

**FORUM:** Human Rights Commission (H.R.C)

**QUESTION OF:** Assessing the Effects of Deportation on Family Unity and Children's Rights

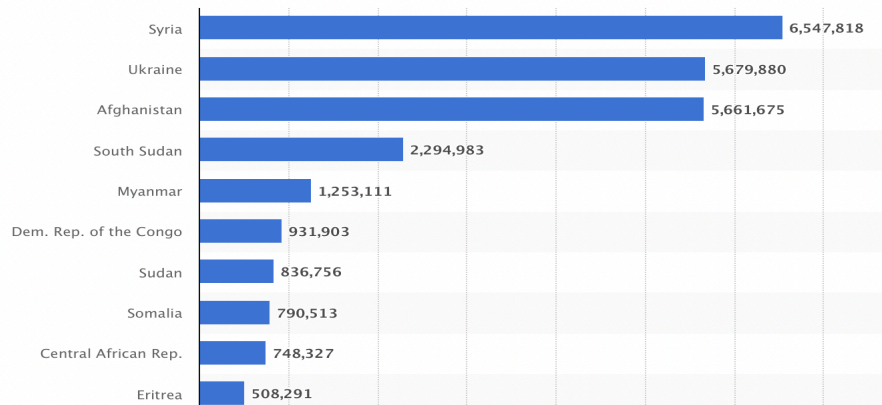
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**POSITION:** Deputy President

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## INTRODUCTION

Deportation and the effects it has on family unity is one of the most crucial problems in modern society. The importance of family unity plays a critical role in the present day considering that family unity is the key to building strong bonds in a family which also enhances successful communication. Additionally, having a unified family gives people the courage and support they need to overcome life's obstacles which they will most likely stumble upon later on in life. Rape, abuse, and kidnapping are some of the few things that people face after being deported back into their country of origin,<sup>1</sup> because most immigrants come from countries that are experiencing conflict leading to families being unable to support themselves financially, in their country of origin.



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<sup>1</sup> Society for Community Research and Action. "Statement on the Effects of Deportation and Forced Separation on Immigrants, Their Families, and Communities." *American Journal of Community Psychology*, vol. 62, no. 1-2, July 2018, pp. 3–12, <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12256>.

**Figure 1:** This graph shows the ranking of major source countries of refugees as of 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Family Unity

“Family unity is when a family is considered as one, and the individuals of the family are recognized as one ‘unit’. And are required to stay all together.”<sup>3</sup>

### Deportation

“Deportation is the process of removing a noncitizen from a country violating immigration law.”<sup>4</sup>

### Resettlement

“Resettlement enables refugees to relocate to another country which has agreed to admit them with a legal status ensuring international protection and ultimately permanent residence.”<sup>5</sup>

### Caregiver

“A caregiver is any person with whom the child lives who provides daily care to the child, and who acts as the child's 'parent' whether they are biological parents or not.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Dyvik, Einar. “Major Source Countries of Refugees 2019.” *Statista*, 6 Sept. 2023, [www.statista.com/statistics/272999/refugees-by-source-country/](https://www.statista.com/statistics/272999/refugees-by-source-country/).

<sup>3</sup> Landeros, Melissa. “Deported Mothers: Mental Health and Family Separation.” *Global Migration Center*, 9 Dec. 2020, [globalmigration.ucdavis.edu/deported-mothers-mental-health-and-family-separation#:~:text=Deportation%20of%20parents%20causes%20emotional](https://globalmigration.ucdavis.edu/deported-mothers-mental-health-and-family-separation#:~:text=Deportation%20of%20parents%20causes%20emotional).

<sup>4</sup> “Understand the Deportation Process | USAGov.” *Www.usa.gov*, 20 July 2023, [www.usa.gov/deportation-process](https://www.usa.gov/deportation-process).

