



The *Migrants and Displaced Persons Task Force* (including refugees and other people displaced due to violence, persecution, economic instability, food insecurity and climate change) is sharing the Global Alliance's first **Did You Know Newsletter** with information about current issues, policies and articles on the topic.

Current Policies Impacting Immigration and Refugees in the United States

A federal judge ruled that the Trump administration's recent refugee policy does not appear to 'serve the overall public interest.' Therefore, state and local officials cannot block refugees from being resettled in their jurisdictions. Although the Governor of Texas was the first to try to prohibit new refugee resettlement under the Trump order, [42 state governors \(Republican and Democrat\) have affirmed their support and consent for continued resettlement of refugees in their states.](#)

A judge ruled that the Trump Administration is acting within its authority to separate parents from children based on criminal record, communicable disease, or questions about parental status.

"Public Charge" in the United States

In August 2019, the Trump administration announced new restrictions that would penalize immigrants who depend on financial government assistance/accessing public benefits by making them ineligible for green cards. These changes were initially to have taken effect in October 2019. [CityLab explains how changes to the definition of "Public Charge"](#) are attempting to restrict immigration based on race and ethnicity.

In January 2020, [Trump asked the Supreme Court to let the “public charge” rule take effect](#), following a [U.S. Court of Appeals decision](#) which kept in place a nationwide injunction that was entered by a federal district judge in New York.

On February 21, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the DHS public charge regulation (‘wealth test’) to take effect nationwide, by removing the last injunction standing in Illinois. The [regulation took effect nationwide on February 24, 2020](#), (and only applies to applications submitted on or after that date) while the litigation proceeds in the lower courts. The State Department’s parallel public charge regulation, which governs how the test is implemented abroad was also went into effect in on February 24. [Protecting Immigrant Families](#) is a good source for updates on this rule and its potential impact on families.

Global Migration

The Migration Policy Institute released the [top 10 migration issues in 2019](#), which includes issues such as new displacements forced by long-running and emerging crises; barriers to reaching international destinations; and violent attacks from around the world based on hardening attitudes about migration and refugees.

[Watch Debunking the Migration Myth](#), a panel from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland which discusses local actions, understanding international policy progress, and their implications in a global world.

In Europe, dozens of cases are being reviewed by NGOs, as [Spain is being accused of violating young migrants’ rights](#) by subjecting them to invasive medical checks while ignoring their identity documents. And in Greece, the Lancet has reported that Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has criticized the Greek authorities for [deliberately depriving refugee children of care](#).

Climate Change

In a landmark decision, the [UN ruled that people urgently fleeing climate crises cannot be sent home](#). Though non-binding, this [ruling](#) recognizes that sending asylum seekers home could violate their right to life, if it is threatened by the climate crisis.

Refugees

The UN recently released [data which highlight the gap](#) that persists between the needs and opportunities for refugee resettlement, with only an estimated 4.5% of those in urgent need offered sanctuary from governments around the world.

Immigrants and Displaced Persons Health

[Lancet Migration](#) is a new global collaboration between *The Lancet* and researchers, implementers, and others in the field of migration and health that aims to address evidence gaps and drive policy change. This new collaboration is particularly important, as the world advances efforts toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC). In the lead up toward the signing of the [Political Declaration on UHC](#) in September 2019 (the most comprehensive agreement ever on global health), there was significant debate on

language surrounding migration and health coverage, a contentious issue. However, the language of the declaration did not regress, in part because of efforts from advocacy groups globally such as the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM). Platforms such as these are necessary so that migrants are explicitly included in global health forums, policy, and research in order to reach the 2030 Agenda and ensure that 'no one is left behind.'