

United Nations Declaration of Human Rights Article 14



(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

(1) Toda persona tiene derecho a buscar y disfrutar de asilo en otros países.

(2) Este derecho no puede invocarse en el caso de los enjuiciamientos que realmente surjan de delitos no políticos o de actos contrarios a los propósitos y principios de las Naciones Unidas.



Night Watch is a floating media installation and public programs series that will navigate New York City waterways during the United Nations General Assembly week from September 20 to September 27, 2018. Night Watch is presented by More Art, with artist Shimon Attie, in collaboration with legal aid organizations Safe Passage Project and Immigration Equality.

Through presenting public art in collaboration with diverse communities, More Art ignites sparks for critically considering our society as a whole, and our place within it. Through our work, we have learned of many organizations who fight to ensure that Article 14 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights is met, despite the US federal government's refusal to follow international law.

While conducting research for Night Watch, More Art engaged in many conversations with front line stakeholders in immigration rights. During this time, one fact stood out to us above all others: once a person escapes discrimination and violence in their country of origin, there are still hundreds of potential roadblocks that arise even long after that person enters the "safe harbor" of the United States.

During our research, we also tracked our contact with NYC-based groups, organizations and institutions that, in myriad ways, stand up for immigrants rights.

We have compiled a list of these organizations, in hopes that it will function as a tool both for people looking for direct legal support, as well as people interested in direct actions to support immigrant, refugee and asylum-seeking communities.

This list is, by no means, complete. Throughout our research, More Art prioritized organizations led by, or with substantial input from, the communities most affected by the unjust and unlawful US immigration system. Finally, the categorization of these organizations is constructed by More Art. Many organizations work across multiple categories. For questions and comments, to add to this list, or to take ownership of the database behind the list, please email kate@moreart.org

Night Watch es una instalación de arte por medios flotantes que recorre los canales de Nueva York y está acompañada una serie de programas públicos durante la semana de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas del 20 de septiembre al 27 de septiembre de 2018. Night Watch es presentado por More Art, junto con el artista Shimon Attie, y también en colaboración con organizaciones de ayuda legal como Safe Passage Project e Immigration Equality.

A través de la presentación del arte en público, More Art enciende las chispas para considerar críticamente a nuestra sociedad entera, y nuestro papel adentro, en colaboración con diversas comunidades. A través de nuestro trabajo, hemos aprendido de y conocido a muchas organizaciones que luchan para garantizar que se cumpla el Artículo 14 de la Declaración de los Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas, a pesar del rechazo de seguir el derecho internacional por el gobierno federal de los EE UU.

Durante nuestra investigación, también rastreamos nuestro contacto con grupos, organizaciones e instituciones basadas en la ciudad de Nueva York que defienden los derechos de los inmigrantes. Hemos compilado una lista de estas organizaciones, con la esperanza de que funcione como una herramienta tanto para las personas que buscan apoyo legal directo, como para las personas interesadas en acciones directas para apoyar a las comunidades de inmigrantes, refugiados y solicitantes de asilo.

De ninguna manera está completa esta lista. A lo largo de nuestra investigación, More Art prioriza las organizaciones dirigidas por, o con contribuciones considerables por las comunidades más afectadas por el sistema de inmigración injusto e ilegal de los Estados Unidos. Finalmente, la categorización de estas organizaciones está construida por More Art. Muchas organizaciones trabajan en múltiples categorías. Para dejar preguntas y comentarios, para agregar a esta lista, o para tomar posesión de la base de datos detrás de la lista, envíe un correo electrónico a kate@moreart.org

Research-based policy advocacy

Promoción de políticas basadas en la investigación

Council on American Islamic Relations

CAIR's mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims through civil rights works, government affairs, media relations, action alerts, research and education, voter registration.

