

# HUMANITY ON THE MOVE!

## The Changing Face of Immigration

Early in the 20th century, more than 80 percent of the immigrants arriving in the United States were from Europe. Barely 1 percent were from Latin America, and even fewer came from Asia and Africa. In Western Europe, previous decades saw most immigrants coming from former Eastern bloc countries.

Today's immigrants on both continents present a very different profile. The Latino population in the United States has reached nearly [58 million in 2016](#) and has been the principal driver of U.S. demographic growth, accounting for half of [national population growth since 2000](#). In Europe, a recent wave of immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa has created a regional political crisis affecting dozens of countries.

Europe's refugee crisis peaked in 2015, when more than one million refugees applied for asylum in Europe - 363,000 of them Syrian. Most

of them ended up in [Germany](#), which in August 2015 said that all Syrians were welcome to stay. More than 5.5 million Syrian refugees were displaced in 2016.

In the current political climate in the United States, immigration is at the forefront of many conversations—whether through political commentary at the national level, discourse at the state and local levels, or around dinner tables across the country.

Most Americans today can trace their ancestry back to immigrants at some point. But despite our heritage as a nation of immigrants, Americans have often been wary of welcoming newcomers. Debates rage about expanding the U.S.-Mexico border wall; DACA Dreamers face an uncertain future; many communities live in fear of ICE raids; while thousands of children have been held in detention centers separated from their families.

### IMMIGRATION ISN'T JUST A NATIONAL DEBATE, IT'S THE LIFE EXPERIENCE OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.

According to [UNHCR](#), there are now more people displaced by conflict or persecution than any other time on record. 1.8 million refugees have arrived in Europe since 2014, more than 1 million of them in 2015 alone.

This wave of migration is related to the civil war in Syria that began in 2011. Since then, more than half of all Syrians have been forced from their homes. They make up the second largest internally displaced population in the world. As the conflict rages on, the future remains uncertain for millions of people.

Today [over 68.5 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes](#) to escape danger, and find safety. And governments around the world struggle to address the needs of migrants, the views of citizens, and the global human tool of humanity on the move.



### Recent Statistics from the Pew Research Center

[Public backs legal status for immigrants brought to U.S. illegally as children, but not a bigger border wall](#)

- A large majority [of the American public] (74%) favors granting permanent legal status to immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally when they were children
- 60% of the American public oppose a proposal to “substantially expand the wall along the U.S. border with Mexico”
- [Western Europeans are divided over the impact of immigration](#) on their nation's culture, security and economy, particularly along ideological lines. For example, a third or more in each country surveyed say immigrants increase the risk of terrorism in their nation, with Germans and Italians the most likely to express this view.
- The U.S. has historically led the world in refugee resettlement. Since 1980, the U.S. has taken in [3 million of the more than 4 million refugees](#) resettled worldwide.
- [Asylum seekers in Canada more than double](#)—the 50,420 asylum applications Canada received in 2017 were more than double the 23,930 it received in 2016.



SHOW OF FORCE

**TV PROGRAMMING: “[HUMANITY ON THE MOVE](#)” On WORLD Channel:**  
*WORLD Channel's Doc World series presents three films on human migration that together are known as “Humanity on the Move” from Show of Force productions.*

**TOWARD THE NORTH**  
SEPTEMBER 16 AT 9:00 PM

At a tiny refugee shelter in Tapachula, Mexico we meet Nelly and her daughter Joseline, who like millions of others, are fleeing extreme gang violence in Central America. With unprecedented intimacy, we enter their world and witness the daily battles of asylum seekers on the run: making the best of each day, meeting new friends and living in a constant state of fear. With their sights set on the U.S., mother and daughter cover the length of Mexico, facing immigration officials and taking selfies along the way—only to arrive in Tijuana where the US border suddenly becomes a dark reality.



