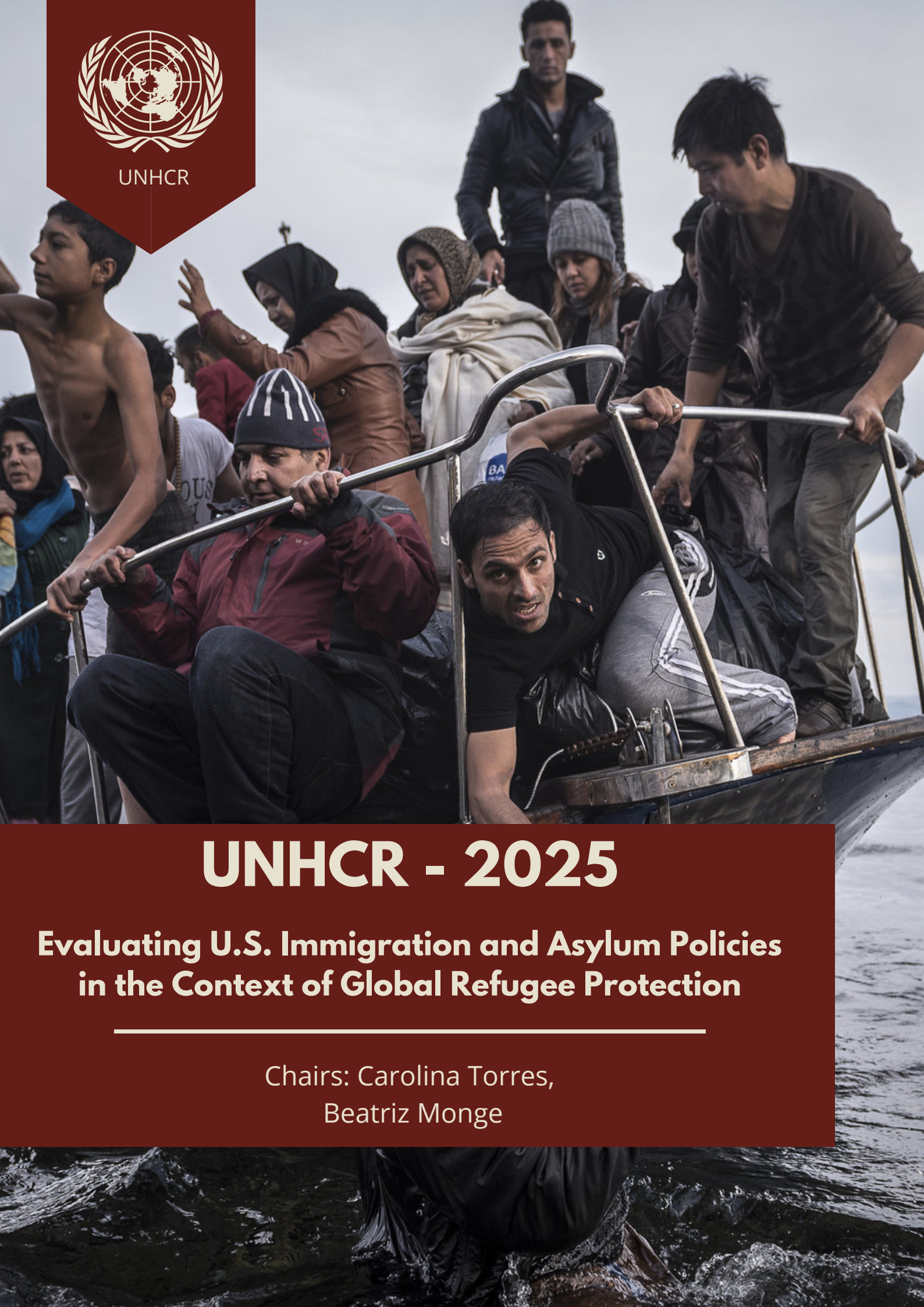




UNHCR



UNHCR - 2025

**Evaluating U.S. Immigration and Asylum Policies
in the Context of Global Refugee Protection**

Chairs: Carolina Torres,
Beatriz Monge

INDEX

Disclaimer: This SOCHUM study guide, on the topic of Evaluating U.S. Immigration and Asylum Policies in the Context of Global Refugee Protection, is merely a guide for your research, and it shall not replace it. This being said, the contents of the study guide include:

1	Letter from your Chairs
3	Committee Overview
4	Introduction to the Topic
5	Key Terms
7	Historical Background
8	Current Situation
13	Past Attempts to Solve the Issue
13	Possible Solutions
14	Block Positions
17	Resolution Paper
18	References



LETTER FROM YOUR CHAIR:

Dear Delegates,

I am honored to welcome all of you to this committee at SPMUN! My name is Carolina Torres, and as your chair, it is my pleasure to guide you through this engaging and stimulating experience. Over the years, I have participated in several MUNs and served in different committees representing various countries, which has given me the opportunity to learn, grow, and truly enjoy this incredible experience. Now, I am excited to serve as your chair and to begin this new journey with all of you.