<sup>5</sup> “Resettlement | UNHCR.” *UNHCR*, 2019, [www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/build-better-futures/long-term-solutions/resettlement#:~:text=Resettlement%20enables%20refugees%20to%20relocate](https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/build-better-futures/long-term-solutions/resettlement#:~:text=Resettlement%20enables%20refugees%20to%20relocate). Accessed 23 Aug. 2024.

<sup>6</sup> “Parents and Caregivers | Better Care Network.” *Bettercarenetwork.org*, [bettercarenetwork.org/practitioner-library/human-resources/parents-and-caregivers#:~:text=A%20caregiver%20is%20a%20broader](https://bettercarenetwork.org/practitioner-library/human-resources/parents-and-caregivers#:~:text=A%20caregiver%20is%20a%20broader).

## Citizen

“A citizen is a person who, by place of birth, nationality of one or both parents, or naturalization is granted full rights and responsibilities as a member of a nation or political community.”<sup>7</sup>

## Visa

“An official document or mark made in a passport that allows you to enter or leave a particular country.”<sup>8</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### History of Deportation

Deportation was first applied to political criminals but it soon developed into a method of eliminating the threat posed by those whose popularity and wealth turned them into suspicious targets. Deportation was used to remove an individual who has committed a crime from a country. In the fifteenth century, deportation became a punishment for multiple crimes, such as adultery, embezzlement, killing, poisoning, and other serious crimes. It was used in Roman law where deportation was used to banish political criminals for life, especially if that country was foreign to the individual who committed the crime. In addition to that, Portugal used deportation to send criminals to the south of Africa if they had committed a crime, while England put arrested people under oath and made the criminals promise that they would leave and never come back again. France began using deportation to transfer criminals to French Guinea in the revolutionary period but this system stopped in 1938 due to the extreme criticism that was being given as the prisons in French Guinea were in terrible condition.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>“Citizen.” *LII / Legal Information Institute*, [www.law.cornell.edu/wex/citizen#:~:text=A%20citizen%20is%20a%20person](http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/citizen#:~:text=A%20citizen%20is%20a%20person) .

<sup>8</sup>Cambridge Dictionary. “Visa.” @CambridgeWords, 25 May 2022, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/visa](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/visa) .

<sup>9</sup> “Deportation | Law.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/topic/deportation](https://www.britannica.com/topic/deportation) .

### The effects of deportation on children

Most people who get deported are men,<sup>10</sup> indicating that the single partners, who are left behind, face several bills that require them to work long hours. This usually results in older siblings taking care of their younger siblings as they need to take over their parent's position in the family. This weight, which is usually added to the older siblings or only children as they tend to be more mature than their younger siblings, has been shown to remove attention from the academics of the child, causing them to put a pause in school in order to support their family without their mother or father. In addition, the extra hours that the children work are considered child labor, bearing in mind that the child's family is relying on them for money as the single parent left behind is unable to provide enough to support the rest with their spouse being absent and away from their house.

Along with deportation, children tend to feel insecure and self-conscious when it comes to being in school or other places such as a hospital, as they are unable to open up about their current situation to their friends who probably have not experienced something similar, while they often feel embarrassed that their parents are unable to provide enough for their family and are required to take on a job.

The effect of family deportation causes children to have several behavioral changes (short and long-term) when it comes to one of their parents or caregivers being taken away. Trouble sleeping and eating due to the changes that are going on in their lives, especially the fact that they are unaware of when they will see their loved ones again, are some of the most common behavioral changes that occur in children ranging from ages 0 to 17.

Age group	Eating	Sleeping	Crying	Afraid	Anxious	Withdrawn	Clingy	Angry or aggressive
0 to 5	62%	55%	61%	43%	38%	16%	42%	36%
6 to 11	81%	69%	60%	61%	46%	51%	42%	37%
12 to 17	61%	79%	57%	60%	43%	62%	35%	34%
All ages	68%	66%	60%	54%	42%	42%	40%	36%

<sup>10</sup> ---. "Statement on the Effects of Deportation and Forced Separation on Immigrants, Their Families, and Communities." *American Journal of Community Psychology*, vol. 62, no. 1-2, July 2018, pp. 3–12, <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12256> .

