an appalling affront to refugee law” by Amnesty International. Denmark’s immigration Minister Mattias Tesfaye claims that Syrian refugees have always been told that their residency permits are temporary, and that they would be withdrawn “if protection is no longer needed.” However, critics point out that Denmark’s prime minister has made a goal to bar all asylum seekers from applying for residence in the country. Refugee rights activists worry that in the long-term, this decision will force asylum-seekers to travel even further from their homes to seek safety.

Global Gigabite

Aspiring Women’s Rights Activist Wins 1st UNHCR Youth Art Contest

The winner of UNHCR’s first *Youth with Refugees Art Contest* is Nesime, a 17-year-old refugee from Afghanistan. The theme of the contest was that “everyone counts in the fight against the [corona]virus, including refugees.” Nesime beat out 2,000 other entrants with her painting of an anti-COVID-19 warrior, fully equipped with sword and shield to fight the virus. Nesime turns to art to express herself, drawing inspiration from her personal experiences as a refugee. She says that winning the UNHCR contest has inspired her to

continue with her art, but she also aspires to go back to school to become a women’s rights lawyer. She wants to fight for the rights of Afghan women, who she says are not respected, not allowed to go to school, and not even allowed to laugh. Nesime believes that with a law degree, she can be a catalyst for change and a champion for women in her home country.

Read more [here](#).

If you have any questions
or comments, please
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