

## **US Immigration: The Basics Webinar, September 19, 2019**

00:10

Why do you support refugees?

00:12

I support refugees because my family were refugees.

00:15

I support refugees because we are all God's children and we all deserve a safe place to grow in God's love.

00:21

I support refugees because God made us all in God's image.

00:25

I support refugees because I'm a legal guardian of a minor asylum in Carol from Burundi.

00:32

I support refugees because my Lord was a refugee,

00:36

Because I welcome and I love my neighbor.

**Kendall Martin** 00:41

Hi, and welcome to Hometown, a podcast from Episcopal Migration Ministries. I'm Kendall Martin.

**Allison Duvall** 00:46

And I'm Allison Duvall. We're coming to you today with another in between seasons episode.

**Kendall Martin** 00:51

Today we share with you the audio from a recent webinar we hosted called US Immigration Basics. Our webinar host is Alyson Ball, a member of EMM's Partners in Welcome community, graciously offered to share a virtual version of the US immigration presentation she has presented widely. Alyson provides an overview of US immigration history, laws, and system.

**Allison Duvall** 01:12

We've made it easy for you to follow along with the presentation by including a link to the PowerPoint slides in both the podcast notes and on our blog at [episcopalmigrationministries.org/blog](http://episcopalmigrationministries.org/blog). We hope you enjoy this rich and informative presentation.

**Allison Duvall** 01:31

Welcome, everyone to today's webinar. Thank you so much for being here. We'll start with some short introductions and then we'll get started with today's content. My name is Allison Duvall, and I'm the Manager for

Church Relations and Engagement for Episcopal Migration Ministries, and I'm coming to you today from Lexington, Kentucky.

**Kendall Martin** 01:49

And I'm Kendall Martin. I'm EMM's Communications Manager and I'm located in Richmond, Virginia.

**Rushad Thomas** 01:55

I am Rushad Thomas. I am the Policy Advisor for migration policy for the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations and I'm here in Washington, DC.

**Allison Duvall** 02:06

So before we get started, we wanted to talk to you a little bit about Partners in Welcome, Episcopal Migration Ministries' newest church engagement program. Partners in Welcome has two major facets at this point in its programmatic life. One is networking and mapping all of the ministries across the Episcopal Church that are working in the immigration, refugees, and asylum seeker space. So if you are part of such a ministry, please let us know we'd love to add you to the national map. The second major part of Partners in Welcome is an online learning portal, which is the platform through which we're offering today's webinar. We also offer interactive virtual workshops, online e-courses, a discussion forum, online events, calendar, all manner of things. And so we really do hope and encourage you to join Partners in Welcome. It's free to join, any individual can. [episcopalmigrationministries.org/partnersinwelcome](http://episcopalmigrationministries.org/partnersinwelcome). Today's webinar is offered by a Partners in Welcome member Alyson Ball, who embodies so many of the values of Partners in Welcome. After getting involved in welcoming refugees in Virginia and Arizona, she developed a curiosity and desire to better understand the US immigration system and helping her friends to understand it as well. She spent many years studying and living into what we could consider a civic responsibility to understand in order to take informed action. Alyson has given this presentation and many places on the ground, including at Episcopal congregations throughout the country. And we're very glad that she's offering today a virtual version of this presentation. So Alyson, thank you so much for your generosity and preparing today's presentation. I'm going to turn it over to you.

**Alyson Ball** 03:48

Great, thanks so much, Allison, for that introduction and for all of you for being here today. This is really a general educational presentation meant to give you a background in US immigration, so that you can take your time and when you hear the news, you can understand what's going on. I'm really not here to convince you of anything or to give you a point of view, other than just a general basic understanding of our immigration system as it is today. So this is our agenda. I'm going to start with what I consider to be the heart of the matter-- this is how does the US decide who can visit our country and who can become a citizen of our country. We're going to take a closer look at the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Justice and see how these two organizations interact and manage the immigration system that we have today. And we're going to talk a little bit about the unauthorized residents. You may have heard the term, undocumented resident or illegal alien. I use the term unauthorized oftentimes, these folks are not undocumented. They're not authorized to live in the US. So we'll talk about those populations. I'll give you a quick overview of my state, Virginia and our immigration overview. And at the end, when after the webinar, you'll be receiving information that will allow you to create your own state statistical overview if you're interested. So that's today's agenda. And we'll move ahead...

# The Heart of the Matter on Immigration

## Who can come to the US?

- 1882 – Chinese Exclusion Act (barring Chinese laborers) (1875 – Page Act – no Chinese women)
- 1917 Immigration Act – Literacy Test, Barred people from Asia (Turkey – Indonesia)
- Immigration Act of 1924 – National Origins Quota (% of population) – Visas required to enter the country
- 1965 – INA – Hart-Celler – Family Pref. and Skills, Caps on Countries, Broadens Geography, Temp. Visas

## Who is (can become) a US citizen?

- Naturalization Act of 1790 - “Free white persons” with 2 years residency
- Naturalization Law of 1802 - All immigrants can become citizens – “Report and Register” – 5 year wait
- 1848/54 – Mexicans can opt to become US citizens (Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and Gadsden Purchase)
- 1868 – 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment – “all persons born or naturalized in the US.....are citizens” (African Americans)
  - “jus soli” (right of the soil) not “jus sanguinis” (right of blood)
- 1924 – Native Americans born in the United States are citizens

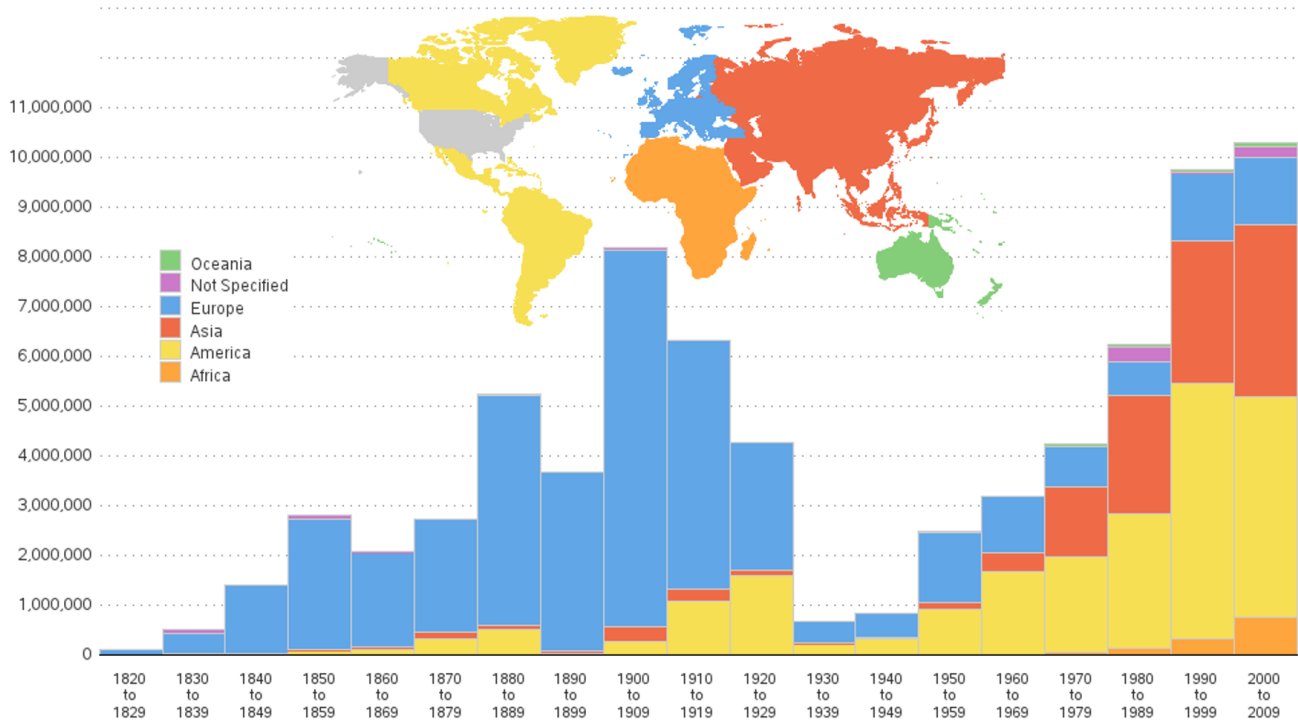
So this is the beginning, this is a pretty confusing slide (or it's it would) it basically divides the the two questions up: who can come to the US and who can become a US citizen. And these are just the highlights in my opinion of our history. You may remember from our your studies in school, that in 1882, we had a Chinese Exclusion Act. This was really the first travel ban which barred Chinese laborers from coming into the US. In 1917, during World War One, we started literacy testing for immigrants, just people entering the US, but we also barred people coming in from Asia. These were people with whom we were at war all the way from Turkey. If you think of your globe, all the way from Turkey around to Indonesia, we did not let people come to the US in 1914--in 1917. The Immigration Act of 1924 was quite significant. This was the first beginning of our national or federal legislation related to quotas and who could come to the US. At this point, what we said was, we will allow people to come to the US in the same percentage as our existing population. And what this meant was because most of our people in the country at that time were from Northern Europe, we allowed people to come from Northern Europe, but we did not allow people to come from other parts of the world. And we started creating visas. So this was the first time that we said, people cannot just come here and become citizens automatically. We were going to limit those who could become citizens starting in 1924. Now, this law was quite controversial, particularly around the world, the US was perceived as quite racist. And the fact that we did not allow people from other countries or other parts of the world to come here and visit us, or to become citizens after 1924, we were becoming quite criticized for this law. So in 1965, around the time of civil rights, we passed another significant act, the Immigration and Naturalization Act, which started our current system of federal immigration, which said, we're going to have a family and skills preference system. So what this did was it put caps on the number of people who could come from each country. And it broadened the geography of those people who are coming into the country and becoming our citizens will see this in the next slide a little bit more clearly. But this, again is an overview. Just who are we allowing to come to the US. And remember that until 1924, pretty much everyone who came could become a citizen. So if we look down on the second part of

