

Current Event #4: Asylum Seekers Redirect

Miroff, N. (2019, September 25). U.S. announces asylum deal with Honduras, could send migrants to one of world's most violent nations. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from [https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/us-announces-asylum-deal-with-honduras-could-send-migrants-to-one-of-worlds-most-violent-nations/2019/09/25/cca94a86-dfb6-11e9-8fd3-d943b4ed57e0\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/us-announces-asylum-deal-with-honduras-could-send-migrants-to-one-of-worlds-most-violent-nations/2019/09/25/cca94a86-dfb6-11e9-8fd3-d943b4ed57e0_story.html)

This article explained a deal that the Trump administration has made with the president of Honduras regarding asylum seekers entering the United States. According to the article, “Honduras, one of the most violent and unstable nations in the world” (Miroff, 2019). Under this new deal, asylum seekers could be sent to Honduras instead of accepting them into the United States. Similar deals with El Salvador and Guatemala have also been made. In theory, under these new conditions, asylum seekers in the United States would be referred to one of the three countries as an alternative to entering the US to prevent them from taking the long and dangerous trek to America.

I can definitely tell you I had a very strong visceral reaction to this article. With my policy brief focusing on migrant children and their families, and working with refugees in my practicum, this story hit close to home. The sheer and blatant disregard for human value was overwhelmingly obvious. Even looking at the statistics within the last year shows that about 250,00 people from Honduras fled and sought asylum in the US. In comparison to the total population of Honduras, this number is quite small, but when looking at the actual people, it's

huge. Yet, the government found a way to help erase their problems from the southern boarder by shipping them off back to the countries from which they fled.

The main NASW Code of Ethics that I can see that this new policy will conflict with is the dignity and worth of a person. The policy ignores the fact that an asylee fled an area for fear of their own life only to be sent back. It also breaks the principle of integrity as the United States was built by immigrants and asylum seekers yet now, the system seems to be catered to protect itself and shun outsiders. It also shows a lack of competence on the situation on a global scale. It's an unfortunate fact, but Honduras has "one of the highest murder rates in the world" (Miroff, 2019).

A question that this article sparked was how will the Department of Homeland Security actually be able to enforce this new deal? Will they fund sending asylum-seekers to these three other countries? Will they just turn people away and not let them enter the country to seek asylum status? All these questions focus on the implementation of the policy because to me, it seems to be all a show. I don't see how the government will spend extra resources to basically outsource its asylum-seeking people.