This year, our committee will focus on “UNHCR evaluating US immigration and asylum policies in the context of global refugee protection.” This topic is extremely relevant, as it touches not only on humanitarian and legal responsibilities but also on how nations contribute to global efforts in protecting refugees and displaced populations. I encourage each of you to conduct thorough research, consider diverse perspectives, and approach our debates with passion, respect, and well-informed reasoning.

MUN is a unique opportunity to step into the shoes of global leaders, gain a deeper understanding of international issues, and engage in rigorous discussions aimed at finding practical solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges. I expect every delegate to demonstrate respect, professionalism, and openness throughout these two days. Remember, the goal is not only to represent your assigned country effectively but also to learn, connect, and enjoy the experience to its fullest.

Come prepared with solid research, an open mind, and a willingness to engage constructively with your fellow delegates. The success of our committee depends on your active participation, creativity, and collaboration. While MUN can feel intimidating at first, especially if this is your first experience, it is also one of the most rewarding opportunities to develop skills, make meaningful connections, and explore global issues in depth.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns as you prepare for the conference. I, too, was once a student preparing for my first MUN, and I am here to support you every step of the way, ensuring that this experience is both enriching and enjoyable.

I wish you all the best in your preparation and look forward to seeing your ideas and debates come to life in our committee!

Kind regards, your chair,
Carolina Torres

LETTER FROM YOUR CHAIR:

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to this year's SPMUN High Commissioner for Refugees!

My name is Beatriz Monge, and I'm a senior. Over the years, I have truly enjoyed participating in Model United Nations, and I feel incredibly privileged to serve as your Chair for the second time. It is an honor to be working with all of you, and I hope you are just as excited as I am for the days ahead.

This year, I've had the privilege of taking part in many school activities and even directing some of them. My best piece of advice is simple: try everything. Participate, lead, step out of your comfort zone, and meet new people. High school is an incredible time to discover who you are, so I encourage you to take risks and embrace every opportunity, no matter how intimidating it may seem.

If this is your first time participating in an MUN, here are a few recommendations that might help you get started. Prepare yourself with strong research, get to know different perspectives and don't limit yourself to your own country's position. Make sure you also understand the views of your allies, your opponents, and the overall global context. Take notes during debate, especially on the first day of the conference. This will help you follow other delegates' arguments, analyze their points, and strengthen your own responses. It's also a great way to learn new concepts or terms you might not have known before.

And finally, speak up! It might feel intimidating at first, but I promise it gets easier with every speech. We've all been beginners and made our fair share of mistakes. Trust yourself as much as we do, and remember that no one will judge you for trying. Every time you raise your placard, you're already succeeding!

Carolina and I will do everything we can to create a safe and respectful space for everyone, but we need your help to make that happen. Please remember to always show respect toward your fellow delegates and the cultures you represent. I'm completely available for any questions or concerns you may have, so don't hesitate to reach out to me at any time. I know it can feel intimidating, especially if this is your first conference or you're working with older students, but trust me, we've all been there, and you'll do great!

Best regards, your chair,
Beatriz Monge

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The committee on Global Refugee Protection and U.S. Immigration and Asylum Policies examines issues related to the treatment of refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced individuals in the United States, while situating these policies within the broader framework of international refugee protection. This committee addresses both the humanitarian and legal dimensions of migration, focusing on compliance with international conventions, human rights obligations, and best practices in refugee resettlement.

All 193 member states of the United Nations can participate, with discussions aiming to balance national sovereignty, security concerns, and humanitarian responsibilities. Key areas of focus include the evaluation of U.S. asylum procedures, refugee admissions programs, detention and deportation policies, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and the impact of political and administrative changes on vulnerable populations.

