

(01 A->G): Civic obligation: What is our responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life? Do we have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and/or a better life to each of our nations? What obligations do we have to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Do you believe that everyone is entitled to the rights that the document specifies? Tell us why or why not.

Please post below, with your name and country indicated.

JUDI FREEMAN JAN 15, 2021 10:50PM

ALI MATTOUT FEB 18, 2021 02:42AM

Ali M, Tyre, Lebanon

Why should someone be deprived of his/her right? Aren't we all humans? This is a problem that mostly cant be solved among days. People have the right to feel secured, to live in a comfortable house not on the streets or under the stair way in a building or whatever. All of us seek a world/environment that wars cant reach it. I've seen many people lose all their right when they became refugees due to war in their homeland. Truly preposterous how most people behave and think. Why did the declaration of human rights took place in December 1948 if some people are not getting their righteous human rights that'll ease and improve their lives? The fact that refugees and immigrants are deprived of some of their privilege's really painful to see, they mean that they are beneath humans. They are not humans.....But can we solve this problem? Will we ever learn that all of us are the same no matter the race, religion, 🤔....

Hi Ali, — AIDAN

hello my colleague .. — ALI

Hello Ali, I completely agree with you. Especially refugees getting treated like animals when their only option is to die in war or try to start over, but then their getting torn apart by the country they flee to. Ultimately declarations are made to silence people because there will always be a loophole in place for people to be denied their human rights constitutionally. How do we make it so that when a law is made it actually helps solve the problem and not hide it?

— EILEEN

Hi Ali, I totally agree with the points you brought up, especially with how some aren't able to feel compassion or sympathy towards migrants and what they have to go through, almost as if they are less than human. I am not sure if this problem can be solved if we continue in the same direction we are going now as much of the political corruption and human rights violations were initially started by richer countries trying to take their resources. Now these same countries (sadly including the US) are unwilling to help and improve these conditions which they created and continue to say they have no obligations or responsibilities to help. There is no quick solution, and I believe that the general public needs to be educated on the issues that face immigrants, only then might they be able to show some sympathy and help. — ADDY

Hi Ali, thank you so much for your post! I definitely agree that there are some needs (like feeling safe and having homes) which all people must have. Something that stuck out to me in your post was this: "I've seen many people lose all their right when they became refugees due to war in their homeland." I'm sorry if this is something you have witnessed, and it really is awful to see people without basic resources, all because of something they cannot control, like war. I was wondering who you think is responsible for fulfilling these human rights — if a country's government should focus on their own civilians' safety/shelter while fighting others in a war? Should other countries step up to offer shelter? Or maybe both? — EMMA

Hi Ali, I completely agree with you that the way immigrants are often treated is horrible. It struck me that you asked if we could solve this problem because although the declaration of human rights should help, there is still a lot of work to be done. I also found it interesting that you brought up how the declaration of human rights happened in 1948, but many people are still not treated according to it. How do you think we can teach people about this declaration, and make it so that countries actually follow this?

— TANDIN

Hey Ali, completely agree with everything you said about human rights. I was wondering if you could explain a little more about how you said seen people lose all of their rights due to war or more generally how is the immigration and foreign policy in your country.

Im also wondering what is your view of American foreign and immigration policy from an outside perspective. – JESSE

Hey Ali! Thanks for responding to the post. I agree with what you said about human rights and how frustrating it can be. It feels like such a simple thing, to treat each other kindly and with respect, but for a lot of peopl this is sadly really difficult and many choose to respond with hate and disrespect. I was wondering what you think we can do as people and teenagers to try to really implement these human rights and help people in need. I think that the first step is to have conversations like these so that we can see many different perspectives and help each other to learn and grow.

– PAOLA

Hi Ali, thank you for what you for what you said about human right and how not enough is being done to uphold them. What do you think countries could do to give refugees back their human rights?

Other than counties offering asylum to refugees, is there more countries can do for refugees, like offer them citizenship, resources, and benefits? – ANDY

Hi ali – ANONYMOUS

Hi Ali, thank you so much for your post! I agree with Jesse, I think it would be extremely interesting to hear the refugee situation in Lebanon if that applies because I would love to know how other countries are handling these types of situations right now. Do you also know what's the general attitude of the people in your country towards migrants and refugees? Do you think COVID might have influenced anything? – ZIQI

MEHEDI HASAN SHISHIR FEB 18, 2021 02:42AM

Mehedi H S, Gazipur, Bangladesh.

I think everyone who are in search of security and a better life should be welcome with open hands. A refugee is a person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Governments normally guarantee the basic human rights and physical security of citizens. Refugees should receive at least the same rights and basic help as any other foreigner who is a legal resident and freedom from torture and degrading treatment. Refugees are required to respect the laws and regulation of their country of asylum. In my Opinion, a wise voice determines your future and security, so make sure you do not make choices and regret later.

ANONYMOUS FEB 18, 2021 02:42AM

Noel B, Cape Town, South Africa

I stand by the **golden rule** which is the principle of **treating others how you would want to be treated**. By putting yourself in other people's shoes it allows you to experience a sense of compassion and sympathy for others. If you were in a situation where you feel unsafe in your own country and the lives of your family members are at risk, you would want the freedom to safely immigrate to

your desired country or refuge.

Unfortunately, I feel that too often than not the life of an immigrant is treated as one that is **less than** or **undeserving** of the life that they desire in another country. As human beings it is our obligation to acknowledge the fact that we are all human and develop a sense of compassion for the struggles other people experience.

Furthermore, I do believe that we have a obligation to allow people seeking security and a better life to each of our nations. We should continue to fight for the human rights of others specifically the **'right to life, liberty and personal security'** and the **'right of equality and freedom from discrimination'**. **Everyone has a right to human rights for the mere fact that we are human, but should never violate or stand by the violation of the human rights of others.**

Hi Noel, thanks for sharing! I totally agree that unfortunately, immigrants are often treated poorly and sometimes people struggle to be compassionate towards their struggles. How do you think we can encourage people to realize that immigrants are just as deserving of security and opportunity while getting rid of the negative stigmas surrounding migrants? – GREG

Hello Noel, it really stuck with me how you brought up the golden rule. A rule that is so simple, yet so true. Who are we to treat immigrants like garbage when their intentions are normally so pure. How do you think we spread awareness for all people deserving human rights? –Eileen – ANONYMOUS

Hi Noel, I totally agree that far too often immigrants are treated as inferior. We all need to realize that others have it worse off by fault of their own, and the best way that individuals can help is by developing a sense of compassion. – ADDY