this slide, we see that very early on if you were a free white person, and you lived here for two years, you could become a citizen. Same with the naturalization law of 1802. We said all immigrants can become citizens, if they report and register. You came into the country, you reported to your local county official. And then in five years, you returned and you registered and you became a citizen of the country. So very easy to become a citizen at the in those early years. If you're familiar with our Southwestern history, you know that after the the Mexican American war in 1848, and after the purchase of the Gadsden Purchase in 1854, we allowed anyone who was in the territory that we took over at that time. We allowed them to become citizens of the US. This was a Mexican territory. These were Mexican citizens. But we gave folks the option to become US citizens at that point. 1868 was a significant year with the 14th amendment because it that amendment at that time after the Civil War, what we said was all persons born or naturalized in the US are citizens. Again, this is a very significant basis of our laws. While this law this amendment was meant for the African Americans after the Civil War. What it said was anyone who is born here is a citizen.

**Alyson Ball** 10:09

Now you'll see just under that we there are two different kinds of citizenship in the world. Most of the countries in the Western Hemisphere as we are, have used solely they are the right of the soil. If you're born here, you are a citizen. These are countries when they were first colonized, and first populated, we're encouraging people to come to the country and to populate these nations. So what we said was, if you're born here, then you can be a citizen here. Most of the rest of the world follows a different system. *Jus sanguinis* is the right of the blood. It says, I am who my parents are. Now, most European countries use this system. This *jus sanguinis* the right of the blood. So it's a contrast to our system. However, countries like Germany and France are starting to realize that as they get folks coming from other countries, for example, Germany has a lot of people coming into work from Turkey. And as those Turkish folks marry each other and have children, those children are also Turkish by law. They're not they're not becoming German citizens, even though they go to German schools and speaks perfect German. So countries like Germany and France are starting to relax their laws, their *jus sanguinis* laws, knowing that it's probably good in the long run, to have folks who live in the country who are or can become citizens. And then in 1924, we have we agreed to allow Native Americans who were born in the US to be citizens at that point.

## U.S. Legal Immigration History



But again, this is the heart of the matter: who can come to the US and who can become a US citizen. This talks about what I had mentioned before, each of these columns represents one decade starting in 1822 1829, and goes all the way to 2000 to 2009. And if you just see the trajectory here, that we had quite a bit of immigration through, especially in 1900 and 1909, that very large column in the middle, and then there was a drop off in the early 1900s. Because we had the Great Depression, there wasn't enough money for people to move around. But if you match the countries in the globe on the top part with it with the columns, what you'll see is that before that 1924 law, predominantly, we had people coming to us from Europe and then some from Canada and South America, but then afterwards and since the 1900s and later, we have gotten more and more diverse populations coming from not only Europe, but Central and South America, but some from Africa and some from Asia. And you'll see why in a minute. But in part, it was because of the change in that law from 1924. That changed in 1965, where we actually diversified where we were taking folks from because we put caps on those countries, and we no longer took predominantly from Europe.

## Today : US Issues Millions of Visas Each Year

(L = Law, X = Executive Order, \* = legal annual cap)

### TEMPORARY VISITORS

Approx. 9 million per year

(L) Travel/Business Visas = 7 million

(L) Student/Exch. Visas = 800K

(L) Spec Worker Visas = 180K\*

• H1B, H2A, H2B

(L,X) Temp. Protected Status = 300K

(X) DACA = 700K

### PATHS TO CITIZENSHIP

Approx. 700-750,000 per year

(L) Family = 460K\*

(L) EB Work Permits = 140K\*

(L) Diversity (Lottery) = 50K\*

(L,X) Refugee = 30K\* (2019)

(L) Special Immigrant Visas = 16K

(L) Asylees = 20-30K

What we're going to talk about here again, is those same two questions the heart of the matter. Now, there's a lot of information on this slide, but I'll just go through it slowly. If you look at the key--if I put an L next to something, it means that this is codified in our federal laws. If I've put an X it means that this is the result of an executive order. And the star means that there's an actual legal annual cap put on this number. Now the US immigration laws today, there are about 180 different visas that someone can get. On the right hand side, Path to Citizenship, there are about 100 different visas that you can get. On the left hand side, there are about 80 different visas that you can have if you're visiting our country. And what I've done is just to combine these here, to make it a little easier for you to understand, there's a big difference between those people who come here temporarily and those who have a pathway to citizenship. This is the chart, just conceptually that I'd like you to remember in the future. Because when you hear the news or you hear of some group of people, think to yourself: now are those people on the left hand side of the chart and they're only here temporarily, or on the right hand side path to citizenship. We're going to go through each one of these, just so you can hear a little bit more about these categories. On the left hand side. We take about 900 million visitors per year. Most of those visitors are travel or business visas, and we have about 7 million of those per year. We issue about 800,000 student or exchange visas per year, who who are coming here, maybe on a one year, three year, five year student visas to study something. We also have about 180,000 specialty worker visas. These are not--none of these people on the left have a pathway to citizenship. You may have heard of the H1B, or the H2A. The H1B is a high skilled, full time worker, they might be a computer worker or a medical worker. They are here on a visa, that's probably a three year visa, it may be renewed once, so they may be here for six years, there's a slight chance at the end of that H1B that they might be able to convert that to a path to citizenship. But that's the only option from the left hand side of this chart from a visitor to become someone who has a pathway to citizenship. H2A and H2B are temporary seasonal workers, H2As are agricultural workers, people who pick our vegetables or our fruits around the country and many many states, higher H2A temporary workers. H2B is a seasonal or

temporary worker that's nonagricultural. These are specialty workers of certain kinds of people who I know in Maryland shuck oysters, that would be a specialty skill that we look for people from the outside, but temporary seasonal. And the next line, there are about 300,000 temporary protected status. Later on in the presentation, I'll show you the list of countries from where those people come. But these are people who came here, based generally on natural disasters, tsunamis or earthquakes, and couldn't stay in their countries of origin. And then come here, people from Central America and the Caribbean. As I said, you'll see that list of countries later on. Now this is these are given temporary protective status. These people are given this status by law, but there is an option for the President every year to sign an executive order that allows them to stay for another year or so based on the safety of their country of origin. And so what we've seen in the news recently is that President Trump has said that some of these protected statuses need to be not renewed this year. And what that would be doing is sending folks home. So that's been in the news quite a bit. As has the last in the column, which is the DACA. This is the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. These are people from all over the world who have come here as children. They've either been with parents who have had visas, but basically they have overstayed their visa, and there is no protection for these children. So President Obama signed an executive order that allowed these people who are in this position to come forward and apply for this DACA status, which allows them to be to go to schools here locally, to get their driver's licenses, get permission to work, etc. There is no pathway to citizenship currently for these folks. It is being discussed in the court system. And and Trump has asked to, to stop the DACA. And it remains to be seen in the Supreme Court whether the with this program will continue or not. So that's again on the left those folks who are here temporarily.