The committee also explores the global context of refugee protection, comparing U.S. practices with international standards and the experiences of other countries hosting large refugee populations. Topics include equitable responsibility-sharing among nations, protection of children, women, and marginalized groups, and strategies to address root causes of displacement, such as conflict and poverty.

The committee derives its mandate from the principles in the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1967 Protocol, and related UN frameworks, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Its primary goal is to foster international cooperation and recommend policies that strengthen refugee protection while addressing the practical challenges of immigration management, humanitarian assistance, and human rights protection.

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC:

No one imagines having to leave their home country and family behind, and no one is ever truly prepared to say goodbye. Sadly, this is the harsh reality of over 123.2 million people who have been forced to leave their countries to escape the terrible conditions they face in their home. It is estimated that 49 million (40%) of these immigrants are children below 18 years of age, while 2.3 million children were born being refugees. Sadly, only 51% of refugee children are enrolled in primary schools, and only 6% make it to higher education. For many, returning home isn't an option, and the ones who eventually do spend an average of 10 years outside of their homes. The responsibility of supporting displaced populations for such extended periods often falls on host countries, a burden that can be devastating, particularly for low-income nations, which currently host 73% of the world's refugees, while the Least Developed Countries provide asylum to 21% of the total.

According to the UN International Organization for Migration, the US has been the largest migrant-receiving country in the world; however, in recent years, the annual refugee cap has been drastically reduced. Not only this, but many laws and acts have been introduced that have put many of these immigrants in danger of being deported or imprisoned, further jeopardizing their safety and stability. This has caused much controversy because it shifts an enormous burden onto other countries and communities. For example, nations like Mexico and Turkey are hosting far greater numbers of asylum seekers and refugees, often with limited resources and support, as wealthier states tighten their borders and restrict access to protection.

The impacts of these shifts in policies extend far beyond their borders, as the US is a significant recipient of migrants, playing a decisive role in global migration trends. Its refusal to accept refugees has placed an enormous burden on other countries that don't have the resources to provide them with safety and stability. It has also forced many people to go back to countries where their safety is compromised and their opportunities are limited. This shift has also served to justify the adoption of stricter measures in other powerful nations, amplifying the global impact and affecting countless more lives. Ultimately, these policies not only reshape borders but redefine the lives and futures of millions who seek only safety and dignity.

This issue is an urgent call for help; the crisis has affected the lives and future of millions, and it has evolved to a point where international cooperation is needed. It is important to reaffirm refugee rights and analyze the future development of the migration system to ensure that it balances the burden of hosting refugees so that it doesn't fall on low-income nations.



KEY TERMS

- **Refugee:** A person forced to leave their country due to persecution, human rights violations, or threats, and cannot return safely. Legally recognized under the 1980 U.S. Refugee Act.
- **Asylum Seeker:** Someone who has fled their country and is requesting protection in another country but has not yet been legally recognized as a refugee.
- **Migrant:** A person living outside their home country for reasons like work, study, or family, who is not legally a refugee or asylum seeker, though they may still face danger if they return home.
- **Diaspora:** A scattered ethnic group that maintains shared identity, memory, and connection to their homeland, typically due to forced emigration.
- **Externalizing Asylum Responsibility:** When a country shifts its duty to process asylum claims and protect refugees instead of handling it domestically.
- **Non-refoulement:** This process prevents governments from sending refugees or asylum seekers back to their home country or any other in which they are likely to face persecution. The principle of non-refoulement forms an essential protection under international human rights, refugee, humanitarian, and customary law.



KEY TERMS

- **Apartheid:** Apartheid was a system in South Africa, officially enforced from 1948 to 1994, under which people of different races were legally segregated. White South Africans were given far greater political rights, access to education, employment opportunities, and land ownership, while Black South Africans and other racial groups were systematically marginalized and oppressed. Apartheid shaped social, economic, and political structures in South Africa for decades, and its legacy still affects the country today.
- **Returnee:** A returnee is a person who returns to a place after living elsewhere.
- **Resettlement:** The process of moving a refugee from a country where they have sought protection to another country that has agreed to admit them permanently.
- **Temporary Protected Status (TPS):** A designation by the U.S. government allowing nationals from certain countries affected by armed conflict, natural disasters, or other extraordinary conditions to stay temporarily in the U.S. without fear of deportation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



The United States has long played a central role in global refugee protection, but its immigration and asylum policies have evolved in response to both domestic and international pressures. The modern U.S. refugee framework was established with the Refugee Act of 1980, which aligned national law with the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, setting up procedures for refugee admissions and asylum claims. This act emerged in the wake of large-scale refugee movements, including the resettlement of Indochinese refugees following the Vietnam War, highlighting the need for structured humanitarian response.