Hi Noel, I totally agree that far too often immigrants are treated as inferior. We all need to realize that others have it worse off by fault of their own, and the best way that individuals can help is by developing a sense of compassion. On a governmental standpoint, do you think countries should focus mainly on improving the conditions for immigrants within their country, or focus on improving the conditions or fixing the economic/political instability in the countries with high emigration rates? – ADDY

Hi, Noel I really like your response because it felt really positive and optimistic. I wish everyone would live by that golden rule and treat everyone how they wish to be treated. Why do you think some people don't live that way? Do you think it's possible to provide a better life for immigrants if many marginalized citizens of a country still don't feel secure? – ISABELLA

Hi Noel! I completely agree with you that we should all treat people the way we want to be treated. A lot of times people seem to forget that they could be in the same situation as others, so we really do all need to be compassionate towards each other. How do you think we can help people sympathize with immigrants, and help them see that immigrants are just as deserving of a safe and secure life as anyone else? – TANDIN

members were scared, they thought that there are a lot of terrorist and if they see me, blonde girl, they might want to harm me. Of course it wasn't the case I made a lot of new friends that I still contact with even after 4 years. All in all it's not that hard to just to act like a human being and be nice to everyone, you never know what they went thorough.

Hi Leja, I totally agree with your post! I think we should all be lending a helping hand to those that need it and inviting someone over for dinner when they are struggling with food is a great way to start but it is a little difficult because of the pandemic. Sometimes when we see people like this that are struggling with money or food, my friends and I buy them a warm meal because it can really make their day and who knows when the last time they had a full meal was. What other ways do you think we can help people like this safely during a pandemic? – VANESSA

ANONYMOUS FEB 18, 2021 02:43AM

Sana / Hiroshima/ Japan

I think that the responsibility for helping people in search of security means that we accept them as they are. As the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Right, humans have liberty from the time of their birth. And all people can have all rights, including safety and education, without discrimination. it is natural to seek security and to accept those who want these fundamental human rights. So I think that we have both freedom for fundamental human rights and obligations that we should accept fellow human beings in need.

However, especially, Japan, where people have relativity all human rights, does not accept immigrations, it is the problem regarding to the Declaration. Japan should accepts them more for help them live in a comfortable life.

Hi Sana! Thank you for your post. I have heard people saying that Japan is known for its more strict immigration laws because of low annual acceptance rates for pending cases. So, I am curious. Would you want to make any changes to these laws? Do you think there needs to be any mindset changes in Japanese society when it comes to immigrants and refugees? – OURANIA PARASTATIDI

hey Sana! just wanted to add on home of Ourania's questions. Why in particular does Japan not

hey Sana! just wanted to add on home of Ourania's questions. Why in particular does Japan not support immigration? Is it part of the culture of Japan or is it solely because of the constitution like you mentioned before? Im also wondering what is your view of American foreign and immigration policy from an outside perspective.

– JESSE

Hi Sana! I certainly agree with all your points, especially that humans should always be allowed to seek security and should always be able to exercise their fundamental human rights. This is a bit of a follow up question to the past two comments, but you mentioned that the issue with Japan not being as accepting to immigration is due to it's laws and constitution. I'd like to ask how does Japanese society feel about immigration to Japan? Does this tend to vary between prefecture and age? – ELISA

Hi Sana: you mentione now Japan gives human rights to its people, but do you think they are properly enforced (people who don't have holes or a stable income get help, etc)? Do you think cultural and social attitudes impact how well these human rights would be enforced? And do you think the current government is doing a good job? I agree with Ourania, I've also heard that Japanese immigration laws are very strict, but I actually didn't know that Japan completely stopped immigration. I'm assuming it's because of the pandemic right now, but would immigration continue to be completely shut off even after the pandemic ends? – ZIQ

Hi! I'm Sana. I think Japan should change some laws against refugees, because almost all Japanese people won't realize how big refugee issue is without making laws. In Japan, children learn basic international circumstances through their daily classes, so making some laws against refugees will give them opportunities to learn about the topic. And for more people, the issue will be familiar. This will promote more accepts of refugees.. – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS FEB 18, 2021 02:44AM

Megumi F, Hiroshima, Japan

All humans should feel secured and the environment that people seek better lives should be prepared in every country. Some people live posting and saying aggressive things, but we should avoid using those words and it can be helpful for people who are not feeling secured. Understanding there are many kinds of people is also important. In my country, almost all of them have Japanese race and so doing different things is considered to be a bad thing. If we admit people that they are all different, it will be easier that people feel secured and seek better lives.

Of course, we should support people coming from another countries. They should have many difficulties to go abroad. It is our responsibility to care and admit them.

Knowing and understanding the declaration is something necessary. I stayed in Sweden for 7 months and learned human rights, so I know the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, I do not think people in Japan know them. If you do not know it, you cannot comply. Also, know is one thing and understanding is another. Fully understanding prevents people from doing something out of the declaration.

I believe all should entitle the rights. Something connected to humans should not be taken away, and I think nationality is one of the things that is connected to humans.

Hello Megumi, really interesting input! Living in a country like Japan where most people are of one race must make the experience of an immigrant entirely different. What added challenges do you think this provides for immigrants coming to Japan, and what do you think can be done to create a more welcoming environment for these migrants? – GREG F

ney Noel, the golden rule is a great rule to live by. I absolutely agree that unfortunately immigrants are too often treated as less than human and we definitely need to keep working to make life easier for them. I'm wondering how immigration plays a role in your country South Africa? I'm also wondering what is your view of American foreign and immigration policy from an outside perspective.

— JESSE

Hi Noel! I most definitely agree that when we speak about these issues, we need to show compassion for those that are actually immigrating. We may not have much time to try and understand their point of view, but if we do certainly changes our way of viewing immigration. I'm curious as to how you think South Africa handles immigration, as well as what the general public thinks about immigration to South Africa. — ELISA

Hello Noel, I love that golden rule and it's heartwarming to hear about the compassion you have for others. A lot of people don't have this, and I agree with you it is so important to have. There is a lot of dehumanization of immigrants and that needs to be stopped because we are all human, we have skin and bones and blood running through us and that should be enough to give us all equal protection and rights. I think accountability, holding yourself and others accountable is necessary to move forward, but we must do so with kindness and compassion to spare. — PAOLA

Hi Noel! I really enjoyed reading your comment. Your emphasis on the golden rule, that we should treat others how we should be treated, is definitely something I also stand by. What makes me more different than an immigrant? We are both human and their status does not make them any different from me. However, it's saddening to see that many people do not think this in this way and are less compassionate and less sympathetic towards immigrants. Here in America, the rhetoric that is being put out is that they are stealing the "hard earned jobs of American citizens." Yet, these are usually low skilled and low income jobs. Have you seen this same response towards immigrants in South Africa? — DANNY