**Figure 2:** This table shows Children experiencing short-term behavioral changes in four sites (three months after parents arrest).<sup>11</sup>

Age group	Eating	Sleeping	Crying	Afraid	Anxious	Withdrawn	Clingy	Angry or aggressive
0 to 5	39%	30%	48%	21%	7%	17%	56%	18%
6 to 11	56%	46%	52%	35%	35%	54%	63%	56%
12 to 17	29%	53%	35%	55%	31%	67%	38%	56%
All ages	43%	41%	47%	33%	23%	43%	54%	41%

**Figure 3:** This table shows the long-term behavioral changes of children (over nine months after parents arrest)<sup>12</sup>

### Case Study: The Windrush Scandal

The Windrush Scandal happened after the Second World War, when England brought 1027 people from the Caribbean to London to work in labor as there was a shortage and the government needed to fill post-war labor and rebuild the economy. The people who moved from the Caribbean to the UK faced a lot of discrimination and usually took low-paying jobs which ‘white people’ refused to accept. When these people moved, the Home Office didn’t keep a record of the commonwealth citizens who already lived in London. In 1971, immigrants from former British colonies were not allowed to remain in the UK, as an immigration act to prevent mass migration between British colonies was applied. The people affected were unable to prove that they were in the country legally and this resulted in them being restricted from healthcare. In addition, most of these people were threatened with deportation.

### The effect of deportation on the Economy

In the United States, immigrants have several ways they benefit the economy. One of the two most important factors is that they work in unskilled jobs, due to their linguistic barrier, contrary to the local citizens of the country who work higher-paying jobs, considering

<sup>11</sup> Chaudry, Ajay. “Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement.” *The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2011, pp. 137–54, <https://doi.org/10.1353/hcy.2011.0010> .

<sup>12</sup> Chaudry, Ajay. “Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement.” *The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2011, pp. 137–54, <https://doi.org/10.1353/hcy.2011.0010> .

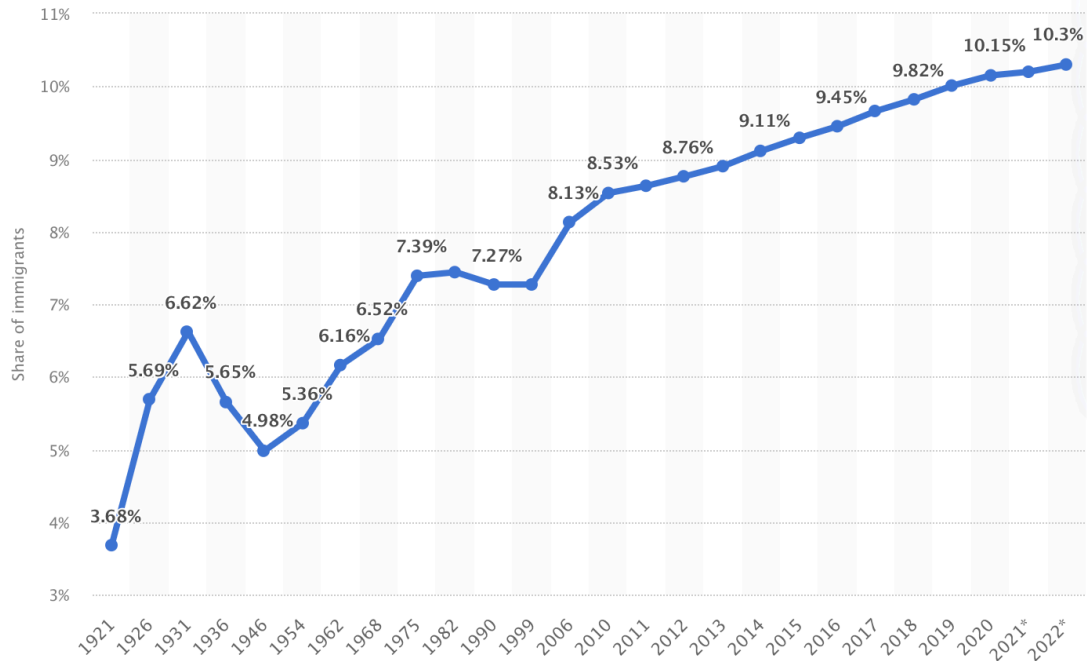
the fact that they do not face a linguistic barrier. 25% of agriculture workers are undocumented, 19% of workers in maintenance tend to be undocumented and 17% of construction workers are undocumented. In addition to this, in 2010, undocumented immigrants paid 10.6 billion US dollars. Furthermore, most immigrants are barred from using any type of social service that they most likely pay for as they are afraid it will possibly lead to them getting deported if they call the police or an ambulance.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Sampat, Prerna. "Five Ways Undocumented Immigrants Are Powering the American Economy." *The ILR School | Cornell University*, 16 Mar. 2015, [www.ilr.cornell.edu/mobilizing-against-inequality/post/five-ways-undocumented-immigrants-are-powering-american-economy](http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/mobilizing-against-inequality/post/five-ways-undocumented-immigrants-are-powering-american-economy).