In the decades since, U.S. asylum and immigration policy has fluctuated with changing administrations. During periods of humanitarian crises, such as the Central American migration waves in the 1980s and 1990s or the Syrian refugee crisis in the 2010s, the U.S. adjusted refugee quotas and expanded temporary protection measures. However, restrictive policies, including travel bans targeting specific countries, heightened border enforcement, and the use of detention centers for migrants, have also sparked debates over human rights and compliance with international standards.

Recent years have seen growing challenges in balancing national security, political considerations, and humanitarian obligations. Vulnerable populations, including unaccompanied minors, women, and LGBTQ+ asylum seekers, often face systemic barriers in accessing protection. Furthermore, U.S. policies are closely tied to global refugee trends, as the country remains a major resettlement destination while other nations host large proportions of displaced populations, such as Turkey, Jordan, and Uganda.

The historical evolution of U.S. immigration and asylum policy demonstrates the tension between domestic priorities and international responsibility, illustrating how policy decisions can have far-reaching consequences for both refugees and the global humanitarian system.

CURRENT SITUATION



Actions taken by the US in the last few years that have aggravated the situation:

“Remain in Mexico” policy (Migrant Protection Protocols):

One of the most controversial measures implemented is the “Remain in Mexico” policy, officially named the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP). It was originally introduced in 2019 during Trump’s first administration, but President Biden terminated this policy, recognizing the grave harm it posed to refugees in seek of asylum. But as of January 2025, the Trump administration stated it was being reinstated.

This policy requires asylum seekers coming from the southern border to remain in Mexico while their immigration cases get processed in the US courts. Sadly, this strategy has led to chaos and suffering at the border since thousands of asylum seekers have been stranded in dangerous cities alongside the US-Mexico border. Unfortunately, returnees are unable to obtain legal representation and face struggles to meet their needs. Leaving them in vulnerable conditions often leaves them no option but to remain homeless, even in the case of families with small children. The Mexican government remains unable to sustain a safe environment for these refugees and has failed to ensure shelter, guaranteed work authorization, medical care, or education for their children.

Far from providing real protection to families in need, the MPP has endangered more people than it has helped. Exposing them to a severe risk of violent crimes such as human trafficking and sexual abuse. As expected, many are choosing to abandon Mexico and make their way back home, where they face imminent danger, rather than remaining in limbo in cities where they are unable to support themselves financially and are at risk of being preyed on by criminals.

South African Refugees:

In the midst of this crisis, one of the most dramatic measures taken by the U.S. government was the decision to lower the migration cap, leaving thousands of people without a safe place to flee. However, a certain group managed to avoid this fate. In May 2025, former President Donald Trump welcomed a group of 49 white Afrikaners who were granted refugee status in the United States. This new program focused on white South Africans whom the U.S. administration claimed were being persecuted and subjected to racial violence. President Trump stated that they were victims of a “genocide” perpetrated by their own government, asserting that “white farmers are being brutally killed and their land is being confiscated.”

CURRENT SITUATION

South African Foreign Minister Ronald Lamola, however, refuted these claims, stating: "This has been proven by a number of statistics in our country, including police reports, which do not back that assertion of persecution of white South Africans based on their race. The crime that we have in South Africa affects everyone, irrespective of race." Statistics also indicate that white South Africans continue to own nearly four-fifths of private farmland in the country. Historically, during the colonial period and under the apartheid regime, white South Africans systematically seized land from Black citizens. (Schwikowski, 2025)

As expected, this issue has sparked widespread controversy. Numerous humanitarian organizations have criticized the U.S. government for prioritizing this group while many others facing far more severe and violent conditions are being overlooked. Typically, the U.S. refugee resettlement process takes between 18 and 24 months; however, in this case, refugee status was granted within a matter of weeks or months. This fast-tracking has raised serious concerns about fairness and consistency, as such preferential treatment has not been observed in other asylum cases.

One Big Beautiful Act:

As a part of Trump's agenda, the One Big Beautiful Act (OBBA) was passed as a sweeping budget reconciliation law. It allocates massive new funding for immigration and border enforcement and restructures many immigration, asylum, and benefit eligibility rules. The bill provides billions in new funding for the DHS, ICE, and CBP for border infrastructure, surveillance, expanded detention capacity, and interior immigration enforcement.