MYU Marron Institute - Refugee Cities

In typical refugee camps, people aren't permitted to work, travel outside the camp, cultivate food, or pursue an education. The result has been generations of people growing up without job options or the chance to develop their talents. Many refugee camps violate the UN's 1951 Refugee Convention.

In contrast, special-status settlements, a.k.a. "Refugee Cities," legally allow refugees to engage in meaningful, dignifying, and rewarding work.

Rutgers Newark's Newest Americans

An art and documentary project from the campus of Rutgers University-Newark, the most diverse national university in the US, consistently since 1997. Journalists, media-makers and artists, many of whom are first generation Americans, work alongside faculty and students to research, produce and disseminate stories that define the shifting national culture around immigrant rights. In partnership with regional cultural, civic and public history organizations, RN-NA documents hyper-local stories with a broader resonance - with Jersey roots and a global reach.

Voices for Chechnya

Voices for Chechnya fights against the Chechen Republic as it orders and encourages the capture, torture, and death of its own LGBTQ+ people.



For events and stories:
moreart.org/night-watch

#refugeeswelcome #immigrantsmakeamericagreat
#refugeerights #SaveAsylum #forcedmigration
#asyleeswelcome #immigrantrights

Legal aid and client advocacy Asistencia legal y defensa del cliente

Central American Legal Assistance (CALA)

CALA provides free or low-cost legal services to New York's immigrant community. Their mission is to protect and defend Central and South American asylum-seekers and to expand the civil rights of all immigrants.

CUNY CLEAR - Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility

CLEAR provides free legal services, know your rights workshops, and support for community organizing. CLEAR is staffed by law students in their final year of legal studies, under the supervision of attorneys and law faculty members. CLEAR's community-oriented approach combines direct legal representation with other services aiming to address the fuller range of community concerns.

Immigrant Defense Project

IDP helps immigrants remain in the US through legal support. They work in partnership with law schools, clinics, pro bono law firms, and nonprofit organizations. Their policy work is grounded in the belief that all people, including those with convictions, deserve equal rights. They also conduct trainings for advocates and communities, including trainings on the workings of the deportation system and recent trends in immigration enforcement.

Immigration Equality

Immigration Equality is the nation's leading LGBTQ immigrant rights organization. We represent and advocate for people from around the world fleeing violence, abuse, and persecution because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status. Our legal team has won asylum for more than 1000 LGBTQ and HIV-positive immigrants while maintaining a 99% success rate. Immigration Equality represents more LGBTQ and HIV-positive immigrants than any other organization and spots patterns and trends that no one else sees. Our team works with members of the government to push forward policy solutions; and if the government will not do what is right, we sue the government to fix what is broken.

Platform on Disaster Displacement

Works to enhance and improve the protection of disaster displaced persons, and to promote cooperation at the national, regional and international levels and among stakeholders dealing in humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation.

Safe Passage Project

Safe Passage is currently providing free legal representation to nearly 800 immigrant and refugee children living in New York. The assault on immigrant minors' fundamental rights and protections by this current administration has been nothing shy of relentless. SPP recently brought suit in Federal court at the Southern District of New York to protect 9 Safe Passage separated children who the government sought to move (possibly deport, possibly put into federal detention) against their wishes. These children - as young as 5 years old - expressly stated they did not wish to be moved, attorneys were not provided notice, and parents were not consulted. The lawsuit was successful in preventing the government from moving these kids and the kids are for now safe. SPP is working to figure out plans for reunification and further representation, as they know the administration will soon target them again. Safe Passage believes no child should face immigration court or the immigration process alone and they work tirelessly to advocate for the rights of their clients!

Wafa House

Certified pro bono legal provider. Their mission is to strengthen and preserve the family unit through intervention and education. Services: hotline, advocacy, social services for victims, community resource referrals (food pantry referrals, crisis prevention and intervention, legal services, violence and abuse services, health benefits information, immigration services, employment referrals), workshops on recruitment of foster parents, family counseling, counseling for victims, cultural sensitivity training to law enforcement and local agencies, training youth to become peer mediators in conflict resolution, anger management referrals, court appearance accompaniment, interpreter and translator assistance.