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### France



**Figure 4:** share of the immigrant population in France from 1921 to 2021.<sup>14</sup>

Since January 2024, Illegal immigrants in France can be deported back into their country of origin if they have a criminal record, even people who have been living in France since the age of thirteen or for more than 20 years.<sup>15</sup>

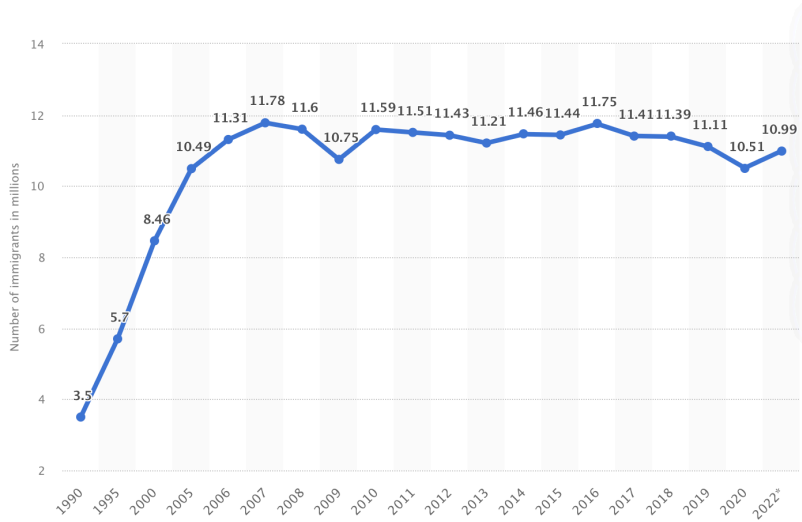
France has now allowed non-European Union foreigners to legally live in France if a family member or spouse is a legal citizen in the country. However, this does not apply if the individual's children are above the age of 18 and the policy does not comply with elderly parents being deported from the country.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> "France: Share of Immigrants 2020." *Statista*, June 2023, [www.statista.com/statistics/947474/immigrant-population-in-france/](https://www.statista.com/statistics/947474/immigrant-population-in-france/).

<sup>15</sup> ---. "France Set to Tighten Immigration Law after Court Scraps Some Measures." *Bbc.com*, BBC News, 26 Jan. 2024, [www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-68103950](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-68103950).

<sup>16</sup> "France Family Reunification Visas from USA." *Total Law*, 2017, [total.law/us-to-fr/family-reunification-visa-france/#:~:text=What%20is%20the%20family%20reunificat](https://total.law/us-to-fr/family-reunification-visa-france/#:~:text=What%20is%20the%20family%20reunificat) ion. Accessed 5 Sept. 2024.