The public has become interested in it since it has directly affected the immigrant population by expanding the funding for enforcement and detention, and it has also allowed faster processing for deportation and asylum denials. NGOs have warned that the bill effectively enabled harsher treatment of immigrants and asylum seekers, which only fuels the current claims that the US is violating the human rights of populations in desperate need of protection.

However, the US government deems the bill necessary on the grounds of national security, public safety, and fiscal responsibility. Since they are facing a record number of immigrants and asylum seekers, their federal resources have been strained, directly affecting healthcare, education, and social services. The administration claimed that these measures were needed in order to ensure the safety, security, and ensure economic interests of American citizens.

CURRENT SITUATION

Immigrant detention centers:

“This facility will house some of the most menacing immigrants”, said President Trump after visiting “Alligator Alcatraz”, a nickname for the South Florida Detention facility. This is the first state-run facility for federal immigrant detainees, and it has quickly drawn the attention of numerous human rights organizations concerned about the conditions in which individuals are being held. Located in the Florida Everglades, this facility has tents and cage cells for over 5000 migrant detainees, which the administration claims is “above federal standards”. Tom Homan, the border czar, claimed, “I walked through detainee facilities. I walked through the medical facilities, and I walked through the cafeteria. I had them show me, what did you feed these people today? I saw the lunch they fed them. They ate better yesterday than I ate today. (NPR, 2025)

Yet, this is not the reality for many families that have lived through these facilities. A woman shared her testimony, explaining how she and her husband were detained, she and her baby were liberated, but her husband was taken to Alligator Alcatraz. She was desperate to get in contact with him, but this was incredibly difficult since no one could tell her where her husband was, and there was no way to contact the facility. When he was able to reach her, he told her: “They're locked up in a place where the electricity goes out, and so does the air conditioning. The heat becomes suffocating. There's not enough water, so they can only shower once a week.” (NPR, 2025) Other accounts have shared information about insect infestations, extreme heat, and inedible food.

Unfortunately, this is just one of many detention facilities that don't align with international law. Centers like Adelanto ICE Processing Center in California and Stewart Detention Center in Georgia have also been condemned by organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International for overcrowding, lack of medical care, and inhumane living conditions. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 5): “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” (United Nations, n.d.) Yet, the realities within these centers contradict this fundamental right, revealing a system that prioritizes deterrence over dignity.

Why has the US taken these actions?

During the last 4 years, the US has taken in a record number of immigrants, and many cities have been inundated by migrants they can no longer support, many of whom have been forced to seek Federal aid to maintain the burden of immigrant populations. President Donald Trump has argued that these immigrants have limited job opportunities for American citizens, and have compromised resources provided by taxpayers.

CURRENT SITUATION

He has frequently asserted that immigrants are responsible for the majority of the violent crimes committed in the US, using these claims to justify stricter immigration enforcement and deportation policies. Even though these claims have not been supported by national data, Trump has kept the narrative of immigrant-ridden crime going. The United States has stated that, as a matter of homeland security, stricter policies and border control are necessary, arguing that if this is not accomplished, terrorists and criminals could come into the country.

The White House states that “The United States lacks the ability to absorb large numbers of migrants, and in particular, refugees, into its communities in a manner that does not compromise the availability of resources for Americans, that protects their safety and security, and that ensures the appropriate assimilation of refugees. This order suspends the USRAP until such time as the further entry into the United States of refugees aligns with the interests of the United States.”

Burden sharing across the globe

As global displacement continues to rise, the responsibility of hosting refugees and asylum seekers is unevenly distributed. Some nations have taken on significant humanitarian roles, while others contribute through resettlement programs and financial support. Understanding how different countries manage this burden helps identify effective strategies for global cooperation.

Turkey:

Turkey currently hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world, with over 3 million Syrian refugees. The country has adopted a “temporary protection” framework, granting refugees access to basic healthcare, education, and limited employment opportunities. However, the economic and social pressures on host communities remain high, and Turkey continues to call for greater international assistance and equitable responsibility-sharing from other nations.

Canada:

Canada’s approach to burden sharing focuses on resettlement and integration. Through its Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, citizens and organizations can directly support refugees’ transition into society. Canada also collaborates with UNHCR to identify vulnerable individuals in need of relocation. This model demonstrates how community participation and government partnership can effectively distribute the refugee burden beyond frontline states.