Hi Noel, great to hear from you! I have been lucky enough to visit Cape Town, and so was very excited to hear your thoughts! I completely agree that the golden rule should be a commonly held sentiment, both in individual people and in larger governments. I think that, a lot of the time, governments are much better at looking at groups of people, rather than the individuals that made up those groups. If governments were able to take the time to talk to these immigrants individually, to learn of the hardships they have faced, I think that policy regarding immigration would be very different. I know South Africa has gone through a lot of political change in a relatively short amount of time. Has this changed how many people immigrate to South Africa, or how your government handles these immigrants? — Brooks G, USA — ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS FEB 18, 2021 02:43AM

Vanessa C, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

The UN's Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 states that every person has the "right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution" therefore it is our civic responsibility to help other human beings in search of security and a better life. However, our country hasn't done the best job at upholding these values; with many people discriminating against immigrants who came to the United States seeking a better life and security. Too often, these people are associated with malicious things such as being criminals, drug dealers, and job-stealers. As a country, we

need to work on not automatically associating these negative stereotypes with immigrants. I believe it is our responsibility to admit people seeking help/ a better life because it is in the UN's Declaration of Human Rights and we would want other countries to do the same for us if we were in that situation. Everyone is entitled to these human rights because we can't choose where we live or what our lives are like, therefore we all at the very least deserve basic necessities and a shot to perhaps start our lives over again in another country. If other countries comply with the UN's Declaration of Human Rights, then everyone has some level of fairness.

ANONYMOUS FEB 18, 2021 02:43AM

Nouhaila EG, Sale, Morocco

People who in search of security and better life should be welcomed by everyone. We should advocate social justice, help people who need use, give them clothes, food, work...etc. In Morocco, there is a lot of associations who help the people are in need of. Actually, there is no problem if they weren't here, we are enough for them. People here are generous even if we not rich but we donate more. The Islamic religion summons us to take care of people that are in need. It doesn't mean we should give them a lot of money it's just by giving them comfort and nice things who will let them happy.

Hi Nouhaila el gaini! I agree with you that we should be advocating for social justice and helping those that are less fortunate than us. It's excellent how Morocco is so welcoming of immigrants and even giving them resources for getting help! I think more countries should be like this in terms of helping people seeking security and/or a better life. How do you think we can spread the message and encourage other countries to be like this? — VANESSA COREAS

Hi Vanessa, I think that if we start from the bottom by educating children from the beginning we could change the countries. We can also encourage adults by making them aware of the necessity of this in our society. — ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS FEB 18, 2021 02:43AM

Lėja M, Alytus, Lithuania

I think everyone who are in search of security and a better life should be welcomed with open hands. I believe everyone should help people that are in need in general, if they're struggling with food why not invite them in for a dinner or if they just need someone to lend an ear why not do so. In Lithuania most immigrants go to the capital, while in my home town it isn't that common to see any immigrants or even students that go to our local college. Most older people aren't used to see any foreigners at all. Despite that everyone should be treated like a human being. Everyone is deserving of these rights that were declared in the United Nations' Universal Declaration, but these rights don't guarantee protection from legal consequences of criminals. Most stereotypes are inaccurate and we must correct these misunderstandings and false misconceptions of immigrants. Before I went to Turkey with Erasmus+ project some of my family

качел конкра: I agree that race and skin color play a huge role in this hatred toward immigrants. People coming from countries where the majority population is nonwhite are met with much more aggression and attacks. What you said about laws made me think about how many people will come to the US border to cross over and be completely unaware of the different laws in place. Yet border patrol often treats them like they should have known the laws and are at fault for breaking them. My question is similar to many of my classmates', I am curious about what kind of racial biases exist in Malaysia, and who they are directed at? — ANONYMOUS

Hi Zulhafiz. I agree with you and I also believe that as people we should have each others best interest in mind. It's kind of sad that there is such a divide in populations around the world because of race and color. I think people should help each other and at least have each others safety in mind. Thanks for your input!

— DAMON NEEL

Hi Zulhafiz! Thank you for sharing your experience in Malaysia! I definitely agree with your point that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and because several countries are on lockdown, that there's much difficulty with immigration, especially with oppressive governments. My question reflects that of my classmates, but how does your country view immigration, and what are their policies like regarding immigrants? — DEANNA IRIS

Hi Zulhafiz! Thank you so much for posting such a thoughtful response. I agree with a lot of your thoughts on the benefits of immigration and the obligation we have as humans to treat each other equally. I would like to know a little bit more about specific policies in your country. How are topics of race taught and handled? What are the general messages spread about immigration?

— LILAH

BROOKS JAN 23, 2021 05:06AM

Brooks G, Boston Massachusetts, USA

I believe that, as humans living in the society that currently exists, it is our moral and social obligation to help fellow human beings in search of security and a better life. I personally believe that all humans should seek to help their humans as much as possible, and I do not think that helping these people hurts other people in a way that outweighs the original good deed. I also think that we have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and/or a better life to our nations because, again, we are helping these people more than we are hurting existing members of our own nation. I also believe that a nation's purpose is not to just make itself more prosperous, but to help all the countries of the world thrive in a moral and productive manner, and so even if admitting these people is a little bit bad for our country, we should still do it because it is better for the world as a whole.

I believe that we should comply with the UN's declaration of human rights because, if we do not, then what other parts of the UN might we start ignoring? And given America's influential place in worldwide politics, how would this influence other countries' choices surrounding the UN? I would guess poorly. Additionally, the rights specified in the document are widely well regarded, and were picked with great intent. Going against them would mean going against many brilliant minds who were looking for the best way to help people.

I think 99.9% of people should have access to the rights outlined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Every common person definitely should, but some criminals have committed crimes so egregious that they do not deserve to seek sanctuary anywhere.

I agree a lot with your sentiment Brooks, that we cannot pick and choose which parts of 'unalienable human rights' we accept or do not accept. It's also highly hypocritical how the US goes about treating immigrants/immigration policies given its influential role not only within world politics, but also within the UN itself. We ought to be setting a precedent for valuing human rights, but in reality it seems as though we're far from doing so. — AIDAN

I agree with your point that if we don't comply with the Human Rights set by the UN "then what other parts of the UN might we start ignoring." Even now though the UN is a toothless tiger and there's not much to stop countries from just leaving. I also completely agree that as humans it is our obligation to help other humans, not just those fortunate enough to have been born in our country. We are all guests upon this planet and only by working together and sharing resources in a sustainable manner will we be able to survive.