**United States of America (USA)**



**Figure 5:** Unauthorized immigrant population in the US from 1990 to 2022.<sup>17</sup>

In many countries, most noticeably the United States, families wake up each morning and live their lives in fear of getting deported from the country that they call their own. It is a shocking truth that approximately 5.9 million U.S. citizen children have at least one caregiver who does not have the proper documents and authorization to live in the United States<sup>18</sup> as it can be a lengthy process to get the correct documentation and if done incorrectly people could be exposed to criminal charges and even face a permanent ban from the United States.<sup>19</sup> In the US, illegal immigrants are unable to seek medical health<sup>20</sup> considering they are unable to get health insurance. In addition, they refrain from calling emergency services as they live with the constant fear of getting deported.

<sup>17</sup> Korhonen, Veera. "Unauthorized Immigrant Population U.S. 1990-2022." *Statista*, 5 July 2024, [www.statista.com/statistics/646261/unauthorized-immigrant-population-in-the-us/](https://www.statista.com/statistics/646261/unauthorized-immigrant-population-in-the-us/) .

<sup>18</sup>---. "Statement on the Effects of Deportation and Forced Separation on Immigrants, Their Families, and Communities." *American Journal of Community Psychology*, vol. 62, no. 1-2, July 2018, pp. 3–12, <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12256> .

<sup>19</sup> "How Hard Is It to Get a Green Card? | Kenneth Alan Forman." *Www.formanlaw.net*, [www.formanlaw.net/how-hard-is-it-to-get-a-green-card#:~:text=No%20matter%20how%20you%20attempt](http://www.formanlaw.net/how-hard-is-it-to-get-a-green-card#:~:text=No%20matter%20how%20you%20attempt) .

<sup>20</sup> Pillai , Akash, et al. "State Health Coverage for Immigrants and Implications for Health Coverage and Care | KFF." *KFF*, 1 May 2024, [www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/state-health-coverage-for-immigrants-and-implications-for-health-coverage-and-care/#:~:text=Lawfully%20present%](https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/state-health-coverage-for-immigrants-and-implications-for-health-coverage-and-care/#:~:text=Lawfully%20present%) . Accessed 6 Aug. 2024.



On the 4th of September 2024, a new system called Parole in Place (PIP) started being used which allows eligible immigrants, without any criminal record, to apply for a green card without leaving the United States. This system will enable an easier method when it comes to allowing individuals to get a green card as they will not need to travel back to their country which would minimize the risk of an illegal immigrant getting deported.<sup>21</sup>

## Ethiopia

In less economically developed countries, people tend to migrate from Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDC) to more prosperous ones. In Ethiopia, if an individual's visa has expired or if they have entered the country illegally, they are forced out of their country, either to their country of origin or to any country which is willing to accept the illegal immigrants. Annually, 250 000 Ethiopians have the tendency of leaving their country of origin considering that several issues of man-made and natural disasters have occurred which have forced them to leave their country.<sup>22</sup> However, Ethiopia has allowed 823 000 asylum seekers to live in their country and stay in refugee camps, who tend to migrate from the south of Sudan<sup>23</sup> which causes the population of Ethiopia to continue growing instead of falling.

## International Organization for Immigration (IOM)

The International Organization for Immigration is an organization created in 1951, six years after WW2. The IOM collaborates with several organizations to help people on the move, they do this through the collaboration of intergovernmental, governmental, and nongovernmental partners. "Saving lives and protecting people on the move", "driving solutions to displacement", and "facilitating pathways for regular migration" are the three

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<sup>21</sup> "Family-Based | Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC." *Ilrc.org*, 4 Sept. 2024, [www.ilrc.org/taxonomy/term/24](http://www.ilrc.org/taxonomy/term/24) . Accessed 5 Sept. 2024.