While they are often used interchangeably, the words, "refugee" and "asylum seeker" have vastly different meanings with important legal distinctions. All refugees and asylum seekers are fleeing persecution, with different but equally difficult paths. The primary difference is that a refugee will use international channels while asylum is granted by the government of a state--in the US, it is granted by the federal government.

Aunque a menudo se usan indistintamente, las palabras "refugiado" y "solicitante de asilo" tienen significados muy diferentes con importantes distinciones legales. Todos los refugiados y solicitantes de asilo huyen de la persecución, con caminos diferentes pero igualmente difíciles.

Community empowerment organizations

Organización empoderamiento

African Communities Together

African immigrants fighting for civil rights, opportunity, and a better life for families here in the U.S. and back in Africa.

Arab American Association of New York

Supports and empowers Arab Immigrant and Arab American community by providing services to help them adjust to their new home and become active members of society. The organizing home of activist Linda Sarsour.

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Dedicated to increasing understanding between AfroAm communities and African immigrants. They provide training and technical assistance to partner organizations to develop leadership skills, works with faith communities and initiates dialogue with African Americans and black immigrants.

Brooklyn Pride Center LGBTQ New Americans Oral History Project: LGBTQ New Americans Project

LGBTQ New Americans Project is a collaboration between Brooklyn Community Pride Center, and Immigration Equality, featuring audio and video oral histories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer immigrants in Brooklyn and throughout NYC. And the Brooklyn Community Pride Center provides services and support to the borough's LGBTQ+ community through original programming and partnerships with exemplary organizations.

Bajo la política actual, los inmigrantes que piden asilo en la frontera con Estados Unidos son detenidos por funcionarios del ICE. Sin la posibilidad de trabajar durante un período de tiempo. Esto aumenta la necesidad de un solicitante de asilo de recurrir a los delitos de supervivencia, y pone a los solicitantes de asilo en grave riesgo de falta de vivienda y el hambre. como en grave riesgo de falta de vivienda y el hambre.

Under the current administration, immigrants who apply for asylum at the US border are detained by ICE officials for the duration of their case. Asylum seekers who are in the US are usually not detained but will not receive a work permit until 6 months after submitting their application. During that time, they are at heightened risk for homelessness and hunger.

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Catholic Charities

Supports immigrants in reuniting legally with family, obtaining proper work authorization, learning English and civics, and preparing to pass citizenship exams.

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah

Robust LGBTQ Synagogue with various social justice programs such as "CBST Sanctuary Initiative": supporting immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. House of peace Jewish-Muslim Outreach. Collaborates with RUSA LGBT, among others.

Eat Offbeat

Eat Offbeat delivers authentic and homestyle ethnic meals that are conceived, prepared and delivered by refugees resettled in NYC.

The federal government does not fund legal representation in immigration proceedings, and many children flee persecution without the protection of an accompanying adult. As a result, children face deportation proceedings on their own.

El gobierno federal no financia la representación legal en los procedimientos de inmigración, y muchos niños huyen de la persecución sin la protección de un adulto acompañante. Como resultado, los niños se enfrentan a procedimientos de deportación por su cuenta.

First Friends of New Jersey and New York

Provides assistance (volunteer visitors, advocacy, etc) to refugees and immigrants who have already been detained by ICE and are in detention centers, behind bars. Large volunteer program.

HIAS

LGBTQ refugee resettling program, founded on Jewish values. Supports refugees through legal protection, psychological care and providing avenues for self-sufficiency.

Immigrant Rights Fund

Brooklyn Community Foundation established the Immigrant Rights Fund in late 2016 in response to mounting uncertainty within Brooklyn's immigrant communities, combined with reports of xenophobic attacks nationwide, and the creation of dangerous, exclusionary government policies. Deploying \$2 million to take on both the immediate and long-term needs of immigrants in Brooklyn, IRF is committed to helping Brooklyn's communities move from fear to strength, from trauma to healing, from division to wholeness, and from uncertainty to action.