CURRENT SITUATION

Burden sharing across the globe

Germany:

Germany has become a leading example in Europe, especially after accepting more than a million refugees during the 2015–2016 migration crisis. The government emphasizes integration through language training, vocational programs, and access to education. While Germany faces challenges related to social cohesion and resource allocation, its commitment to protection and long-term integration has influenced European asylum policy and burden-sharing discussions within the EU.

PAST ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The actions taken by the US have highlighted the gap in protection for vulnerable populations. Past measures like the Refugee Act, Temporary Protected Status, and resettlement programs addressed the crisis, but were often limited or inconsistent. The violations of these measures led to the intensification of the issue. To improve the situation, the UN must take action, and an international collaboration must exist. Addressing these gaps requires coordinated international action, including increased refugee admissions, streamlined asylum procedures, and stronger support for displaced populations, ensuring that protection responsibilities are shared fairly among nations

POSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Possible solutions to strengthen global refugee protection in the context of evaluating U.S. immigration and asylum policies should focus on promoting shared international responsibility, fairness, and humanitarian action. Countries such as Turkey, the European Union member states, and Palestine highlight the need for stronger global cooperation with the UNHCR to ensure that refugee protection systems are consistent with international law and the principle of non-refoulement. One key solution is to enhance global burden-sharing, ensuring that frontline host countries like Turkey receive adequate financial, logistical, and political support from the international community. The United States and other developed nations should expand legal pathways for asylum seekers, increase resettlement quotas, and work closely with international organizations to create transparent, humane, and efficient asylum procedures. Furthermore, addressing the root causes of displacement such as conflict, occupation, political instability, and economic inequality through development aid, peace building , and diplomacy is crucial for long-term stability. Finally, fostering regional partnerships and global solidarity would strengthen coordination between nations, promote equitable refugee protection, and ensure that every displaced person has access to safety, dignity, and hope for a sustainable future.

BLOCK POSITIONS

Turkey

The Republic of Turkey recognizes the vital role of the UNHCR in ensuring international protection for refugees and supports the evaluation of U.S. immigration and asylum policies within the framework of global refugee protection. As the country hosting the largest refugee population in the world (over 3.6 million Syrians and many others from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran) Turkey understands the immense challenges of managing large-scale displacement. While maintaining its geographical limitation to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Turkey provides temporary protection to millions in accordance with humanitarian and international obligations. Turkey believes that the United States, as a major global actor, must uphold the principles of non-refoulement, human rights, and shared responsibility in its asylum system. Turkey encourages the strengthening of global resettlement programs, greater cooperation with the UNHCR, and increased international support for frontline host countries that bear disproportionate responsibility in refugee protection. The evaluation of U.S. policies should serve as an opportunity to promote fair burden-sharing, enhance global solidarity, and improve coordination to create a more humane and effective international refugee framework.

European Union

The European Union (EU) recognizes the critical importance of the UNHCR's role in promoting and safeguarding international refugee protection and supports the evaluation of U.S. immigration and asylum policies within this global framework. As a collective of member states that have faced significant migratory pressures, particularly since the 2015 refugee crisis, the EU remains committed to upholding the principles of solidarity, human rights, and shared responsibility in managing asylum and migration. The EU emphasizes the importance of fair and humane asylum procedures, respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and the need for cooperation among nations to ensure that global refugee protection systems are effective and equitable. While acknowledging the United States' influence on global migration trends, the EU encourages it to strengthen resettlement programs, expand legal pathways for asylum seekers, and enhance coordination with UNHCR and international partners. The EU also advocates addressing the root causes of displacement through diplomacy, conflict prevention, and sustainable development in countries of origin. This evaluation should be viewed as an opportunity to reinforce international cooperation, promote balanced burden-sharing, and build a more humane and coordinated global response to the refugee crisis.

BLOCK POSITION

Palestine

The State of Palestine believes that protecting refugees is not only a humanitarian duty but also a moral and legal obligation of the international community. In this regard, Palestine supports the UNHCR's initiative to evaluate U.S. immigration and asylum policies in the context of global refugee protection, emphasizing the importance of accountability, equity, and respect for human rights. Having endured decades of displacement and statelessness, the Palestinian people deeply understand the suffering caused by forced migration and the denial of safe refuge. Palestine calls for all nations, especially global powers like the United States, to uphold the principles of international refugee law, including non-refoulement and the right to seek asylum. Furthermore, Palestine urges the strengthening of UNHCR's mandate, enhanced cooperation between host countries and humanitarian organizations, and greater international solidarity to ensure that refugee protection is shared fairly among nations. The evaluation of U.S. policies should serve as an opportunity to reinforce global justice, strengthen international cooperation, and reaffirm the universal right of every displaced person to live in safety and dignity.