<sup>22</sup> "IOM Ethiopia: Migration Management Overview (June 2023) - Ethiopia | ReliefWeb." *Reliefweb.int*, 28 July 2023, [reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/iom-ethiopia-migration-management-overview-june-2023#:~:text=Ethiopia%20is%20a%20country%20of](http://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/iom-ethiopia-migration-management-overview-june-2023#:~:text=Ethiopia%20is%20a%20country%20of) .

<sup>23</sup> "Ethiopia | UNHCR." *UNHCR*, 2024, [www.unhcr.org/countries/ethiopia#:~:text=Ethiopia%20hosts%20over%20823%2C000%20refugees](http://www.unhcr.org/countries/ethiopia#:~:text=Ethiopia%20hosts%20over%20823%2C000%20refugees) . Accessed 7 Sept. 2024.

main objectives that the IOM follows to help protect human rights when it comes to migration which has allowed them to help 31.7 million people.<sup>24</sup>

### **Immigrant Legal Resource Center**

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center is an organization associated with immigration that promotes diversity, and helps educate immigrants about their current situations and organizations in the legal sector. It specializes in many different sections such as asylum, crimes, immigrant youth, and family-based immigration. In addition, they train attorneys, paralegals, and community-based advocates to enable them to help immigrants facing or trying to avoid deportation. This initiative provides a significant help to the general public by promoting family unity while preventing deportation, something that allows families to stay close to each other.<sup>25</sup>

### **US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement is an organization whose mission is to “protect America through criminal investigations” and enforce immigration laws to preserve national security”. ICE is responsible for the removal of 142,580 individuals and is devoted to catching transnational criminal networks that target the American people, considering they believe that illegal immigrants threaten industries, organizations, and financial systems.<sup>26</sup> However, this organization is also responsible for tearing multiple families apart and placing innocent individuals in detention centers.

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

The UNHCR is the UN refugee agency whose purpose is to ensure that people who are seeking asylum are safe. In addition, its main purpose is to protect internally displaced people, refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless people. The organization protects refugees as

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<sup>24</sup> International Organization for Migration. “Who We Are.” *International Organization for Migration*, 2024, [www.iom.int/who-we-are](http://www.iom.int/who-we-are) .

<sup>25</sup> “Who We Are | ILRC.” *Ilrc.org*, 2016, [www.ilrc.org/who-we-are](http://www.ilrc.org/who-we-are) .

<sup>26</sup> “ICE Releases Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report | ICE.” *Wwww.ice.gov*, 25 Jan. 2024, [www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-releases-fiscal-year-2023-annual-report#:~:text=ICE%20ERO](http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-releases-fiscal-year-2023-annual-report#:~:text=ICE%20ERO) .

they feel that their fundamental rights are deprived considering their current situation. In addition, they allow access to health centers and improve local centers which refugees most likely go to as well as helping tackle sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment considering most refugees seeking asylum tend to come from countries that are experiencing conflict.<sup>27</sup>

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1858	The Visa was created in the United Kingdom which permitted foreigners to enter a country, after many countries followed this system formalizing the visa. <sup>28</sup>
28/07/1951	The refugee convention happened after the Second World War which states how foreign individuals shouldn't be deported back into their country of origin if they are most likely to have their life of freedom at risk. <sup>29</sup>
26/09-11/10/1969	Due to illicit drugs entering the US, Richard Nixon attempted to shut the Mexico-United States border for weeks to prevent this. <sup>30</sup>
06/12/1951	The International Organization for Migration was founded after the second World War due to the chaos that was occurring through the displacement in Europe at the time. <sup>31</sup>
20/11/1989	The convention of the right of a child states the rights of a child are mainly the following: education, health, protection from harm as well as right to family life.

<sup>27</sup> "Protect Human Rights." *UNHCR*, 6 Apr. 2023, [www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/protect-human-rights](https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/protect-human-rights) .