— ADDY

Vanessa Coreas: You bring up a good point that the United States has so much influence and power, therefore if our country enforces the rights declared by the UN, then other countries that have stricter immigration policies might follow in our footsteps and abide by them. I also agree that some criminals have committed such serious crimes that they do not deserve sanctuary anywhere but besides that, all countries have the obligation to accept other humans seeking security and/or a better life because they are equal to us and we should treat them the way we would want to be treated.

— ANONYMOUS

OURANIA

JAN 21, 2021 01:17PM

Ourania P, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Given the large role that the United States has played in the United Nations (i.e., P5) since it was founded in 1945 and given how many times it has involved itself in other countries' conflicts' after that, we certainly, as a country, have an obligation to each and every single person that seeks security or asylum here. However, it's interesting to think that meanwhile there are many immigrants from all over the world coming to more economically-developed countries for job opportunities and such, there's also people immigrating to other countries that we would classify as less 'developed'. For example, people all over the world have been purchasing abandoned rural homes in Sambuca, Italy for \$1.10, makes me think about the specifics of what it means to have a better life. Is it just about the material things that we can provide as a nation? Is a better life and security mutually exclusive? Do we go by the standard set by ancients of virtue, health, prosperity, friendship, respect, luck and engagement? After all, people have different values and things they search for in terms of fulfillment and happiness. Many of us can look back on the sacrifices our parents, grandparents and or relatives made to be here based on what they prioritized, for example. I find myself even further confused as I reflect on the amount of economic disparity within our country at the current moment, though I suppose given Biden's promises of increasing individual taxes to benefit more

Hi Megumi, echoing the point of my classmate above, I think it's so interesting how you pointed out the nature of your home country, Japan, being homogenous in race/ethnicity. The phenomenon which you seemingly described (the way in which people of your country see non-Japanese things as "bad") seemingly is a representation of nationalistic/ethnic pride. For a long time in history, every country was homogenous in ethnicity. But the rise of the globalized modern world means that the ethnic populations of countries are changing, and becoming more diverse. I believe that this sort of nationalistic/ethnic mindset should truly be erased nowadays, because there is no need for such division anymore. It's a relic of the past, in a world where ethnicities/nationalities were interchangeable. Nowadays, anybody of any ethnicity can be the citizen of a country, yet we hold on to the antiquated mindset. The question is, how do we go about getting rid of this mindset in homogenous ethnic countries? — AIDAN

Hi Megumi! Thank you so much for your post. Yes, it definitely is a different outlook when people in your community are vastly of one race. What's interesting is I have family who are Chinese, but immigrated to Japan and raised their children there — are they viewed differently as well? How about their children, whose first language would be Japanese? I think it might be different than in America, where Asians tend to be grouped together, so people might view Chinese and Japanese in the same way. But something that stuck out to me in your post is this: "If we admit people that they are all different, it will be easier that people feel secured and seek better lives." I think this is so true, and I definitely believe this for Americans too. Many Americans want a single picture of how citizens should look like, but accepting that we might have different appearances/languages/customs is so important for immigration and accepting other in general. Thanks, again, for this post! — EMMA

Hi Megumi, thank you so much for this thoughtful post! I think it is incredibly interesting to think about how different things are in Japan, especially because most people physically look the same. I also like your point about the media reinforcing that all people really are different to help others feel more secure. It is really interesting that you learned about the declaration of human rights in Sweden. What were you taught? How do you think other people from Japan would benefit from learning this as well? — ANONYMOUS

That last comment was from Lilah Gutlerner in Boston — ANONYMOUS

Hi Megumi! You ended with a very powerful statement. Nationality is the one thing that connects people together from all different backgrounds. I've heard the argument that in many homogenous countries, such as Japan, there should be a limit to immigrants in order to preserve the culture that originates from the country. Is this mindset popular in Japan? And what do you think about it? I personally disagree to this because I believe that any person should have the right to immigrate to any country they choose. — DANNY

Hi Megumi, I am really surprised to know that Japan is facing a problem like this!! I love Japan so much because of its culture and style of living. And by the way that last sentence was so deep and meaningful.. I'd love to know more about the state of Japan from you! — ALI

Nowadays, every country often faces the problem of immigrants from other countries. However, because this pandemic is COVID-19 and also unforgettable, immigrants are stranded in every corner of the world. The problem is the safety factor and the habit of immigrants will be the biggest problem we have to face. I believe that as human beings we should give help to those in need in safety or health. Humans act as human beings to help those in need. Helping fellow human beings in finding peace, and a better life is our moral duty as human beings. Some immigrants are stranded due to global pandemics or have violated the laws of the countries visited causing them to be stranded. This will be the biggest problem when they are oppressed and forced to follow cruel government orders. I think we have the right to live in peacefully. It is said that immigrants leave the country to become better people. This is the best thing in our lives. The problem that is often discussed is involving race or skin color, I think everyone should be treated well regardless of race or skin color. A number of multi-racial countries are often racist. In my opinion, a wise voice determines your future and security, so make sure you do not make choices and regret later.

Hi Zulhafiz! Thank you so much for sharing your opinion with us! I totally agree with your view that we as human beings should help other human beings and it is our duty to be there when we can. You talked a bit about how COVID-19 has been effecting the influx of people becoming displaced, and I was wondering how this has been affecting Malaysia specifically and what have you seen in the news about it? In America, a lot of people held at the southern border are suffering. COVID-19 has been spreading through camps putting many families at risk. — REGINA

Hi Zulhafiz! It is so interesting to hear about your experience from Malaysia on this issue! Thank you for sharing your thoughts. I completely agree with your point of how COVID has been worsening immigrants conditions and the oppression they are forced to face. Are you exposed to this in your own country or do you mostly see it elsewhere? I have majorly seen these stories on the news and the harsh struggles these individuals are forced to go through coming into America is heartbreaking. I 100% agree that everyone should be treated well regardless of their background and where they are from. — SILVIA

Hi Zulhafiz! I enjoyed reading your post. I agree with you as I think the pandemic has definitely worsened the circumstances for immigrants. It is unfair that they get trapped in a cycle of oppressive and dehumanizing government policies. You also make a great point about how race and skin color intersect with immigration. I am curious to know, do you see anti-immigrant attitudes in your country? If you have, why do you think people feel that way towards immigrants? — GRACE

(Aidan Osowiecki) Hi Zulhafiz! I really was intrigued by your comments on how immigrants have been left stranded due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Because we are all sheltering in place, many traveling migrants have to do the same in uncertain circumstances regarding their status or home. What are some ways we can ensure that these people find a stable home again? — ANONYMOUS

I liked your point about how multi-racial countries can often be racist. I also want to second Grace's question— I know there are many migrant workers in Malaysia. What does anti-immigrant feeling look like in your own community? — JACK

Hi Deanna, I definitely agree with all the points that you make. While supporting immigration to every other country but theirs is certainly a step forward from a viewpoint that condemns all immigration, it is far from perfect. My question is how do we try and make it so that the general mentality surrounding immigration is one that accepts immigration regardless of one's origin?