**Alyson Ball 19:31**

On the right hand side, we have pathways to citizenship. We make about 750,000 folks, citizens every year, most of those, as I said before, based on our federal laws, our family members who have people who live in the States, and there's a tiers there are tiers of permissions, but most of them are family workers. And the second category, there is the EB work permits about 140,000 of those per year. And these are high high skilled labor. Unlike the left hand column, the specialty worker visa, the EB work permits are folks with PhDs and and strategic knowledge that we want to have on our on our on our side. And so we've hired the these people to come and we've given them pathways to citizenship. Another controversial area is the diversity lottery. This is about 50,000 people per year from a wide range of countries where we don't have representation from them, or haven't had enough of them in the past. Again, this is an issue that Trump is questioning whether we should continue. Refugees as an organization, or refugees is a group that comes here every year and these are folks who are around the world who are no longer living in their countries of origin, but they have been persecuted or they fear persecution based on their race or religion, or their specialty group. I do work with the International Rescue Committee here in Charlotte for Charlottesville, Virginia. We settle currently in this year the target is 30,000, folks, again, this category is is determined by a federal law. The X is there because there is an executive order every year and we're waiting for the number to come out right now. For President Trump to say how many people we will take in the next fiscal year, and we'll see how that changes over time.

**Alyson Ball 21:45**

The Special Immigrant Visa is another category another pathway to citizenship from just two countries. Special Immigrant Visas come from only Afghanistan and Iraq. These are people who worked with our Armed Services or another arm of our government, and they are at great risk if they stay in their country of origin. So we are allowing them to come here with a pathway to citizenship on a Special Immigrant Visa. Now, the asylee is also another category with a pathway to citizenship. An asylee is, is someone who comes rather than like the refugee

who's in a second country, they're not in their country of origin, but they're in another country. The asylee, by contrast, are those people who are standing on our soil. So these are people who we see at our southern border, for example, there are also folks who defect they might come with a dance troupe or they might come with a basketball team, and they come to our country and they ask for asylum. They're standing on our, on our soil, but they're saying I'm being persecuted at home and I need to be here and I'm asking you to give me asylum. So right now we're seeing the largest group of asylees or asylum seekers coming from the southern border. And that number 20 to 30,000 is an approximate number of how many of asylees we might make and give asylum to each year. And it's about 10% of the total number who have asked for asylum. So there's a long process of the immigration courts. Asylum seekers go before a judge, and is quite a long involved proof to prove that this person has been persecuted in their home country and cannot return. So that again is just one of the examples of people that we give a pathway to citizenship to. And as I said before, this is the chart that I hope you'll remember in the future as you hear the news. Where does this person fit? Is that are we talking about a group of people with or without a pathway to citizenship?

**Alyson Ball** 24:12

**Department of Homeland Security (\$44B – 2018)**  
(These 3 areas were formerly INS in DOJ, 2003)

**CBP = Customs and Border Protection (\$16.7B - 2018)**

US Ports of Entry (ex. Incoming Int'l Flights, Nogales AZ/MX)  
Inspect Visitors, Returning Americans, Cargo

Includes **Border Patrol** = Border Agents between ports of entry

**ICE = Immigration and Customs Enforcement (\$8.8B – 2018)**

Operates across the US, manages detention centers  
Includes ERO = Enforcement and Removal Operations  
20,000 employees, 400 offices

**USCIS = Naturalization of citizens (\$3.3B – 2018)**

So we're going to go to the next slide. We're going to pick up the pace just a little bit here. I'm going to talk about how the government gets involved in our immigration courts and in the processes and procedures. Department of Homeland Security, as you recall, was formed after 9/11. These were groups that were part of the Department of Justice until then. The other big organizations within the Department of Homeland Security are FEMA and the Coast Guard. The others are these right here related to immigration. Customs and Border Protection is at the ports of entry--if you've ever flown in from overseas, the people that go through your luggage, the people who are taking you through the ports of Entry they're coming in from Canada or Mexico, are Customs and Border Protection. A part of that is the Border Patrol. When I'm down at the border in Arizona, we see Border Patrol agents. They're basically policing between the ports of entry there through there



in Arizona, throughout the desert, there in border checkpoints that we see as we drive around in Mexico, but they are trying to prevent people from coming between the ports of entry. Now, ICE, if you're living throughout the country, you may be familiar with ICE. They not only operate throughout the US, they're the people that we hear about doing the raids on the workplaces, or the raids in various places around the country. They also manage our detention centers, which we will talk about in a minute. They have about 200 or 20,000 employees and 400 offices now around the nation. And then we have the naturalization service, which does all the naturalization ceremonies of all those folks who are getting their citizenship who've gone through the process to become US citizens. So that just gives you a sense of the money that's being spent by the different organizations that are part of this.

**Alyson Ball** 26:18

## **US Detention Centers ICE – ERO (Enforcement and Removal Operation)**

Source: Natl Immigrant Justice Center - ICE data

Hundreds of Facilities = For-profit, Federal, and Local

For-profit example: CoreCivic, 128 facilities, NYSE: CXW

71% of detainees held in privately-operated facilities

\$30 - \$169/day/inmate

Avg beds/day = 38,000 (2017), 39,300 (2018), 50,000 (current)

51% “non-criminal”, “posing no threat” (Nov, 2017)

So the next slide talks about detention centers. These, as I said, are men are managed by ice. And these statistics come from the National Immigration and Justice Center. Immigration detention centers are really a network of hundreds of facilities around the country. There are some that are for profit. There are some that are managed by the federal government and the federal government, in some cases, leases space from local jurisdictions. So in some jurisdictions, this is quite a large moneymaker for some of our local counties, to supply beds and space for immigration. The one example I like to cite is this, this company called Core Civic, which has about 128 facilities nationwide. And it is this stock, of Core Civic is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. So this is a pure for profit organization that is doing work, as the federal government outsources to this for profit organization. In November of 2017, this National Immigrant Justice Center did a study and 71% of the detainees were held in privately operated facilities. So again, this is a large moneymaker for many people. At that time, we were paying \$30 to \$169 per day per inmate and you can see the average number of beds per day in the last few years, and how that has gone up and up and up. Even if you think of the average being about \$100 per day per inmate at

50,000 people in that day, the government US government spends \$5 million a day to house these people. So this is just gives you a sense of what is going on at the detention centers.

Alyson Ball 28:21

## Department of Justice (\$27.7B – 2018) Immigration Courts (no separation)

Department of Justice = Immigration Courts

Decides: (1) Removable? (2) Relief from removal?

Immigration = Civil Matter, legal representation not required

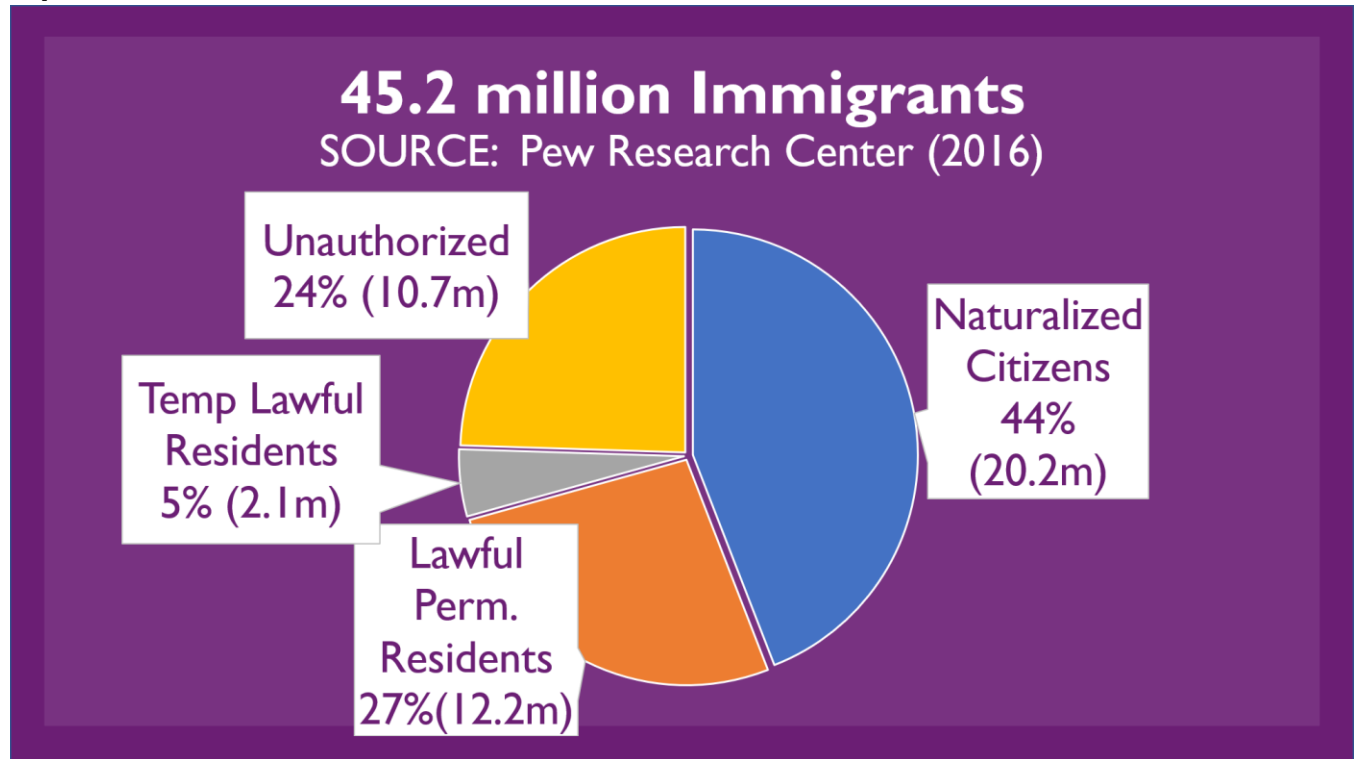
Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)

- 58 Courts, 424 Judges
- 890,000+ cases backlogged (detention, bond, waiting)
- Appeals: Board of Immigration Appeals (part of DOJ)  
Circuit Courts, Supreme Court (outside of DOJ)

The next slide we'll look at it will talk about the Department of Justice and immigration courts. Now, this was a very interesting part of the study that I did. And I did not realize that immigration is a civil matter. And there's no requirement for there to be legal representation for people who are going through the immigration courts. What these courts decide is that whether the immigrant is removable, meaning deportable or whether there is any relief from removal. So this is a very large and complicated legal requirement. That these courts look at and these judges are looking at. But as I said, there's no requirement for legal representation, which is why some of you may have seen pictures of young children standing before judges, with no lawyer with them because there's no requirement even though there are quite a few organizations trying to give pro bono support for these, these people who are going through these court cases. We have about 58 courts and about 424 judges. I just heard this morning that we don't have 890,000 cases backlogged but closer to over a million now, cases that are backlogged. People are either waiting in detention in the detention facilities or they've bonded out in some cases. There's a hearing that ICE hears and people can pay to get out of detention or they're waiting on the economy in some cases wearing a ankle bracelet so that they don't are sure that they will show up to the court cases. But there are about a million cases now in backlog. The other thing that was interesting, of course, that these courts sit within the Department of Justice, and there is a union of the judges in immigration judges, who would prefer that the courts no longer reside within the Department of Justice, so that they are no longer needing to fit the requirements of the politics of the day, but can stand independently outside of the executive branch, which would be the Department of Justice. The appeals system is interesting. The appeal--first appeals court is also within the Department of Justice. President Trump's administration is trying to make some administrative changes in those appeals courts. But the the next appeals level would be the circuit courts. And

then the next level after that would be the Supreme Court. So you there is an opportunity to appeal through the Department of Justice and out to the circuit courts. And you often see immigration issues being discussed in at this level of the Supreme Court.

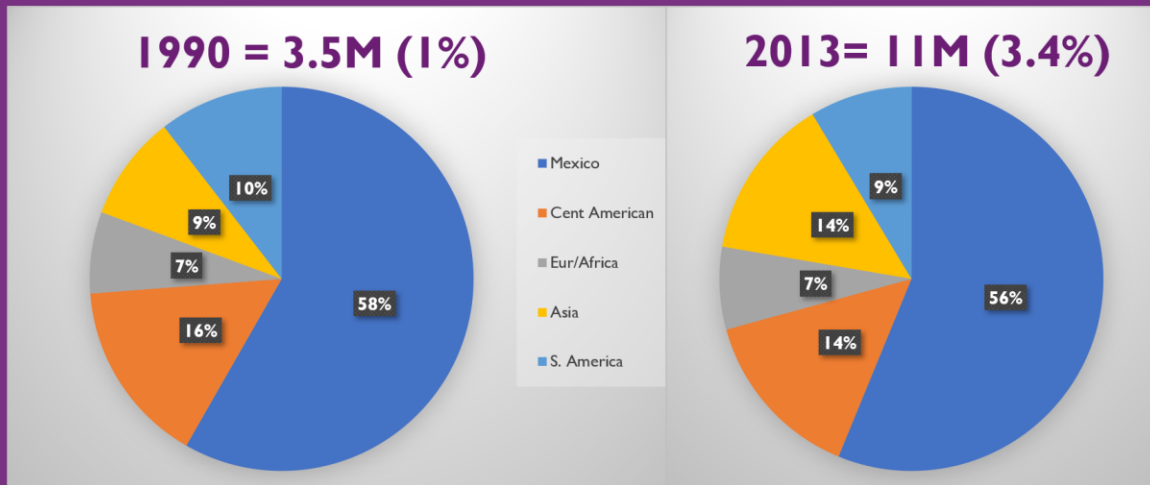
**Alyson Ball** 31:22



We'll turn now to our last topic, which is to really talk about these unauthorized. This looks at the total number of immigrants and sort of how they break down. That blue section on the right of the 42.5--uh, 45.2 million immigrants in our country about 44% have become naturalized citizens. So a naturalized citizen is someone who has gone through the process, they've taken the test, they've gone through the interview, and they become citizens. And other than not being able to be president, they really have all the rights of any citizen like you were I who were born here. The naturalized citizen has the same rights and legal rights as any citizen of the US. The orange section is what we call lawful permanent residents. Now that's the same thing as a green card. You may recall from our home our chart of who can visit and who is a citizen. The green card comes in the process of becoming a citizen. Generally you come into the country with a certain kind of visa based on your your requirements and your background. You then are converted to a green card, and you have that green card for four or five years, at which point you have the option to become a citizen or not. Anyone with a green card can keep the green card as long as they want. They don't need to become citizens or they have the option to apply to become a citizen. So again, these this orange section on this chart refers to those people with green cards. They could apply to become a naturalized citizen, but they don't have to. The temporary lawful residents are those people we talked about with temporary visas. These are folks who are here on study visas. They're here on work visas. They're here residing with their families. So these are people who are here lawfully, but for temporary reasons only. And then we have about a quarter of the total, who are unauthorized, and those are the ones we're going to talk about next.

## Country Origin of Unauthorized Residents

Source: Migration Policy Institute



So again, I wanted to see the difference of how we changed our unauthorized residents over time were there major changes? There aren't too many major changes. From 1990, you'll see we had three and a half million unauthorized that was 1% of our population at the time. The 2013 a quite a bit later, we are now up to 11 million on authorized and that's 3.4% of our population. So on average, in every state in the country, we have about 3.4 or 3.5% of the population is unauthorized. From a countries of origin perspective, you can see that the blue is Mexico, and that's really going down. I read an article the other day, this is a 2013 number. And I read an article the other day that said that they are now less than 50% of our total, we actually have fewer we have more Mexicans leaving our country now than are coming into our country. The big change that you'll notice maybe is the the yellow sliver, the Asian sliver going from 9% to 14%. And we're going to see on the next slide why that is, why did we have such an uptick in the number of Asians who are here as unauthorized residents. So let's turn to that next slide.