<sup>28</sup> Fok, Fox. "All We Need to Know: The History of Visas." *Medium*, 11 Sept. 2023, [medium.com/@editorialfox/all-we-need-to-know-the-history-of-visas-43e110754562](https://medium.com/@editorialfox/all-we-need-to-know-the-history-of-visas-43e110754562) .

<sup>29</sup> "The 1951 Refugee Convention | UNHCR." *UNHCR*, 2019, [www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention](https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention) .

<sup>30</sup> Mendoza, Mary E. "Biden's Border Wall Is a Bipartisan Tradition." *TIME*, 30 Oct. 2023, [time.com/6324599/bidens-trump-history-border-wall/](https://time.com/6324599/bidens-trump-history-border-wall/) .

<sup>31</sup> "IOM History." *International Organization for Migration*, [www.iom.int/iom-history#:~:text=The%20International%20Organization%20for%20Migration%20\(IOM\)%2C%20or%20as%20it](https://www.iom.int/iom-history#:~:text=The%20International%20Organization%20for%20Migration%20(IOM)%2C%20or%20as%20it) .

07/12/2019	The Inter-American commission drafted a resolution by the commission which addresses the human rights of children and immigrants. <sup>32</sup>
1924	The declaration of the rights of a child took place in Geneva which highlighted the importance of the rights of a child, more specifically the best interests of a child and the respect for the views of a child.
16/12/2008	The European parliaments journal states then common steps and rules that the member countries need to follow to send people back from foreign countries who are staying there illegally. <sup>33</sup>
4/9/2024	Parole in Place, the United States introduced a new system which will now allow eligible illegal immigrants to apply for a green card without leaving the country. <sup>34</sup>

<sup>32</sup> INTER-AMERICAN PRINCIPLES on the HUMAN RIGHTS of ALL MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, STATELESS PERSONS and VICTIMS of HUMAN TRAFFICKING Declaration for Refugees and Migrants; the Global Compact on Refugees; the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and Other Relevant International Instruments. 7 Dec. 2019, [www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf](http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf) .

<sup>33</sup> ---. "Convention on the Rights of the Child." OHCHR, United Nations, 1989, [www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child](http://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child) .

<sup>34</sup> "Family-Based | Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC." *Ilrc.org*, 4 Sept. 2024, [www.ilrc.org/taxonomy/term/24](http://www.ilrc.org/taxonomy/term/24). Accessed 5 Sept. 2024.

## UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### Convention of the rights of a child, article 19

The convention of the rights of a child, which states how it is forbidden for a child to be separated from their parents unless it's necessary and has an impact on the child's safety and well being, this includes various forms of abuse and neglect.<sup>35</sup> However, this system creates a loophole as parents could falsely be accused of abusing and mistreating their child which would encourage deportation and tearing families apart due to false accusation.

### Inter-American Convention

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights resolution,<sup>36</sup> urging attention to section II, which expresses the importance and protection of children and adolescents in connection with migration.

### The refugee Convention

The refugee convention was created in 1951 and was drafted after the second world war as millions of people had fled their countries and were seeking refuge. The refugee convention highlights refugees rights and their right to protection. The governments recognizing this provided certain documentation to recognize these people. It talks about how a refugee shouldn't be allowed to return back to their own country if they face serious threats there, such as their life or freedom being at risk.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> United Nations. *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. 20 Nov. 1989, [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/crc.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/crc.pdf) .

<sup>36</sup> *INTER-AMERICAN PRINCIPLES on the HUMAN RIGHTS of ALL MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, STATELESS PERSONS and VICTIMS of HUMAN TRAFFICKING Declaration for Refugees and Migrants; the Global Compact on Refugees; the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and Other Relevant International Instruments*. 7 Dec. 2019, [www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf](http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf) .

<sup>37</sup> ---. "The 1951 Refugee Convention | UNHCR." *UNHCR*, 2019, [www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention](http://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention) .