Venezuela

Venezuela was once a prosperous nation, sustained by its vast oil reserves and political stability, known for its generosity towards refugees from neighboring countries. Today, however, it is at the center of one of the longest and most severe migration crises in the Americas. A combination of deep economic collapse, political repression, and democratic breakdown has forced more than 7.7 million Venezuelans to flee their homeland in search of safety and better opportunities in neighboring countries. Despite the magnitude of this crisis, recent shifts in U.S. immigration policy have further complicated the situation. In 2025 alone, thousands of Venezuelans have been deported or returned under new enforcement measures, with reports estimating that over 3,000 individuals were sent back through repatriation flights. These actions not only place vulnerable people back into unsafe conditions but also increase the pressure on Latin American countries already struggling to host millions of displaced Venezuelans. As a country, Venezuela maintains that the root of this migration crisis lies in external economic sanctions and foreign interference, asserting that national sovereignty and internal reform are essential to achieving stability and reducing forced displacement.

BLOCK POSITION

USA

The US has long been viewed as a global leader of migration trends and asylum, historically opening its doors to millions fleeing persecution and providing stability and opportunities. It continues to support humanitarian efforts, funding initiatives through the UNHCR, and maintains one of the most comprehensive asylum frameworks in the world. However, in recent years, this reality has begun to change, as U.S. immigration and asylum policies have evolved toward stricter enforcement and a more selective process. During the last few years, especially during Trump's administration, measures have been implemented, such as the "Remain in Mexico" policy, Title 42 expulsion, and the safe third country agreement, which have limited access to asylum and increased deportation. Additionally, the installation of new detention facilities made specially for immigrants, like "Alligator Alcatraz" and Guantanamo Bay, has raised questions about whether the US is adhering to international refugee agreements and upholding human rights. These actions have been justified under the rationale of not compromising resourcing for Americans. It has also been stated by the White House that the US "lacks the ability to absorb large numbers of migrants, and in particular refugees...since mayor cities like New York, Chicago, and Denver have been forced to seek Federal aid to be able to manage the burden of new arrivals." (The White House, 2025) Despite these arguments, the US has faced criticism by the UN, humanitarian organizations, and neighboring countries, who claim that these actions have violated international refugee law, particularly the principle of non-refoulement. Moreover, humanitarian groups have argued the humanitarian impact of these policies since there have been many cases of separated families, asylum seekers waiting in unsafe border zones, and children being detained in inadequate facilities.



QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION PAPER MUST ANSWER

- What are the main immigration and asylum policies currently implemented by the United States?
- How have these policies evolved over time (changes between different administrations)?
- What international laws or conventions (such as the 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1980 Refugee Act) influence U.S. asylum policy?
- What are the main global trends in refugee movements, and how does the U.S. compare to other major host countries?
- How do U.S. border security and asylum procedures impact the global refugee protection framework?
- What policy reforms could the U.S. implement to better align with international refugee standards?
- How can the U.S. improve refugee resettlement, screening, and integration processes?
- What role should burden-sharing play among nations to reduce the strain on the U.S. and other major host countries?
- How can technology, diplomacy, and humanitarian aid strengthen asylum systems globally?
- What balance should be struck between national security and human rights protection?

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:



Article: Refugees and asylees in the United States | migrationpolicy.org. (n.d.-a). <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/refugees-and-asylees-united-states-2022>

Article: Turkey aims to halt irregular migration a.. | migrationpolicy.org. (n.d.-b). <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/turkey-irregular-migration-smuggling-security>

Asylum and migration. UNHCR US. (n.d.). <https://www.unhcr.org/us/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/asylum-and-migration>

Cambridge University Press. (n.d.). Moving borders, Refugee Protection, and immigration policy (Chapter 1) - lawless zones, rightless subjects. Cambridge Core. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/lawless-zones-rightless-subjects/moving-borders-refugee-protection-and-immigration-policy/3A55B4A911ADBF057C9FBBA314F79B54>

Council on Foreign Relations. (n.d.). How the U.S. Asylum Process Works. Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-us-asylum-process-works>