## 11m Unauthorized = Border Crossers & Overstayers More Overstayers each year since 2007

Source: Center for Migration Studies (2016)

### **BORDER CROSSERS**

**EWI = Entry w/o  
Inspection**

**58% of total  
6.4 million people**

### **VISA OVERSTAYERS**

**42% of total  
4.6 million people**

This is a something that I really wasn't aware of. When we think about the unauthorized we often think about the border crossers coming from the southern border. But what we don't think about often is and I certainly hadn't is the number of overstayers. So this chart basically shows you the difference. We have border crossers on the left, "entry without inspection" is the official title and they're 58% of the total or about 6.4 million people. But we also have these this overstayers, people who come here on work visas, or tourist visas, or work or school or education visas, and who just overstay the visa. So when we think about something like a border and a wall a border wall as a solution to the unauthorized problem, we know right away that almost half of that problem will not be solved by the border. It's just something to think about as we look for options down the road.

# Unauthorized Residents

- 2/3 have lived in the US 10 years or longer (Migration Policy Institute)
- 16 million people live in mixed-status families
  - 200,000 mixed-status marriages
  - 4.7 million US citizen children born to unauthorized parent(s)
- Recent US Immigration laws - focus on unauthorized
  - 1986 (Reagan) - Immigration Reform and Control Act
    - Regularization (amnesty) for 3 million unauthorized
    - Executive Action allows children of unauthorized to become citizens
    - Criminal penalties for those hiring unauthorized
  - 1996 (Clinton) Illegal Imm. Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act
    - Unauthorized must exit US if they apply for citizenship (marriages)
    - DHS has waiver authority (environmental, native) for border barriers

A little bit more information about the unauthorized residents. Again, this this were these were things that surprised me. Two thirds have lived in the US 10 years or longer. And quite a large percentage of the remainder have been here 20 years or longer. These people have been living here for quite a while. 16 million people in the US lived in live in mixed status families. That means we have some people in the family who are citizens and some people in the family who are unauthorized. There are 200,000 mixed status marriages and many many US children. have been born to one or both unauthorized parents, based on that 14th amendment that we talked about.

## **Alyson Ball** 37:07

Two recent immigration laws at the federal level, focus on the unauthorized and I wanted to just mention these. 1986, during Reagan's time, we had what was passed at the time Immigration Reform and Control Act. This was a regularization or a granting of amnesty. And at that time, there were about 3 million unauthorized in the country. So there was a federal law that said, if you come forward, if you pay a certain fine, if you have certain requirements, if you meet certain requirements, and you want to become a citizen, you can apply to become a citizen. At the time, Reagan agreed with Congress, if you please just allow me to do this amnesty, then you can have your immigration reform and and we'll be good to go. So that was the agreement we just never quite got around to changing the immigration laws. But at that time, 3 million people that were unauthorized became US citizens. There were two parts, there was an agricultural piece and a non-agricultural piece. The other thing that Reagan did was he wrote he signed an executive action that also allowed the children of the unauthorized who became citizens to become citizens. There was no provision for the children in the law. But he signed an executive action that did that as well. He also imposed for the first time in 1986, criminal penalties for those who were hiring the unauthorized so that there was some teeth behind the federal laws and it allowed people to be prosecuted as hirers of the unauthorized, not just going after those who were the unauthorized themselves. In 1996, Clinton passed what was called the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration

Responsibility Act. Now this was quite onerous and added many, many dimensions that were negative for the unauthorized. The one that I'm most familiar with is that the unauthorized must exit the US if they apply for citizenship. So what this did was it said, if you're already living here as an unauthorized person, there is no pathway for citizenship for you unless you're willing to return for your to your home country for 10 years. Even if you have married a US citizen, you cannot become a citizen of the US, you're still illegal. And you there's no way for you to even get a visa to live here, unless you go back to your country of origin for 10 years. And also, this was the law that allowed the Department of Homeland Security to waive any kind of environmental issues or reviews if we want to build a border. So this makes it easier for the federal government to build borders without the proper or the typical environmental reviews that might be might normally have required. So those were the recent changes that affected the unauthorized.

**Alyson Ball** 40:20

## Why do Central Americans/Mexicans want to come to the United States?

- (1) Income (to make money here)
  - Bracero Program (1942-64) 500,000 at peak, cancelled
- (2) Safety (to take refuge here)
  - UN 1951 Refugee Convention, 1967 Protocol
  - US INA and Refugee Act of 1980
  - Asylum: anywhere, no detention, no returning to danger

NOTE: US destabilizes (economically and politically) many Central American countries which causes northward migration. Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, Dominican Republic.

So you probably are familiar with this. Why do Central Americans and Mexicans come here? They come to make money. We had a very good Bracero program from '42 to '64. We had half a million people coming per year at the peak, the program was cancelled in '64. But it wasn't replaced. You'll notice the numbers of folks in the temporary side only 180,000 now are allowed in so there we have a higher need than what we're actually allowing by law, and they come for safety. We've talked about our ability to take refugees in as well as asylum seekers. This is all based on the US being a signatory to the 1967 Protocol, which was an update of the '51 Refugee Convention, we then went back and mimicked those international conventions in our own laws, so that the US has their own laws that they passed and the Refugee Act of 1980. And what this says is, we will allow you to ask for asylum anywhere without taking you into detention, and we will not return you to danger. And today, if we delved into the details of how we are treating those who are coming from Central America, into the US and asking for asylum, we would be violating all three of those rules that we have signed in in the protocol and that we've passed in our own laws. That note on the bottom of this slide is a small note, but I think is quite

significant. And it's something that I wasn't as aware of, as maybe I should have been, that the US currently, and it historically destabilized economically and politically, many of the Central American countries that we're talking about. We have a significant influence in the region. And we have definitely used that influence. And it's quite clearly linked to what's happening in those countries, which is causing the northward migration. So it's as we look to solutions to this issue, it's important to keep that in mind.

**Alyson Ball** 42:40

## Recent changes in US Immigration

- Travel Ban – Chad, Iran, Libya, N. Korea, Syria, Somalia, Venezuela, Yemen
- DACA – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals - undecided
- Temp. Protected Status cancelled - 300,000 and 273,000 citizen children
  - El Sal (195,000) Honduras (57,000) Haitians (46,000) Nicaragua (2,000), Sudan (1,000)
  - Waiting: Syria (6K) Yemen (1K) Somalia and South Sudanese
  - On hold pending court hearings
- ICE – May'18 – “Zero Tolerance” policy (Criminal Charges, Detain, Deport)
- USCIS (US Citizenship and Immigration Service)
  - Citizenship/green card denial based on (potential) usage of public services (pending)
  - Closing of overseas USCIS offices

We've talked about most of these recent changes. This is just a list of the countries that are in the current travel ban. These were executive orders that were signed by President Trump. I think there were three, this was the third of three. Eventually this did go to the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court decided that the President did have the authority to prevent people from certain countries from coming here. And that's what the travel ban did. So they upheld his travel ban at the time and this. That's what's in effect right now. DACA is also in question. President Trump tried to cancel DACA, he was sued for canceling it, he was sued for having it. So he's sort of caught in between, but this is undecided. And it will be going to the Supreme Court soon and heard whether it can continue or not. The other issue that's still pending is the Temporary Protected Status. Those are the countries and the approximate numbers of people who are protected under this system. And keep in mind that they also have had US citizen children in the time that they've lived here. You may have remembered, in May of 2018, the zero tolerance policy saying that as people were coming across our border, we were going to maximize the criminal charges, you were going to detain as many as we could. And then there are some changes happening just in our procedures with our US Citizen and Immigration Services. And one of those that's quite controversial is the public services test, which has been a part of our law for many years. But it basically says, if we think someone is now or could be in need of public services, we will not allow them to either get green cards or become citizens in the process. So that's one administrative change that's quite significant. And many of the USCIS offices that were overseas, that were facilitating people becoming US citizens on the family



side, as well as on the asylum side have been closed and those that functionality has been transferred to the Department of Justice. So, again, there are many, many changes happening right now to alter our US immigration system.