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover, and gain control of their future. Focus areas include Health, Safety, Education, Economic Well being, Power.

Make the Road New York

Make the Road New York builds the power of immigrant and working class communities to achieve dignity and justice. Their model integrates four core strategies: Legal and Survival Services to tackle discrimination, abuse and poverty; Transformative Education to develop community members' abilities to lead our organization, our movement, and society; Community Organizing to transform the systems and power structures impacting our communities; and Policy Innovation to rewrite unjust rules and make our democracy truly accountable to all of us. Regardless of immigration status, race, or gender identity, all find safety, support, and solidarity at MRNY.

Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees

MFA is a project of the Tides Center; leading interfaith response to the Syrian refugee crisis. They have assembled a coalition of nearly 90 secular and faith-based participating organizations to raise funds to alleviate suffering, cultivate partnerships to advance future stability in the region,

In the United States, there is no official cap on accepted asylum applications. However, the Trump administration has moved to restrict asylum eligibility and has been turning away asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border before they even get the chance to file their claims.

En los Estados Unidos, no hay un "límite" oficial para las solicitudes de asilo aceptadas. Sin embargo, el presidente en ejercicio puede elevar o disminuir el número de jueces federales de asilo que ellos designen. Cada vez más, las solicitudes de asilo se retrasan en función de las prioridades del gobierno federal.

Los inmigrantes LGBTQ tienen 97 veces más probabilidades de ser abusados sexualmente

LGBTQ immigrants are 97 times more likely to be sexually abused in detention.

and advocate for humane refugee policies. MASR works with partners in the region to deliver supplies, and has raised millions of dollars for relief and support services.

National Sawdust Refugee Orchestra Project

The Refugee Orchestra Project brings together performance of works by refugee composers from the 20th century and today, combined with visual art, poetry, and a mini documentary by refugees. National Sawdust is an artist-led, non-profit venue, a place where emerging and established artists can share their music with serious music fans and casual listeners alike.

New Sanctuary Coalition NYC

The New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC is an interfaith network of congregations, organizations, and individuals, standing publicly in solidarity with families and communities resisting detention and deportation in order to stay together. They recognize that unjust global and systemic economic relationships and racism form the basis of the injustices that affect immigrants. They seek reform of United States immigration laws to promote fairness, social and economic justice.

New Women New Yorkers

New Women New Yorkers believes that every immigrant woman coming to New York has the potential of contributing to NYC, regardless of her national origin, cultural background, or educational level. The mission of New Women New Yorkers is to empower immigrant women to get their first paying, fulfilling job in the NYC workforce or to pursue higher education, and they provide a safe, transformative space where immigrant women can build community and support each other, experience and demonstrate leadership, and share their stories.

New York for Syrian Refugees

Beginning from the notion that welcoming new members to communities plays a special role in strengthening those communities, NY4SR strives to provide the planning and resources required to settle Syrian refugees in dignity. They work to identify existing resources and basic additional resources required to make the settlement of Syrian refugees in Albany an exemplary successful experience. Their main goal is to create bonds between established community members and new immigrants.

ORAM - Organization for Refugee, Asylum & Migration

ORAM's mission is to enable the international community to protect exceptionally vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers, including LGBTI refugees, through research, professional training of refugee professionals, and refugee assistance.

Queer Detainee Empowerment Project

The Queer Detainee Empowerment Project assists folks coming out of immigration detention in securing health/wellness, educational, legal, and emotional support and services. They work to organize around the structural barriers and state violence that LGBTQIA TS & GNC detainee and undocumented folks face related to their immigration status, race, sexuality, and gender identity. They are committed to assisting people in building lives outside of detention, to breaking down the barriers that prevent them from leading fulfilling and productive lives, and to keeping queer families intact by demanding an end to deportations/ detention/ policing. QDEP also runs a consistent visitation and pen pal program.