— ELISA

ZIQI ZHENG JAN 21, 2021 06:18AM

Ziqi Z, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

One powerful thing that I was reminded of recently while watching a show is this “I support this, but not in my backyard” mentality. I think this fits with the immigrant question really well. “Sure, I think it's great that they leave their country and go to another one to improve themselves, but they just can't come here, because I'm already here.” It's another fascinating aspect of humanity that I feel like people needs to talk more about.

It's funny, because America has had so many waves of immigration, and each and every time they has always been massive resistance and pushback, whether that take in the form of the Native American Party during the 19th century (very ironic) or today's rhetoric about Mexicans and other immigrants. This kind of rhetoric didn't just spring up when the amount of Mexican immigrants increased by more than 10 million in a 30 year period, this rhetoric has been around for as long as immigration into America existed.

Morally, yes, we should support those who are coming over here to seek a better life, but it's also economically pretty important. As others have pointed out, our nation, more often than not, was often built by those who have came over here. (Slavery basically directly and indirectly powering everything, Chinese and Irish building the railroads etc.) Historically, by far the most common type of immigrants have been those coming over with little to none in their pockets. They are not here to take the job you already have, they're here to take the usually undesirable low wage jobs. Without a ready supply of people who can take out these jobs, the economy could be collapsed, kind of like what's happening in Europe right now with their aging populations and low fertility rates.

Every right laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights seem reasonable and fair. I feel disappointed knowing that multiple countries which were present during the discussion of these rights have so blatantly disregarded them. Most of the rights do feel vague, which unfortunately means there are a lot of wiggle room. For the U.S, Article 5 does ring hollow when you think about the horrifying ICE camps and prison conditions, as Rachel mentioned. Article 25 is also weird because poverty and homelessness is such a massive problem, and again, the federal government does not adequately address them.

Hey Ziqi, I agree with all that you are talking about and I think it is interesting how you pointed out the hypocrisy of America. This is one my favorite things to talk about because it stares us straight in the face but is so difficult to see at times. I think this us vs. them mentality that you sort of brought up with the “I support this but not in my own backyard” and just the dehumanization of immigrants has been so detrimental to America. America is also constantly pointing figures saying how other countries are doing such terrible things when in reality we do them as well just in more secretive and twisted ways in my opinion. I hope that these Universal Human Rights will also begin to be implemented seriously because we need to begin to take steps towards ending homelessness and improving conditions for those living in poverty. — PAOLA M. BARRON MURPHY

MIA C. COLE JAN 21, 2021 05:18AM

Mia C, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

The rights to seek security and to a better life are ones that shouldn't be disputed. Despite what some politicians in the United States may say, we have plenty of resources to aid immigrants to pursue these human rights without hurting those who live in this country already. A pretty common argument I hear a lot more than I would like is the position that while those who enter *legally* are at liberty to seek security and a better life, those who enter *illegally* are not. This is a view that I strongly disagree with. Our country was seemingly founded on the basis of liberty/freedom. And since we are in a position to help, why shouldn't we extend our aid to those seeking liberty in this country? No matter their legal status, immigrants are humans (it's sad to have to stress that) and so naturally, their *human* rights should be protected. America likes to almost dehumanize immigrants in the way that they tend to downplay or even disregard the fact that immigrants do have rights that are protected under the UN's Declaration of Human Rights...which is shocking. Humans seeking security and a better life are exactly that...humans. And so, they fall under the protection of the UN's Declaration of Human Rights and countries should (and need) to do everything in their power to protect these rights.

Hey Mia, I really related to what you are saying because this angers me a lot to, the use of “illegal” when it comes to immigration. Of course everyone wants to go into a new country the “correct” way but this is just not the reality at all. A lot of the time people are fleeing unsafe conditions and don't have the time to go through the complications of the American immigration system. And if they are fleeing their government for whatever reason, what would they do then, they surely wouldn't be able to leave and what do we expect them to do stay their and risk their lives for a piece of paper?! Not to mention the difficulties of being accepted and going through the process of becoming a citizen of the US it could take years and many people do not have that kind of time. I believe that because they are humans they deserve to seek a better life for themselves especially when fleeing from dangerous living conditions. And it is our job as people to help people in need because we cannot allow these conditions and dehumanization of immigrants to continue because as you said they are humans and as such their rights deserve to be protected. — PAOLA M. BARRON MURPHY

ANDY COLEMAN JAN 21, 2021 05:14AM

Andy M, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

middle and low-income nouseoids, we're in better hands or helping others than if we were still under Trump's administration. However, I still think, how can we allow asylum seekers to come when we have not fully fixed the plight of our own citizens? Is it a selfish act to deny immigrants if you cannot fully provide 'the better life and security' as promised in the Universal Declaration of Rights? Reflecting on my own questions, I think it is a part of our duty given our history that has founded and built itself on immigrants. . . and continues to do so. We cannot forget where we came from. . . we're all immigrants. I think the only people who can say that they aren't in some way are people who are still and have had ancestors living in Africa. In a less broader and less philosophical sense though, we are in a far larger position to help than other countries, to help our fellow human beings that are in need of help and have endangered themselves for refuge. We share this Earth and that should be equally as applicable to the lands we have. I do think, however, there need to be more specific policies on what we as a nation are obliged to provide in terms of security and a better life.

Wow, your response was really striking. You raised some interested questions and I agree that I have similarly been struck by immigration not just to so-called 1st-world countries, but also, say, to Saudia Arabia and gulf countries (which Jalel from Tunisia also mentioned). I guess the point is never to get a broadly good and secure life, but simply a better and more secure life than what they had before--it's all relative. And on so on that point, I do agree that even the idea of offering asylum to immigrants can seem strange since they may very well struggle with much poverty and difficulties here too, but ultimately I think it is still very necessary because it is likely to at least be less poverty; plus, security is something we can definitely offer more of in comparison to what some may experience in Central America (i.e. extreme gang violence). Finally, although they also face poverty, there is at least opportunity here-or at any rate, more opportunity than where they're coming from. Although we know from last year that that opportunity can be inconsistent.