**Alyson Ball** 45:03

## Virginia – Immigration Facts

**Total Population** : 8.53 million

**Immigrant Population** : 1,015,000 (11.9%) (US Census)

**Unauthorized Residents** : 275,000 (3.2%) (Migration Policy Institute)

**DACA** = 13,900 (47% of the eligible) have applied (2016) (Am Imm Council)

**Unauthorized Residents as % of labor force**: 4.7% (Construction/Farming)

**Immigration Courts (# judges)**: Arlington (15)

**Primary Detention Centers** : (\* = owned/operated by Imm Centers of Am)

Farmville \* (690), Caroline County (224) Va. Peninsula Regional Jail (54),

Staunton (juvenile)

**287 (g) agreements**: local police deputized by ICE – Prince Wm County, Culpeper, Manassas Reg Adult Detention (Source: [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov))

This is just an overview of Virginia, I generally use it for folks in Virginia. One of the things we're going to do at the end of this presentation is to send you a booklet that I've written that helps you understand more about the immigration system. These are videos you can watch and articles, you can read in one of the pages talks about your state laws and your state statistics. So all of these statistics, you'll be able to find if you use that booklet, for your own state. But basically, Virginia sort of mimics the nation as far as its percentage of immigrant population as well as its unauthorized. That shows you the number of DACA residents that live here. What's the percentage of our residents as a percent of the labor force, 4.7 is the national average about 4% of your state, probably is labor force is probably unauthorized residents. Our immigration court here in Virginia is in Arlington, we have 15 judges. We have detention centers in the in the state. And this just list those and shows you that a couple of those are privately owned. One is owned by the federal government. And then there's quite an interesting to the 287 agreement is part of that 1996 law that President Clinton signed. And basically what it says is we the federal government, enters into an agreement with local authorities so that those local authorities those local police, or or sheriffs, can administer immigration law as if they were a federal agent. So these are complicated agreements and money is changing hands. But in the state of Virginia, we know that there are three agreements where this is taking place and it's would just be of interest perhaps, for you to take a look who in your state has these agreements, it just helps you understand the landscape of where things are.

**Alyson Ball** 47:09

So on the next slide, we'll let will wrap up with just a few more issues of what you can do. I hope that this has been a good basis for your learning about immigration. Some of this you may have been familiar with already, I hope you've learned something new. There's all kinds of things you can do locally. Again, you'll be receiving the booklet by email to list some of the things you can do. We would encourage you to look at any kind of local or national organizations related immigration, especially especially Episcopal Migration Ministries, and the Partners in Welcome organization is a great one. If you haven't already joined, I would encourage you to do that. And the Episcopal Public Policy Network, we're going to hear from Rushad a little bit more about that but we'd love to have you be a participant in that and get their newsletter to stay abreast of the issues. So with that, I'll turn it back to the folks at Partners in Welcome and EMM. But thanks for being here. And I will look forward to the q&a, which is going to start in a few minutes. So thank you very much.

**Rushad Thomas 48:20**

Thank you, Alyson. That was a great presentation. Hello, everyone. My name is Rushad Thomas. I am the Policy Advisor for Migration Issues for the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations. And I'm just going to give you an overview of who we are, what we do, how we serve the church and how you can partner with us and get involved with Episcopal public advocacy, public policy advocacy as well. So first, who are we? OGR is the voice of the Episcopal Church in Washington, DC, and everything that that that involves so that means we are the Church's official reference additives to the United States federal government, so to Congress, to the administration, and also to the wider policy community here in DC. Basically, what we do is that we advocate for the Church's values and positions here in Washington, DC, in the policy space. So all of those positions and whatnot that we take as a Church are determined by our General Convention, which means every three years or sometimes in the interim by the Executive Council, which governs the Church at the executive level between General Convention, you can find all of the policies and the resolutions that have been passed by General Convention on the Church's website. And we hew very, very closely to the policies that General Convention passes. So if General Convention doesn't has not said anything about it, we don't advocate on it. But whatever General Convention is given us to advocate on that's what we advocate on. We also out of OGR, run the Episcopal Public Policy Network, which is basically our grassroots element. This is how we try to empower ordinary Episcopalians throughout the country to collaborate in our work to advocate before their members of Congress, both here in DC and in their local communities, for the values of the church in the public policy space. So there are a number of things you can do to stay informed about these issues. You could study Church teachings on public policy issues and those there's these are all hyperlinks on the PowerPoint that you'll receive. So you can just click it and be led to the link. You can subscribe to EPPN alerts. These are periodic alerts that we send out to our network on pending issues before Congress, you can go to the link and basically fill in your information and it will generate the letter that we've created that you can email to your congressman or your senator on whatever issue it is, that is the topic of the alert. And then you can also follow EPPN on Facebook and Twitter. We have very active social media. So we are constantly updating that and providing folks with information about what's going on here on the Hill and how you can participate. And then also, of course, use your voice. And that's, that's a large part of what I just said, send out emails to your representatives and senators, it's very, very important to participate in local and national advocacy. You can go to your your local district office of your congressman or your state office, for your senator, talk to their staff, sometimes even talk to them, and tell them how you feel about all the issues that you care about, particularly immigration and refugees, very important to us as a Church. So we always encourage you to engage in advocacy in person as well and we are able to help you to do that, to know how to go into a meeting with members of Congress or their staff and you know, the talking points and how how all that sort of thing goes basically. And then also, the last

thing I want you to do is pray, hope, and take action. It's one of my favorite sayings. So you know, we everything we do has to be saturated in prayer because all that we do comes from the Lord. He's given us everything. And we are to be his hands and feet in the world. So that's at the heart of our ministry here on Capitol Hill. And we hope that it's a part of your ministry as well and always have hope. There are a lot of things going on in the immigration refugee space that we as Episcopalians do not agree with. But we know that no matter what happens here in Congress, and in Washington, Jesus is still on the throne. So we just have to keep our eyes focused on him and know that in our in our small way, all we can do is try to live out the gospel call that the Lord gives to us. So thank you very much, and I'll hand it over to Allison.

**Allison Duvall** 53:01

Thank you so much, Rushad. So we're going to very quickly share with you some upcoming opportunities with Episcopal Migration Ministries through the Partners in Welcome program. And so little promo for you before we get into questions. And over to you, Kendall.

**Kendall Martin** 53:14

Sure, thanks. So we have Supporting Asylum Seekers: A Toolkit for Congregations. And you will have the link where you may request it. And we hope and pray that this toolkit empowers you and your congregation to discern and live into the ministry of welcome to what you are uniquely called, and that it inspires you to continue building a relationship with EMM in the days and the weeks and the months ahead. If you have a ministry model to share, a story to tell, a case study to offer, suggested edits, or any other items that should be included in future editions of Supporting Asylum Seekers: A Toolkit for Congregations, we would welcome that information. So please do reach out to us.

**Allison Duvall** 53:54

And we have a virtual workshop scheduled for November 7 with the Reverend Twila Smith and Louisa Merchant, both of whom have been founders and actively involved in running refugee ministries out of their home congregations. The title of the workshop is What Now? Building Community Partnerships for a Changing Refugee Ministry. So we very much hope you'll join. Virtual workshops are interactive small group experiences, and they're limited to 12 participants. So please do make sure you check out this link and sign up if you'd like to be part of that day.

**Kendall Martin** 54:25

And now we're going to move into some q&a. So the first question that's come up is: last I heard the administration was talking about a PD of zero. Are you hearing anything more about the FY 2020 PD?

**Rushad Thomas** 54:38

Yes, so that there have been rumors that the administration is considering reducing the Presidential Determination for refugee admissions down to zero. So this is in law, the administration of the President has the power to decide how many refugees we bring in each year. And as you may know, over the course of the last several years the number of refugees that we've admitted annually, the Presidential Determination has been significantly reduced each year. I think the first fiscal year that President Trump was in charge of the determination dropped to 50,000. And then in second year, which was FY 19, it dropped to 30,000. And that's the fiscal year we're in currently. So that's the rumor, we are actively engaging aggressively to ensure that the the target is not dropped below 30,000. But unfortunately, at the end of the day, the person with the final say on

this is President Trump. And you know, we're doing everything we can to with working with our partners to ensure that the number doesn't reduce below 30,000 but we will take whatever whatever comes and and work on it as best we can. Thank you for the question.

**Kendall Martin** 55:56

Thanks, Rushad. And next question. Regarding the immigration court union that would prefer not to sit within the DOJ. What does it mean, as she said, to fit the requirements of the politics of the day and stand outside the executive branch?