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### Inter-American Court of Human Rights

In efforts to protect human rights, the Inter-American Court of Human rights has drafted a resolution based on the principles of all migrants, refugees, stateless persons and victims of human trafficking, approved by the commission of December 7th 2019. Outlining the protection of children and adolescents with connection with migration as well as the prohibition of migrant smuggling.<sup>38</sup>

### European Parliament, 16th of December

The official journal of the European Union, 16th of December 2008, has addressed the common standards and procedures in member states for returning illegally staying third-country nationals. On clause 22, “the best interests of a child should be a primary consideration of member states when implementing this directive”.<sup>39</sup>

### European Parliament, 22nd of December

In addition, on the 22 of September 2003, the European Parliaments official journal stated the right to family reunification. Where “Measures concerning family reunification should be adopted in conformity with the obligation to protect the family and respect family life”.<sup>40</sup>

### Refugee convention

The refugee convention happened in 1951, which highlights the main rights of refugees and people who are seeking asylum and more importantly from people who have come from countries of conflict. The core principle of the 1951 convention is that if an individual's freedom or life is at threat they are not to return to their country of origin for

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<sup>38</sup> *INTER-AMERICAN PRINCIPLES on the HUMAN RIGHTS of ALL MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, STATELESS PERSONS and VICTIMS of HUMAN TRAFFICKING Declaration for Refugees and Migrants; the Global Compact on Refugees; the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and Other Relevant International Instruments.* 7 Dec. 2019, [www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf](http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/Resolution-4-19-en.pdf) .

<sup>39</sup> *DIRECTIVE 2008/115/EC of the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT and of the COUNCIL of 16 December 2008 on Common Standards and Procedures in Member States for Returning Illegally Staying Third-Country Nationals.* 16 Dec. 2008, [eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008L0115](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008L0115) .

<sup>40</sup>

whatever reason. The document highlights the right to housing, education and work. It also outlines the duties that refugees have to their home countries and lists some groups of individuals ,like war criminals, who are ineligible for refugee status.<sup>41</sup>

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### Help centers

Create centers where children whose families have been ripped apart by deportation can discuss issues with other people who have been through the same terrible events. This could either be done through one on one therapy sessions with specialists. In addition, support groups which will be led by professionals and consist of similarly aged children could help children whose caregivers or parents have been deported could encourage children opening up about their feelings as they have most likely have had a bad experience with trusting adults in the past.

### Schools support

Schools should incorporate developmentally appropriate lessons, across grade-levels aimed to celebrate diversity. As well as teach inclusivity and equity in addition to discrimination and injustice. This will help children and adolescents whose parents or care-givers have been deported feel safer in their daily environment and enable the children to freely talk about their feelings without being scared to friends, teachers or other people who they trust. Making schools a 'safe space' for immigrant children will help them feel less scared in the areas that they spend most of their day at, allowing them to find a calm environment where they can also focus on their future.

### Documentation

Ensuring that people have the ability to get documentation and become a citizen in a different country becomes an easier and faster process, especially for people without any criminal record. More importantly people whose family member is a legal citizen in a different country, allowing families to reunite. Making this process easier will allow people,

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<sup>41</sup> ---. "The 1951 Refugee Convention | UNHCR." *UNHCR*, 2019, [www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention](http://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention) .

more specifically people who live in countries of conflict who are seeking asylum, to enable new opportunities for themselves and provide a better future for them and their families in contrast to the country that they emigrated from. Furthermore, this method will prevent people from entering and living in a country illegally. This will lead to less deportation and prevention of families getting torn apart as deportation is still a really serious issue which needs to get tackled.

### Fostering Programs

Creating new fostering programs which will allow children whose parents have currently been deported to live in a different household with other adults who have had past experience with children in emotionally vulnerable situations will allow the children to feel calmer and more at ease with their current situation as they can continue on with their daily life and feel like their parents being 'taken away' from them isn't going to change their daily routine. In addition, ensuring that the children should remain united with their family and they shouldn't be split up from their siblings will most likely help them with feeling closer to family as they are all going through the same trauma.

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