— JACK

I really loved the points you brought up about how everyone has a different perspective on what a "better life" really means. Also I never thought about how maybe we aren't doing as much good for immigrants as we could because our country still has a lot to do for its citizens. What are some of the policies you think we should have to provide a better life?

— ISABELLA

@Jack, we certainly should have more opportunities regardless of where people are coming from. I have to somewhat disagree on the fact that there will be less poverty if we allow more immigrants. This is not to squander the work by generations and current generations of immigrants that have taken low-wage jobs and say that they're 'ruining our country and economy'; rather I just wanted to point out that while in the long run this means an increasing number of higher-level degrees and increased technological innovations there will still be immigrants that may be living and working in poor conditions. That being said and thinking about @Isabella's question, I think we could be using Your Better Life Index (translated to their native language) which I believe was created by the OECD. It isn't focused on just purely expansion of consumption and wealth, so that we can see what specific concerns immigrants want addressed for a better life. For specific policies, one policy I would really like to see is an extension of the DACA program which includes medical care amongst other things as 91% of children of parents who've immigrated here are currently working and so it's crucial they're getting medical care coverage right now.

— OURANIA

Ourania, I am really struck by your point about whether it is moral to allow people to immigrate if we cannot promise them a safer/better existence. I think it is important that we let the immigrants themselves decide whether or not their destination will provide a lifestyle more suited to their wants and needs. I also think, however, that it is the government's duty to help everyone on its land to lead their desired existence. It definitely begs a much bigger question of how much involvement a government should have in personal lives — Brooks — ANONYMOUS

DEANNA IRIS · JAN 21, 2021 06:52AM

Deanna R, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

It's our responsibility as decent human beings to help those who are in need of security and opportunities in order to have a livelihood. More often than not, we've seen in the U.S. that immigration has furthered the mentality of us vs. them, and because humans are "tribal" by nature, they immediately distinguish those who they consider a part of their internal group and those who are outsiders. Their perceptions of those who are of a different ethnicity or race in a pejorative sense, and thus they act in a xenophobic manner because they cannot fathom that immigrants are "taking over the workforce" or are "invading the country" However, this mindset of immigration being a job-stealing phenomenon is something we need to rid ourselves of. Not only is it deepening the racial gap in our country, but it also encourages ignorance of the factors and reasons that brought immigrants to certain countries. America is supposed to be a prosperous country with plenty of resources, yet people fear that there's a limited supply of a certain resource and resort to pointing fingers before anyone can take it away from them. Whether or not they had the intention of moving, they shouldn't be the scapegoat for any country's internal strife. Saying that, immigrants have the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state and the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country (Article 13). Denying anyone this security of residence is unjustifiable and immoral. America prospered off of the influx of immigration, so what rationale is there to justify depriving those seeking the same opportunities as those who came here did? Anti-immigration sentiment has become a burden on top of the hardships immigrants already face with having to come here in order to cross the borders. The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights have all pointed to something that we value as human beings: happiness. Yet, that same happiness and access to resources to gain it has been taken away and as Ziqi said, the vagueness of the rights allow for loopholes to occur.

Hey Deana, when you mentioned immigrants being utilized as scapegoats in America that really stuck with me. America is constantly looking for groups of people to pick on even if there's nothing wrong. Maybe Americans are forgetting that their ancestors migrated over here and were being objectified by the British, because history is just repeating itself. How do we make people understand that immigrants are harmless?

— EILEEN

American people first, but if we have the means to help those seeking asylum, it is only right that we extend a hand. 70 years ago we agreed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, yet somewhere along the way it was decided that the right to life, liberty, and security of person (Article 3) only applies to those born on this side of the border, or those who are "useful" enough to earn a spot in our country. Many Americans could not even pass the exams immigrants are expected to complete before earning citizenship, yet we feel such a strong sense of entitlement to something that, for us, was determined by luck.

Article 6 states that everyone has the right to being recognized as a person under the law. Surely this recognition as a fellow human should extend beyond the law as well, yet as the article demonstrated, many citizens of democratic countries view immigrants as little more than a threatening statistic, one that endangers their own jobs and benefits. The only reason an immigrant might "steal" your job is if they are more qualified than you, and isn't that a rational reason to hire one person over another? There is also the fear that immigrants will be willing to work for much lower wages, thus putting all of the working class at a disadvantage. We observed some examples of this and the ensuing xenophobic hate in class recently. It's ironic that the white American workers turned their fury at this possibility on their fellow workers, not the corrupt employers exploiting their labor for such low wages.

Another article that the US has violated is the ninth, which reads "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile". Thousands of mothers, fathers, and children have been detained at the border for months on end, forced to remain in awful conditions that rival those of prisons (and the internment camps of WWII, another example of this article being violated but with its very own citizens). It is the government's inefficiency and indifference that has kept them there so long. They have done nothing to deserve this, their only crime was seeking a better, safer life for themselves and their families. Isn't this motive something we praise in our own citizens, isn't it the very foundation of the American dream?

The USA must do what it agreed to all those years ago and uphold ALL of the rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Failing to do so is completely hypocritical and contradicts all the democratic values that we claim to have been founded on.

Rachel, your post brings up many important points! I also think that the U.S. has violated many articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights so how can our nation say that it stands for democratic values. I am glad you mentioned the 9th article, "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile." The articles and videos that we have looked at for class demonstrate our country's breach of the 9th article. What do you think the government should do to address the issue of confinement at the border? – GRACE P

kacnel, your post brings up many important points! I also think that the U.S. has violated many articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights so how can our nation say that it stands for democratic values. I am glad you mentioned the 9th article, "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile." The articles and videos that we have looked at for class demonstrate our country's breach of the 9th article. What do you think the government should do to address the issue of confinement at the border? – GRACE P

Rachel: Hmm I'm not sure what the best course of action would be for the government to take but the current conditions of tent cities and cages are unacceptable and should be addressed as soon as possible.