**Alyson Ball** 56:12

Okay. So we know that there are three branches of government, right? We have the executive branch, which is the president, which includes all of the departments like Department of Justice, Department of Energy, Department of Education, all those departments. That's the executive branch. We generally have the legislative branch, which is the Senate and the Congress. And then we have the judicial branch, which is the court systems. In this case, we know immigration courts sit within the Department of Justice. So as the Department of Justice becomes more politicized, like Jeff Sessions was the one who said we wanted them to have zero tolerance in our dealings with these asylum seekers and we wanted to deal the heaviest blow that we could anybody who was crossing our border and coming into our country. So because the courts are within the Department of Justice, this Attorney General used to be Jeff Sessions, now it's Barr, they get to decide, well, we want the judges to rule this way. We want the judges to look at situations this way. We want the judges to review 700 cases a year where they won't get a satisfactory review. This is politicizing these judges. And the union of the judges is saying, look, we want to adhere to the law. We don't want to have to speed things up. We don't want to have to cut corners. We don't want to have to do anything that doesn't provide due process to the people who are going through our courts. They're trying to administer the laws, but unfortunately, as we go further into this the Department of Justice and the Attorney General is making decisions about how they can rule on these court cases, which is tying their hands from actually adhering to the law. So that's how it's becoming more politicized. Hopefully that clarifies things a little bit.

**Kendall Martin** 58:15

Thank you, Alyson. Someone else said, I also would like to know about the PD for FY 2020, and also other policy developments as they happen. I find it hard to track this kind of thing through the news media, is there a better resource for tracking that kind of thing?

**Alyson Ball** 58:31

That's a really good question. I know of no way to track this, although I can name one source. If you go to the National Immigration Forum, and you sign up, there's a daily newsletter by gain by a gentleman named Ali Noorani, this is also in the booklet, but it's the National Immigration Forum, the daily newsletter from Ali Noorani. There's also one, Rushad that you might be familiar with, which comes out from the same group, National Immigration Forum, what is their that's their federal legal alert. And that tells you everything that Congress is talking about federally, plus some local state wide. But this Ali Noorani generally looks at federal, some international and some state specific, but I read this every day to try to stay current, but it's very hard to to stay current. But that's, that's, those were our two good sources I would recommend.

**Rushad Thomas** 59:35

I would also add, EPPN does do periodic immigration updates as well. So you should definitely be on our mailing list. And then another one that I find really helpful comes from the Center for Migration Studies. They send out a weekly email that has lots of, basically all of the you know the relevant things that are going on from the previous week. So the Center for Migration Studies is another good source as well.

**Alyson Ball** 60:05

And the Partners in Welcome has, I think a weekly right, Allison, maybe you could, because that's a really great one too, your list.

**Allison Duvall** 60:12

And that's what I was going to add, is that our contractor who works on Partners in Welcome is a research librarian, and so curates news from across the media spectrum, about immigration issues. And often we're highlighting things from the Episcopal Public Policy Network as well, to make sure that we're kind of wrapping around all these resources together. So in your follow up email, folks, you'll get our recommendation that you join Partners in Welcome for free. And you do get those weekly news digests that you can stay subscribed to, or you can unsubscribe if you find the frequency a little much.

**Kendall Martin** 60:41

Thank you. Next question, what is the typical penalty for organizations that hire unauthorized workers or pay less than the prevailing wage?

**Alyson Ball** 60:50

Hmm, I think it's two separate questions. I don't know about the issue of paying less than the prevailing wage or the minimum wage. I don't know about that. The hiring of the unauthorized workers as we learned, starting in 1996, or 1986 with that law, they could be also targets of lawsuits. However, what happened at that point was that people started using contractors or consultants to hire workers for them. So they basically are hiding behind the fact that, hey, I didn't hire these workers. I have this person who's screening workers on my behalf. And I'm just taking their word for it, or I'm taking these documents which look normal and proper, but may be fake documents. So there's there are there's very little prosecutions of these employers, which doesn't seem quite fair, but that's the way that's what's happening. I mean, there is some prosecution, but because they've been able to get around this system and say, Well, I'm hiring people with proper documents and I, I can't use E-Verify there is a national system called E-Verify. But there's no teeth in the law that says that they have to use those, that system in order to verify that someone is here legally. So we haven't really tightened up the laws and the procedures around this issue as much as we could, in my opinion.

**Rushad Thomas** 62:28

Right. That's one of the complications of the employment employer enforcement side of federal immigration law and, it's just a lot easier for for ICE to enforce immigration laws against individuals seeking employment or who are employed without authorization, than it is for them to crack down on businesses that hire undocumented people because the E-Verify system is not mandatory, and it's just it's just a matter of resources. And like all things like, you know, in any sort of law enforcement situation, resources is always an issue, like you can't, especially given the large size of the undocumented population, you know, these this is literally millions of people who are working in our country today who don't have authorization. The federal government does not have the capacity to to crack down and round up that many people and and make sure that they're not working, just not

it's just not possible. There's scarce resources. So enforcement priorities is a is an aspect of immigration enforcement that we try to stress like you need to prioritize the immigrants who are not or the undocumented people who are actually a threat to like public safety, to you know, local communities, that sort of thing going after farm workers and nannies and, you know, construction workers. I mean, you can do that, but like given the scarce resources that you have to fulfill your mandate to enforce immigration law internally, we think you should prioritize basically.

**Kendall Martin** 64:11

Is participation in the 2020 census a risk for immigrant, undocumented, mixed families?

**Rushad Thomas** 64:18

I'll take that one. Under federal law well actually really under the Constitution, not just statute law, the federal government must enumerate the number of people resident in the United States every 10 years, individuals, people, it does not say citizens. Whether you have legal status in the United States or not, the census is supposed to count you. And as a result, it is also a federal law that participation in the census cannot be held against you for purposes of deporting you or any sort of retaliation. So, legally, the matter is airtight: participation in the Census does not endanger anyone's immigration status, doesn't matter if you're undocumented, if you're a green card holder, if you have some other form of immigration status or if you're a naturalized citizen or whatever or you are a native born citizen, participating census cannot be held against you in any way, shape or form. That being said, people don't often or usually have, you know, an understanding of all the technical realities of census gathering, with the administration attempting to insert a citizenship question into the census, which the courts disallowed the administration from doing that. There was a fear that undocumented people would not participate in the census because they were they might be afraid that you know, putting admitting to a government agent that they are in the United States without authorization would jeopardize their their situation. But that going forward since the census in 2020 will not have a citizenship question, that should not be a concern to anyone. If you have undocumented people in your life, in your networks that might be concerned about that, please let them know that that's not an issue that they need to be worried about.

**Kendall Martin** 66:19

Wonderful, thank you, Rushad. Next one is please review for those in the asylum process when they can obtain work permits, and also what organizations are involved in assisting asylum seekers moving from detention to sponsorship.

**Alyson Ball** 66:33

Two parts. When can people work in the asylum process? I think it is 90 days after they have applied for asylum. They get permission to work. So we have asylum seekers now throughout the country who have come through and they've asked for asylum. They have gone through the credible fear interview with the ICE person at the border. They've probably been in and out of detention while they're waiting for their sponsor, and then eventually they make their way to the sponsor. So, once they have applied with the courts for asylum, I think it's a 60 day wait, there was some question that the administration wanted to prevent them from being able to work. So that has been under discussion and I don't know where it stands. Generally, these things are brought up by the administration and then the lawsuits show up by somebody like the ACLU or the Southern Poverty Law Center on behalf of the asylum seekers. So there's a little bit of question about the future of the ability of

the asylum seeker to work. When I go to Arizona, I'm out in Green Valley, which is near Tucson. And so the second part of that question is who takes care of the person after they have left detention, but before they go to their sponsors, generally what's happening now is they've been held by ICE. And at this point there are a lot of families this is going on with these are families who are coming north. In the beginning, the northward migration, as you know, was a generally single men who wanted to come here to work. But more and more we're seeing women and women with children. So they're held in detention. But eventually, at some point ICE basically has to get rid of them from their detention center. And what we're seeing in Tucson and throughout the border region, is people are just dropping, ICE is just dropping these people off, sometimes at the Greyhound bus station, and sometimes with the nonprofits. In Tucson, it's Catholic Charities who runs a place called Casa Alitas and that is an organization that literally is a shelter that takes people for two to three days. We need know who the sponsor is going to be, but the sponsor has to supply money to move that family from Tucson, in this case, to the location. So, bus tickets have to be purchased or flights have to be purchased. And the people coming out of detention have very little money, if any, they have one set of clothes. So Casa Alitas will take folks in either by picking them up at the bus station where they've been dropped or if ICE drops them off at Casa Alitas even better, and they feed them and they give them clothes. So there's a lot of clothes donations, and they make contact with the sponsor. There's some paperwork that needs to be done. And basically somebody coming out of detention will have a first ICE check in scheduled within two weeks, and a court immigration date that's been set for them at the location where the sponsor is. So there are organizations across the border, like Catholic Charities who run these shelters it's heroic work, because they never know on any given day if they're going to get 100 new clients, or 50 new clients dropped at their doorstep. And there's just a big machine out there now of people supplying food, services, English as a second language, etc, etc. So that's the one I'm the most familiar with is Casa Alitas as part of Catholic charity services out in Tucson. I don't know if you have other information about that process. But that's basically what I know about what's going on.

