

Immigration Law and Policy 2017-2018 IN REVIEW

NOVEMBER 18, 2018





2017-2018

- Travel Ban
- Executive Orders for more interior enforcement and border wall
- Targeting of Sanctuary Cities
- Resettlement of Refugees Program Severely Reduced —30K in FFY19:
- Threats to DACA, Temporary Protected Status, and Diversity Lottery
- Termination of Central American Minors Program
- Continued Detention of Families and Children in Berks
- Public Charge revisions
- Separation of Families at Border
- Troops to Border
- Asylum law changes
- Challenges to Citizenship

DETENTION

ICE detainees: FY18 Total Average Daily: 39,322

In 2017, Philadelphia ICE made more “at-large” arrests of immigrants without criminal convictions: 64% of all arrests

Children in detention: September 2018: 12,800

Family Detention Centers (capacity to hold over 3,500 children):

Berks (PA) Family Residential Center (Opened in 2001)

Karnes County (Texas) Residential Center

South Texas (Dilley) Family Residential Center

Two others, Hutto, TX and Artesia, NM shut down due to harsh conditions: unreasonably cold rooms, substandard food, inadequate medical care

ASYLUM

Refugee Act of 1980:

Congress “declared that it is the historic policy of the United States to respond to the urgent needs of persons subject to persecution in their homelands.”

Former Attorney General Sessions: Matter of A-B-: Attempt by A.G. to prevent those fleeing severe domestic violence and gang violence from qualifying for asylum

Trump administration: Executive Action stating those who enter U.S. unlawfully will not be eligible for asylum, in contradiction to current U.S. law



Temporary Protected Status

TPS is a temporary immigration status granted to nationals of specifically designated countries that are facing an ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or extraordinary and temporary conditions.

Congress established TPS in the Immigration Act of 1990 with the express purpose of preventing nationals from being sent back to countries where life had become dangerous or untenable due to specific conditions.

An estimated 325,000 TPS beneficiaries live in the United States. More than 90 percent of individuals with TPS are nationals of El Salvador (195,000), Honduras (57,000), or Haiti (50,000). The remaining beneficiaries come from Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

TPS Beneficiaries from El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti

The majority of Salvadorans and Hondurans with TPS have lived in the United States for at least 20 years (51 and 63 percent, respectively), while 16 percent of Haitian TPS holders have resided in the country for at least two decades.

Many TPS beneficiaries from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti have families in the U.S. These families include approximately 273,000 native-born U.S.-citizen children.

More than 80 percent of TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti participate in the labor force

The contributions to the country's GDP from Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS recipients over the next decade total an estimated \$164 billion.

Salvadoran and Honduran TPS holders have contributed to Social Security for an average of 15.4 years.

- #TakeActionPhilly Convening – more than 700 attorneys signed up to offer pro-bono assistance to refugees/immigrants



Questions?

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