The first thing that must be done is to end family separation and return children to their parents. The facilities housing immigrants while they are processed or tried in court must be improved substantially, children shouldn't be freezing for days in a room called the "icebox". Hopefully the establishment and improvement of different programs aimed at helping immigrants settle in the US will diminish the amount of time they must spend in these places. We also need more accountability among the officers staffing them, as their has been too much negligence and abuse gone unchecked for so long. – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 03:31AM

Elisa M, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I'm a firm believer that we as humans are morally obligated to aid those in search of security and a better life. Security should be far from a privilege, but rather a universal human right. Much like the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, everyone has the "right to life, liberty, and security of a person." To deny others the right to security is completely unethical and immoral. We should constantly be understanding of the situations that others have found themselves in, and if they wish to seek asylum, that option should be accepted with open arms. Furthermore, we need to make an effort to correct these misunderstandings and false misconceptions of immigrants. They, are much as everyone else, are people who are trying their best to survive. To believe that they are trying to steal jobs or take opportunities from others is downright ignorant. They are doing quite the contrary to this belief, where they not only play a pivotal role in the growth of the economy, but also frequently take jobs that are low paying and low skill. Ultimately, I do believe that everyone is entitled to the human rights that the United Nations declared, as they are fundamental human rights that every person should have access to. Everyone should have the right to a quality life, and one should never be denied that just because they are an immigrant.

Hi Elisa, cool post. I agree wholeheartedly that the right to security should be guaranteed to all. Yet some people would argue that no matter the circumstances, if immigrants enter illegally they should be deported. How do you think we can make people more compassionate and understanding that immigrating for folks fleeing an unsafe environment is the only option? – GREG

Hello ElisaThat is cool.....very nice – ANONYMOUS

RAYNA FEB 18, 2021 02:45AM

The responsibility we have to help other human beings isn't something that should be debated. In America there are a cornucopia of arguments to not help immigrants. Politicians are so eager not to help other human beings they are willing to pass legislature to remove hardworking people who have lived in this country honestly. They have families and have paid taxes just like any other American citizen but they are still dragged out of this country. I've always thought we should help immigrants because it's the right thing to do, it right expand this country on its founding principles. But there's two sides to viewing immigrants. One side believes America is stronger with them since most of this country was built by either slaves or by immigrants. And the other side believes America will be destroyed by immigrants. The "American Way" will fade and a new unfamiliar, scary "way" will take its place. I wish people could realize the "American Way" won't disappear just because people are entering the country.

Reading the United Nations handbook I had no idea there was an article intended to help asylum seekers. "Article 14: Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution" This one article is enough to help asylum seekers. If the US was one of the original voices at the table where Article 14 was drafted, why doesn't the United States follow what it agreed on following. I'm absolutely dumbfounded after registering what this really means. I read the Universal Declaration when we received it but I didn't realize what it meant. The United States and the United Nations agreed to "Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution". So what's the hold up? What are we waiting for? Throughout the history of the United States time and time again we have made empty promises to the world. The United States is supposed to be a beacon of virtue for the world. It's time to fulfill our promise to the world and help people from all walks of life. No matter the religion, race, or sexual orientation.

The UDHR was drafted to ensure equality around the world. It was supposed to guarantee equality. If America don't agree with equality then the UDHR isn't for us. But if we wake up and realize what we are doing is wrong we can become a champion of equality and start fighting for justice.

I was really intrigued by your idea of people fearing immigrants because the America will lose its American ways. What specifically makes the "American ways" American? My opinion is that the blending and the atmosphere that America creates with the amount of cultures create the culture we have. As we continue to grow as a country, we will forever change. Why be scared of something that is inevitable? – REGINA

LILAH · JAN 21, 2021 03:52AM

Lilah G, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

In 1948, the United Nations gathered and collectively agreed on the contents of the document, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Here they listed a number of articles containing rights that should allegedly be applied to everybody, creating a baseline global

understanding of rights and responsibilities ranging from broader scale actions to more specific ones.

The third article is particularly broad, stating that all humans have the "right to life, liberty, and security of person." (Article 3) While this does mean that everyone is entitled to these things, it also means that we all have the responsibility of ensuring that others are given the same rights as well. We can't all individually have life, liberty, and security without all of us making sacrifices.

Part of ensuring security and a better, free life, has a lot to do with immigration and policies surrounding it. Article 14 states that everyone has the, "right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." America is based on the core values of being a country for all people. A country where everyone can be free and everyone can use their voice. However, even in a nation where asylum is supposed to be guaranteed, it is most certainly not. And if we cannot uphold this article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that is in our own constitution, how should countries not built on this value be expected to do so?

I believe every person and every nation has a responsibility to do everything they can on both the macro and micro levels to guarantee the rights that have been universally agreed upon. No matter the place, this starts with education.

In America, as seen explicitly in the New York Times Article, people falsely believe that immigrants are taking jobs away from American born citizens, and are disproportionately benefiting from the country's profits. From the minute a child starts school, they are taught to believe that America is the absolute greatest country in the world, and that as a citizen, they are entitled to take that title wherever they please. This blatantly promotes xenophobia and supremacy.

It should be necessary for everyone around the world to have access to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Everyone needs to know the rights that they have, and the responsibilities they have to others.

ANONYMOUS · JAN 21, 2021 04:38AM

Rachel R, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Today, many of the speakers at the presidential inauguration emphasized the idea that the USA is a leader among nations. But we cannot assume this role only when it is most convenient for us; it must be reflected at all times and in all areas, including immigration policy. We often pride ourselves on being the richest, most prosperous country, and although statements like this aren't always exactly true, we have an obligation to share that wealth of resources with those who are less fortunate, no matter where they come from. Not only is our nation built on the labor of immigrants (some who came willingly, others who did not) but our current economy benefits at the expense of individuals in other countries. I understand that it is our leaders' jobs to put the needs of the

same valid needs. To agree on a declaration of human rights is so important so we can agree on how to treat each other with dignity.

Hi Emma! I really loved how thoughtful your post was. I completely agree with you about the separation that Americans create between themselves and immigrants to see them as less human. I also agree that we especially have an obligation to comply with the declaration of human rights and provide safety and security for immigrants. However, it is very clear that we do not. My question to you is how do you think we can go about making strides to change this? What steps need to be taken so that we can fulfill this obligation?

— LILAF

JESSE CORRELL JAN 20, 2021 11:57PM

Jesse C, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

As it states in the UN Declaration human rights, all are entitled to "right to life, liberty and security of person" as well as right to seek asylum from persecution and as humans and world citizens it is our responsibility to make sure that everyone has access to these rights. Unfortunately we often see that those who need these protections and our help the most are the most demonized and pushed away. Those immigrating for a better life or fleeing prosecution and seeking asylum need our help but to often are pushed away or attacked. For these reasons we do have an obligation to let in those who need it especially when their lives are in danger if they were turned away. The UN declaration is a step in the right direction and we all have an obligation to commit to its values but we shouldn't need the UN to tell us what we should already know to help those in need and while it supports positive messaging what's needed by the UN is specific policy regarding world governments. Everyone is deserving of these rights by their status as a human beings but these rights don't guarantee protection from legal consequences of criminals. Immigrants and asylum seekers make great sacrifices to get into a new country and improve their lives and this sacrifice should be respected and should bring assistance rather than bring more problems and bitterness for them.