**LOS COMANDOS**  
SEPTEMBER 16 AT 9:00 PM

Violence has overrun El Salvador. The emergency medical unit Los Comandos de Salvamento is standing up to the gangs' reign of terror. Sixteen-year-old Mimi is a dedicated Comando caught in the cross hairs. When her fellow Comando, 14-year-old Erick, is gunned down while serving, she faces pressure to flee El Salvador and head north.



**SKY AND GROUND**  
SEPTEMBER 9 AT 8:00 PM

Starting out on foot from Aleppo Syria, we followed the Nabi family for 3 months as they made their way through and the Idomeni refugee camp near Thessaloniki, Greece into the Balkans and through Hungary, Austria and eventually Berlin. Along the way they suffer countless setbacks and heartache—all captured by our cameras with startling intimacy.



### BOOK REVIEW

Check out these titles for a deeper dive in the issues (click on each for the Amazon listing):

- [Communities Without Borders: Images and Voices from the World of Migration](#)
- [Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail](#)
- [Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants](#)
- [La Frontera: El viaje con papá/ The Border: My Journey With Papa \(Spanish/English\)](#)
- [The Immigrant Divide: How Cuban Americans Changed the U.S. and Their Homeland](#)
- [The Book of Unknown Americans: A novel](#)
- [Escape to Miami: An Oral History of the Cuban Rafter Crisis](#)
- [Refugee](#)

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT & DISCUSSION

1. Take a few minutes to review the migration statistics shared on this sheet. What statistics did you find surprising? What issues do you want to learn more about?
2. Pay attention to the places where the issue of immigration comes up in your daily life. Where is immigration being discussed? What are the concerns that are being addressed, and how are they presented?
3. In your opinion, what would a good immigration policy look like? Start your answer with three words that represent your top priorities.
4. Almost everyone in America is the descendent of immigrants; what is the migration story of your own family?
5. Why do you think the issue of immigration has become so polarizing both in the U.S. and in Europe?

### Key Facts About U.S. immigration Policies and Proposed Changes

- Family-based immigration—referred to by some as “[chain migration](#)”—is the most common way people gain green cards, in recent years accounting for about 70% of the [more than 1 million people](#) who receive them annually.
- More than 320,000 immigrants from 10 nations have permission to live and work in the U.S. under [Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\)](#), because war, hurricanes or other disasters in their home countries could make it dangerous for them to return. Many are expected to lose their benefits in 2018 and 2019.
- [Border apprehensions of migrant families have risen substantially so far in 2018](#)
- The United States apprehended nearly 49,000 family members at the U.S.-Mexico border between January and June of this year, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#) data.
- A total of 2,342 children were separated from families between

May 5 and June 9 of 2018, according to Customs and Border Protection.

- The vast majority of immigrant families and unaccompanied minors apprehended on the U.S.-Mexico border come from [Mexico or the Northern Triangle](#) region (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras), most fleeing violent crime.

### LINKS TO OTHER MEDIA:

- From the NY TIMES [U.S. Must Keep DACA and Accept New Applications, Federal Judge Rules](#)
- In April 2018, a federal judge ruled that DACA protections must stay in place and that the government must resume accepting new applications.
- From USA TODAY - [Illegal immigration: Separating the facts from fiction](#)
- From the NY TIMES - [The Migrant Crisis: No End in Sight](#)
- The UN Refugee Agency - [Searching for Syria](#)
- NBC News: [From Arab Spring to chemical attacks: A timeline of the Syrian conflict and the U.S. response](#)

### WATCH AND LEARN MORE

- FRONTLINE's Immigration Battle outlines the contours of the difficult politics of the issue: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/immigration-battle/>
- FRONTLINE's “Exodus: The Journey Continues” provides a broader view on global migration and refugees. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/exodus-the-journey-continues/>
- Independent Lens' Short Film Jose and Mr. Ramos: The Dreamer: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/videos/jose-mr-ramos-dreamer/>

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### FUNDING PROVIDED BY:

