
Stephanie M. Hadley
Paralegal Studies Practicum Course: Interning for Vive Legal Services

Global Migration Crisis – The Facts

- 68.5 million globally displaced people
- 40 million sheltered displaced persons
- 25.4 million seeking refuge
- 3.1 million refugees

U.S. – Canada Safe Third Country Agreement

- Established in December 2004 between the United States and Canada with advisement from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).
- The primary purpose is focused on refugee protection, establishing a set of rules for the sharing of responsibility of hearing refugee claims between the two countries.
- The main objectives behind the agreement are:
  I. Enhancing the orderly handling of refugee claims
  II. Strengthening public confidence in the integrity of respective refugee systems
  III. To help reduce the abuse of both countries asylum programs
  IV. Sharing the responsibility of providing protection to those in need.

Establishing a Community of Safe Third Countries

- Under the agreement, those making a refugee claim are required to make such claim in the first ‘safe country’ they arrive in.
- Creates a more accessible and manageable refugee system for participating countries.
- Does NOT apply to “stateless persons”.
- Exceptions exist to protect the values of family unity, the protection of children, and public interests (in meeting all other eligibility requirements). exceptions.

- Land Border Entry Points
  I. Currently a topic of discussion and action – on both sides - because of the increased influx of refugees via foot from the United States into Canada due to the immigration crisis at the southern border.
  However, in a regional situation and/or situation of a lesser ‘safe’ country, this exception holds beneficial in aspect.
  II. Family Member (must be an anchor relative).
  III. Unaccompanied Minors

- Countries that are designated non-removal
- Death Penalty
- Valid Visas
- VII. Visa Required in the U.S. But Not Canada
  ➢ **This includes Mexico, creating the possibility for a ‘safe’ North-American agreement.

Vive La Casa

- In March of 2015, Jericho Road Community Health Center assumed operations and Vive La Casa relocated to its current location at 50 Wyoming Avenue in Buffalo.
- Assists those who wish to make a refugee claim in Canada or those seeking asylum in the United States.
- Provides safety, shelter, and food as well as educational and legal services.

How To Get Involved

- VOLUNTEER
  • Service Learning Internship Opportunities through Daemen College for enrolled students.
  • Priscilla Project – A mentoring program for at-risk and socially isolated pregnant women.
  • ESL Initiative – English instruction for language skills refugees need in their everyday lives.
  • HOPE Refugee Drop In Center – Assist individuals in completing applications for U.S. naturalization
  • VIVE – Legal services and housing for asylum seeker.

- DONATE
  • Good Samaritan Monthly Giving Society.
  • Mail Check to 184 Barton Street, Buffalo, New York 14213 and indicate VIVE in the Memo section.

References

- Vive Sherbrooke, Jericho Road Community Health Center, www.jrchc.org/vive/