Refugee International

Advocates for lifesaving assistance and protection for displaced people and promotes solutions to displacement crises. They are an independent organization, and do not accept any government or UN funding.

In contrast to the asylum process, a refugee tries to secure residency through an international legal process under the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR). Within this international system, individual countries can elect to exclude all individuals from certain countries, and set the quota on how many international refugees to admit. In 2018, the United States took in only 37,000 refugees, down from 110,000 under the Obama administration. In 2018, there were 65 Million people fleeing their home countries, or who are internally displaced. Worldwide, less than 1% of these 65 million people are approved for resettlement by the UNHCR.

RIF NYC

Support and empowerment organization that offers legal consultations, orientation to seeking asylum in New York, information about housing, education, health, food, and social services, food packages, and, networking opportunities with New York professionals and residents.

Rusa LGBT

Network for Russian-speaking LGBTQ individuals, their friends, supporters and loved ones. Provides informational support to asylum seekers and organizes social events for the inclusion of LGBTQ people within the Russian-speaking public. Fights for social justice, human and civil rights for LGBTQ people in America and in the Former Soviet Union.

The Alight Fund

The Alight fund invests capital to empower refugee entrepreneurs. Their goal is to usher in a new refugee response paradigm, one in which market based solutions and economic integration are the norm.

The Door

Wrap around services for refugee youth. Under one roof they provide: Legal and immigration services, reproductive health care and education, mental health counseling and crisis assistance, legal assistance, GED and ESOL classes, tutoring and homework help, college preparation services, career development, job training and placement, supportive housing, sports and recreational activities, arts, and nutritious meals.

Village2Village United

Village to Village United (V2V) brings together teens from different cultures in Newark and Elizabeth to experience the strength of community without borders.

Vive Refugee House Buffalo

In 2015, Jericho Road Community Health Center assumed operations of Vive La Casa - a housing facility/shelter (located in Buffalo, NY), that shelters refugee claimants waiting for appointments/interviews with the Canadian Border Services Agency. Provides safety, shelter, food and legal help.



The inefficient, inhumane, punitive and violent US asylum process violates Article 14 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. Its primary mechanism of enforcement is the United Nations Human Rights Council, through which an individual or organization may initiate a complaint process.

The complaints procedure is steeped in confidentiality, thus it is almost impossible to find out how effective it is. Some claim that this confidential process offers a more stable environment for the UN to engage with the state, without an adversarial process of public accusation. Others, believe, however, that transparency of process is as important as such stability.

While some have questioned the value of the procedure, it should be noted that 94% of states respond to the complaints raised with them. Learn more: <https://www.ohchr.org/>



El proceso punitivo, draconiano y violento a través del cual las personas deben solicitar asilo en los EE. UU. Viola el Artículo 14 de la Declaración de Derechos Humanos de la ONU.

La Declaración de los Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas fue proclamada por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en París el 10 de diciembre de 1948 (resolución 217 A de la Asamblea General) como un estándar común de logros para todos los pueblos y todas las naciones. Su principal mecanismo de aplicación es el Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas, a través del cual un individuo u organización puede iniciar un proceso de queja.

El procedimiento de quejas está lleno de confidencialidad, por lo que es casi imposible saber qué tan efectivo es. Algunos afirman que este proceso confidencial ofrece un entorno más estable para que la ONU se comprometa con el estado, sin un proceso adversarial de acusación pública. Otros, sin embargo, creen que la transparencia del proceso es tan importante como esa estabilidad.

Mientras que algunos han cuestionado el valor del procedimiento, se debe tener en cuenta que el 94% de los estados responden a las quejas planteadas con ellos. Obtenga más información: <https://www.ohchr.org/>