**IMMIGRATION ISSUES SCORECARD!**

*People from across the world from different countries walk miles to come to America in order to give themselves and their Families a better life.*

<table>
<thead>
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<th>What should I be concerned about?</th>
<th>What is this?/Where do I learn about this?</th>
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<td><strong>DACA</strong></td>
<td>DACA stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. DACA helps young undocumented immigrants find work and continue their education. DACA provides them with a renewable two-year period in which they are deferred from being deported and become eligible for a work permit, but DACA is not a pathway to citizenship and the application process is not easy as it seems. Without DACA, these young immigrants are subject to deportation and exploitation from employers.</td>
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|                                  | • The [candidates] campaign websites  
  *It is important to be aware that official campaign websites might be potentially biased, however, it could be a source of information to be aware of any type of laws or achievements regarding the topic*  
  • DACA was created by Obama on June 15, 2012. It is a program where children who came to the United States illegally may be considered for deferred action for two years, they are unable to be removed from the United States. It also makes them become eligible for work authorization. |

| Pathways to Citizenship          | Under current immigration law, there is no single oath for US citizenship. Instead, there are several immigrant channels where foreign nationals living abroad, people in a temporary visa, and/or undocumented immigrants can navigate towards permanent residence (and obtain a green card) and eventual eligibility for U.S. citizenship. |
|                                  | • Family |
ICE stands for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It is a federal law enforcement agency under the U.S government which stated mission is to protect “the United States from the cross-border crime and illegal immigration that threaten national security and public safety”. It is “primarily devoted to three operational directorates — Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) and Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA).”

- HSI (Homeland Security Operations)- HSI is to help the US to combat illegal organizations in the US. These include, numerous types of criminal organizations and many more.

Some Social Media Accounts
- @soyouwanttotalkaboutit
- @ACLU @diversifyournarrative
- @simplepoliticsus
- @votolatino
- @nysylc @nilc

Make sure to visit government websites to apply/learn more about U.S. Citizenship
ERO (Enforcement and Removal Operations) - This branch targets “public safety threats” such as gang members and people that have violated the U.S’s immigration laws.

OPLA (Office of the Principal Legal Advisor) - OPLA provides “legal advice and prudential counsel to ICE personnel on their customs, criminal, and immigration law enforcement authorities”

Resources:
- Cross reference news and testimonies
- Televised events
- Interviews/debates
  - This tend to be spontaneous sources of information where you could obtain more specific and direct information
- Congress/senate records

Stance on Effect of Covid on Immigrants

This pandemic has affected millions of people but how have they affected immigrants in the United States?

- Many immigrants were left without jobs.
- Undocumented immigrants don’t qualify for stimulas checks so a lot of them are struggling financially.
- Many immigrants are accused of spreading Covid-19 from their home countries to the United States.
- Many asylum places are closed because of COVID-19.
- Students with a student visa had to be sent to their home countries at the last minute when COVID-19 had started.
For policy information, check out non-profits:
- American Immigration Council
- United We Dream
- The Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights.
- National Immigration Law Center

The LAW
While the United States did not sign the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, it did sign the 1967 Protocol, which incorporates the Convention by reference. The Refugee Convention requires states to protect people living within their borders and prohibits them from sending people to other countries where they would be harmed based on their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Alright, so what’s happening?

In 2014, a surge of refugees began entering the United States via the southern border in search of Asylum. Many refugees were immigrating from the severe political violence in the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

- In 2016, Donald Trump began inciting violence and hate towards the refugee crisis. In many of his candidate speeches, Trump stated “The border is wide open for cartels & terrorists. Secure our border now. Build a massive wall & deduct the costs from Mexican foreign aid!”. As President, Trump has stated “They’re sending people that have lots
of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people, In regards to Mexican refugees.

- On April 6th, 2018, the Zero tolerance policy was put into place, which prosecutes refugees entering the border illegally. This resulted in the family separation policy, which at the time, separated more than 3000 children from their parents. At the moment, more than two years later, the state department is unable to locate the parents of more than 500 children.

- In December, 2018, the Trump administration passed the “remain in Mexico policy” which stated that asylum seekers “arriving by land in the U.S./Mexico border (both at and between official ports of entry (POEs)) who pass a credible fear screening with a U.S. asylum officer, [must] return to Mexico to await their asylum hearing in U.S. immigration court. This is counterintuitive to the idea of amnesty, as those who are required to return to their place of origin while awaiting a date will most likely suffer violence and/or death before their date.

- ICE has committed forced hysterectomies on women and forced miscarriages via brutal beatings and starvation on pregnant women

- Thousands of immigrant children within the cage camps have stated that they have been sexually abused

- The number of deaths within the border are unclear, they may estimate to be in the thousands, however the lack of information, or presence of misleading information causes there to be difficulty in understanding the true extent to the human rights violations and casualties at the border.

Find out more at:
Amnesty International
Southern Border Communities Coalition (SBCC)
Justice for Immigrants – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Healthcare
There is no law prohibiting immigrants from receiving health care services but immigrants still don’t use these services out of fear. They fear the interaction with public agencies will lead to their deportation and return to their country. There are other barriers that hinder their ability to receive healthcare for example communication barriers, lack of financial resources, discrimination and even the lack of knowledge about healthcare. Yet the constant fear and anxiety of being deported has been shown to be harmful to their mental and physical well being. There needs to be ways in which immigrants realize they can get the medical attention they need without worry about deportation. This should be a topic that should be discussed more often, because it can have a huge impact on many lives.

1. Immigration, Health Care and Health - RWJF

Minimum wage
Raising the minimum wage will increase unemployment. Workers employees in minimum wage jobs are often lacking higher education or breaking into the workforce. Raising the minimum wage could potentially eliminate a number of these entry-level jobs, making it difficult for workers to gain the work experience necessary to break into high paying careers. A minimum wage mandate can also reduce benefits employees receive from their jobs. Business seeking to cut costs because of minimum wage requirements could cut out employees benefits such as health care.

Unemployment
During the pandemic a lot of people lost their jobs, unemployed. Everyone was affected by it, and it was a struggle. As well as stressful. People were struggling on how they would pay bills, rent, and expenses. How were they going to buy all the food they needed during being quarantined? They had to work in order to do all those things. But there were no jobs since everything was shut down.
**Education for all**

People come to the United States in search of better opportunities, one of them being a better education. Immigrants have the right to receive the same, if not better, level of education than they would in their home country. No one should be denied education considering how vital it is to receive a good education, which is why the Education For All movement is so crucial to not only immigrants but also birthright citizens.

**Conditions in the camps**

During covid-19 the conditions at the camp got even worse than they already are. Prior to covid many people had reported that the camps were extremely dirty. The conditions have just gotten extremely worse with covid. Many people have gotten sick and don't receive any medical attention. Many of the camps are overcrowded and the people aren't given any masks.

**Climate change**

There are very poor economic conditions in places like Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. When crops are failing, many people must leave their homes in order for them to find a better place to live. This leads to more people trying to move into the United States. To lessen the amount of climate change migrants, we have to help people develop and grow in their own home countries. The migration-climate connection is very important, we must help our precious Earth in order to help at least one part of the immigration issue.

- The climate crisis, migration, and refugees