European migrant crisis: Research starters: EBSCO research. EBSCO. (n.d.). <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/european-migrant-crisis>

The European refugee crisis and public support for the externalisation of migration management - vrânceanu - 2023 - european journal of political research - wiley online library. (n.d.-f). <https://ejpr.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1475-6765.12565>

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:



How to “solve” migration: A practical guide | ONU migración americas. (n.d.-c). <https://lac.iom.int/en/blogs/how-solve-migration-practical-guide>

Lirs. (2025, January 24). What the new immigration executive orders mean for refugees. Global Refuge. <https://www.globalrefuge.org/news/immigration-executive-orders-refugees-and-immigrants/>

An overview of U.S. refugee law and policy. American Immigration Council. (2025, May 19). <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/overview-us-refugee-law-and-policy/>

Ozturk, F. (2024, December 10). Turkey's 3m Syrian refugees face big decision on going home or staying. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvg6eeg87lqo>

Refugees | uscis. (n.d.-d). <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/refugees>

Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Interior. (n.d.). Turkey's combat against irregular migration. Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Interior Presidency of Migration Management. <https://en.goc.gov.tr/turkey%E2%80%99s-combat-against-irregular-migration>

Six essential elements to make migration safe, orderly and regular | ONU migración americas. (n.d.-e). <https://lac.iom.int/en/blogs/six-essential-elements-make-migration-safe-orderly-and-regular>

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:



Ten harmful trump administration immigration and refugee policies. Human Rights Watch. (2025a, April 17). <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/02/20/ten-harmful-trump-administration-immigration-and-refugee-policies>

Trump administration seeks to rewrite global refugee rules. Human Rights Watch. (2025b, September 22). <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/09/22/trump-administration-seeks-to-rewrite-global-refugee-rules>

United Nations. (n.d.). Europe and the Refugee Crisis: A challenge to our civilization. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/europe-and-refugee-crisis-challenge-our-civilization>

Who is a refugee, a migrant or an asylum seeker?. Amnesty International. (2024, July 22). <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/>

The White House. (2025, January 20). Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/realigning-the-united-states-refugee-admissions-program/>

Schwikowski, M. (2025, May 14). White South Africans arrive as refugees in the United States. DW. <https://www.dw.com/en/white-south-africans-arrive-as-refugees-in-the-united-states/a-72533041>

Mukpo, A. (2019, September 18). Asylum-seekers stranded in Mexico face homelessness, kidnapping, and sexual violence. American Civil Liberties Union. <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/asylum-seekers-stranded-in-mexico-face-homelessness-kidnapping-and-sexual-violence>

Drenon, B. (2025, May 24). 'It's not fair': Other refugees in limbo as US welcomes white South Africans. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czellw10ejdo>

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:



U.S. Congress. (2025). H.R. 1 – One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Congress.gov. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1>

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (n.d.). USRAP: United States Refugee Admissions Program [web page]. Retrieved from <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/usrap>

U.S. President. (2024, October 18). Presidential determination on refugee admissions for fiscal year 2025. Federal Register. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/10/18/2024-24321/presidential-determination-on-refugee-admissions-for-fiscal-year-2025>

The White House. (2025, January 20). Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/realigning-the-united-states-refugee-admissions-program>

From Sanctions to Strikes: US-Venezuela Tensions in the Caribbean
ORF. (2025, September 22). From Sanctions to Strikes: US-Venezuela Tensions in the Caribbean. ORF Expert Speak. <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/from-sanctions-to-strikes-us-venezuela-tensions-in-the-caribbean>

Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Venezuela | USCIS
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (n.d.). Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Venezuela. <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-venezuela>

Amnesty International. (n.d.). Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Retrieved October 11, 2025, from <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/>

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:



UNHCR. (n.d.). Asylum and migration. Retrieved October 11, 2025, from <https://www.unhcr.org/us/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/asylum-and-migration>

American Immigration Council. (2025, April 24). An overview of U.S. refugee law and policy. Retrieved October 11, 2025, from <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/overview-us-refugee-law-and-policy/>

UNHCR. (n.d.). The 1951 refugee convention. Retrieved October 11, 2025, from <https://www.unhcr.org/us/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention>

NPR. (2025, August 9). This is a death camp: Advocates and detainees warn about conditions at Alligator Alcatraz. Retrieved [Month Day, Year], from <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/09/nx-s1-5479213/this-is-a-death-camp-advocates-and-detainees-warn-about-conditions-at-alligator-alcatraz>