**Rushad Thomas** 70:45

Yeah, I just had a update on the the work aspect side of the filing process. The administration is currently in the comment period for a regulatory change that would remove the stipulation that the administration has 30 days to process the applications of asylum seekers for work authorization, they want to lift that 30 day rule so that it's basically it can be indefinite, the amount of time that asylum seekers have to wait to gain work authorization, and we're currently active in advocating, in the Office of Government Relations,

**Alyson Ball** 71:25

So we're saying they can work, but we're not going to have any commitment as to how soon we could approve that's great administrative way to get around law allowing them to work. Okay,

**Rushad Thomas** 71:38

Exactly. So yeah, so there's not a rule is if the rule that these these applications have to be processed in 30 days is removed, then the administration can sit on them for as long as they want.

**Alyson Ball** 71:50

Okay. Okay.

**Allison Duvall** 71:51

And I just wanted to add to the answer to that question. So not all asylum seekers who are seeking asylum in this country are from Central and South America. There are asylum seekers from all over the world, many of whom are held in detention and all across the country. So if you're not familiar with Freedom for Immigrants, that's a really important organization to be aware of. Freedom for Immigrants has a detention visitation network, I believe they were the first, the first they could be the only kind of national detention visitation network in the country. At least that's what they say on their website. And additionally, they have an alternative to detention program. So they are kind of piloting community sponsorship of detainees who've been released to seek asylum outside of detention. All the things that I just mentioned are featured in our Supporting Asylum Seekers Toolkit along with the information about a variety of other local accompaniment networks. So if you are near an accompaniment network that is doing detention visitation and sponsoring people out of detention through bond funds, and then posting bond, really important information will be in that toolkit. So do stay tuned for that that should be released within the next few weeks from us.

**Rushad Thomas** 72:53

And I just would like to add as well that at the federal level, it is the policy of the Episcopal Church to advocate for alternatives to detention for asylum seekers, as well, so we're active on that issue here in DC as well.

**Kendall Martin** 73:09

And a follow up question came through. She said, I'm really asking what organizations find sponsors for those in detention.

**Allison Duvall** 73:17

Part of what I just answered points to that. So the Standing Up for Racial Justice for a while was doing sponsorship with people out of detention, Freedom for Immigrants works on that, various other accompaniment networks that are listed on Freedom for Immigrants and partner with them do that kind of work. Also, you can search for bond funds, immigration bond funds, many bond funds, not only post bond to help immigrants get out of detention, but they also have sponsorship opportunities. So I can't go down the national list, but there are quite a number of organizations doing that kind of work.

**Kendall Martin** 73:49

Thank you, Allison. I think we have time for one more question before we wrap it up. What chance is there for the immigration judge union to be successful and their attempts to no longer be under the DOJ?

**Alyson Ball** 74:00

My guess is their attempts are not that great. I don't know that this is an issue that the general public is aware of, or if there's any pressure from the outside to make this change, but I don't think it's likely but Rushad you may have more information from the Washington perspective.

**Rushad Thomas** 74:21

Yeah, I would not hold my breath on that one, honestly, because expanding executive power is the world we live in just from a separation of powers perspective. And this is not this is true of all the recent administrations. It's not unique to the Trump administration, but presidential administrations are reluctant to give up the authority that they have. And Congress is, has been for many years very much willing and eager to cede authority that that should rest with Congress to the administration. So it's very unlikely that we will have



independent immigration courts anytime soon. I certainly think it would be a good idea for sure, given the fact that the administration, you know, they have a very this is this immigration is an issue that this administration, as we well know, has very strong feelings on and that wants to steer the country in a certain direction. They're definitely not going to be interested in giving up control of the immigration court system. That's not that's not happening.

75:30

Thank you. Rushad. Sad note to end on, appreciate the answer. And we wanted to thank you all so much for joining us today. And thank you so much, Alyson, for all of your hard work to prepare this presentation and sharing such rich information. And we do encourage you all to stay in touch with Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Episcopal Public Policy Network. We are both part of the Presiding Bishop's staff so we are colleagues and work together everyday. You can be in touch with us at our website [episcopalmigrationministries.org](http://episcopalmigrationministries.org), on social media, we are @EMMrefugees, the video for today's presentation will be on our Vimeo channel [vimeo.com/EMMrefugees](https://vimeo.com/EMMrefugees). And please do join Partners in Welcome on our website, [episcopalmigrationministries/partnersinwelcome](http://episcopalmigrationministries/partnersinwelcome). Thank you all so much for joining us today. Have a blessed rest of your week. And we'll be in touch. Take care, everybody.

**Alyson Ball** 76:20

Thanks for coming!

**Allison Duvall** 76:28

Kendall, I'm so grateful to Alyson for taking the time to do that for our audience. And I know from a lot of the folks who watched the live webinar and they let us know after the fact so many people wish this were a common part of civic education in our country. I think I mean, even for myself, I mean, you and I work in an area within immigration, but none of the information that Allison presented to me was stuff that I just learned in school as part of the normal normal curriculum. What about you?

**Kendall Martin** 76:56

Oh, absolutely. I'm just so grateful that we have these opportunities. Whether through webinars or virtual workshops to share information that people might not know, or they might think they know, and then they learn something new. So I think it's really exciting. And I'm really grateful that Alyson gave us some time. And speaking of that, I would love people to join us for our upcoming virtual workshop. It's called What Now? Building Community Partnerships for a Changing Refugee Ministry, and it will take place Thursday, November 7, from 4 to 5:30pm Eastern Time, and the registration link will be in the podcast notes. In a political climate that has dramatically affected refugee arrivals and the operations of support agencies, how can we strengthen support for refugees already in the US and continue our commitment of welcome? This virtual workshop will look at changing needs and opportunities for ministry beyond initial resettlement. We'll take a look at our gospel foundation and consider new ways to be loving neighbors and friends, exploring community partnerships, including how to develop them and collaborations for education and advocacy. And the workshop will include time for discussion of partnership, sharing ideas, and Q&A and it is limited to 12 participants and 24 observers.

**Allison Duvall** 78:11

We welcome you to join in the work of welcome by making a donation to Episcopal Migration Ministries. No gift is too small and all put to use to welcome our newest neighbors. Visit [episcopalmigrationministries.org/gift](http://episcopalmigrationministries.org/gift) or text "hometown" to 91999.

**Kendall Martin** 78:29

And make sure to follow EMM on social media for updates on our upcoming webinars, workshops and opportunities where we are @EMMrefugees.

**Allison Duvall** 78:39

It's time to share the message with welcome loudly and proudly. Purchase an EMM t shirt or bag and join us in proclaiming that you support refugees and you stand with EMM. It's thanks to our listeners and supporters that even in the midst of grave challenges, we are standing strong, building our network of supporters, strengthening our organization and our partners, and continuing to proclaim boldly and without ceasing that we support refugees. Go to [custominc.com/fundraising/EMMfall2019](http://custominc.com/fundraising/EMMfall2019) and order your own t shirt or tote bag today.

**Kendall Martin** 79:15

Our theme song composer is Abraham Mwindi Ikando find his music at [abrahammwindi.bandcamp.com](http://abrahammwindi.bandcamp.com).

**Allison Duvall** 79:23

Thanks for joining us today listeners. Until next time, peace be with you and all those you consider home.