ANONYMOUS JAN 20, 2021 10:05PM

and upholding the human rights of migrants and people around the world

TANDIN JAN 20, 2021 09:55PM

Tandin JW, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the "right to life, liberty, and security of person" and "right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." Because it states this, as well as from a moral standpoint, nations do have the responsibility to admit those seeking a better life because everyone has the right to have security and a safe life. Immigration is a natural thing that has been happening for centuries, and nations have a responsibility to make it easy and accessible to

anyone who wishes to go to a different country. We all have an obligation to follow the Declaration of Human Rights because it displays the basic rights that everyone should be able to have. There are a lot of negative feelings surrounding immigration based off of false assumptions that many people have on the topic that often make it hard to have real conversations about. Many people believe harmful stereotypes about immigrants that ultimately subjects many immigrants to racism and harmful experiences in the United States as well as other countries around the world. In the United States we can do our part by voting for people who believe in more open immigration policies as well as making immigrants in our communities feel at home. I believe that everyone should be entitled to the rights that the Declaration of Human Rights specifies; however, it is important to acknowledge that many are denied these rights simply because of where they are from or what they look like. Privileged nations where most people have these rights have a responsibility to help nations where many lack these rights, which starts with admitting people from those countries who are looking for security or a better life.

Hi Tandin! I agree with your sentiments, but I'm wondering, can you elaborate more on what specific actions people could take to make America more welcoming for them? I feel like the people that needs to hear about this the most are often the ones that don't hear this, and that's often the issue in activism. I agree that it's definitely hard to start these conversations, especially when these false assumptions make them feel like their sense of security and safety are being threatened. Are there things we can do to persuade them that it's not the case? — ZIQI

ANONYMOUS JAN 20, 2021 10:06PM

Addy K, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I think that we have the responsibility as stated by the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and specifically with the "right to life, liberty, and security of person" (Article 3). As others have stated, these rules were made by humans, meaning they will fail without active enforcement from nations. But then again, nations and borders themselves are all made by humans and there is nothing definite or permanent about them. If action is not taken to uphold and help nations in need, they too fail. This occurs far too often in developing nations with political instability and violence, resulting in the emigration and diaspora in the first place. We should work to uphold the human "right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country" by allowing immigrants in and giving them asylum, but more important, we should also work to uphold the last part of that quote by helping developing countries (Article 13). As the article states, "persistently high fertility rates across Africa have produced a... bulge of young people eager to make a better life across the Mediterranean." Birthrates in developing nations are much higher than in developed countries, increasing the number of migrants. Only by fixing the root problem of economic and political instability in nations with high rates of diaspora will immigration begin to slow down. Walls and restrictions in immigration within countries only worsen the situation. No one should have to flee their country in search for their human "right to life, liberty, and security of person" (Article 3). Richer countries, especially those whose

Rayna M, Boston MA

Helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life is our moral duty as people, but I also believe it is our responsibility to do this as Americans. We often hear about people who moved to America in search of the "American Dream" but end up failing, we advertise to the world that America is the place where anyone can succeed but that is just simply not true. Nowadays people who who are born in America need to work two jobs just to barely get by, so how is an immigrant going to be able to do any better?

I do believe everyone is entitled to the rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All of the Articles seem like common sense to me, but then again, if rules are not stated then there will be some country somewhere that exploits their citizens.

(Aidan Osowiecki) Hi Rayna! I totally agree with you sentiment about the facade the American dream puts on as false advertisement to our international community. It shouldn't make sense that our nation gets to posture as representing the moral high ground when we are still fighting for basic human rights such as universal health care. What are some ways that we can fight for a better world yet still acknowledge our wrongs? — ANONYMOUS

Hey Rayna. This is 100% true, the "American Dream" is just a pipe dream and is definitely way more difficult to obtain. For American alone, there should be more help for those who are struggling. Also as America, we should help others have the chance for this dream, even if chances of achieving it is low. Nice input. — DAMON

Hi Rayna! Echoing what the people said above, the American Dream is definitely a false advertisement for many immigrants. If anything, these people are true Americans as they are emigrating from their country, sacrificing their whole life to start anew, in order to seek a better life. How can we get people to become more compassionate towards immigrants? Like you said they often need to work multiple jobs which must be a great effort for them as a newly immigrated person. — DANNY

DAMON JAN 21, 2021 03:14AM

Damon N, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

As today's global society is, there is a responsibility for nations to help others who are in search of security and a better life. In theory we are all supposed to help each other for the betterment of society and because it would be the correct thing to do as a human, but there isn't anything that obligates humans to help each other. According to UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, people have the right to life, liberty and security of person. This is something that should be upheld. Governments and people should not actively try to restrict these rights. Other rights such as Article 13, "right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country", should not be taken away. I believe as a nation we should try to help others when resources are available. The US is very much a nation of abundance in many aspects and helping those from other nations would only help America. Under the UN, every nation should be held to the standards given. These articles are not difficult to uphold and humans should be entitled to these rights. Without any of these rights, we would feel restricted and at

the very core, less human. I believe that most people are entitled to the Articles laid out by the UN. Those who are convicted of serious crimes or people who are correctly deemed as dangerous should have a restricted version of these rights. For example those who have been convicted of being a predator should have a restricted version of Article 13. "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state." There should be restrictions for certain situations to protect others as well.

Damon, what you said about having these rights taken away and that leading to people feeling less human was a great representation about why the UDHR was created and needs to be upheld by countries with abundance, like you said. Also what you said about people like predators, who should have restricted versions of these rights since they forfeited these rights when they did what they did is something I hadn't thought about and its something that needs to be done as well. — ANDY

EMMA JAN 21, 2021 12:59AM

Emma L, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I do think we have the moral obligation to aid people — who have been forced to leave their homes — in finding security, even and especially in our own nations where we have the resources to help them. As it is written in Article 14 of the UN's Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to "seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." I think that many of the controversies regarding immigration stem from a fear that immigrants will naturally harm the country they are coming to — that "they" will take resources and jobs from "us," that "they" will spread their language and culture onto "us." Yet, as the article shows, we Americans have an extremely inflated view on the extent to which immigrants are profiting from the country's resources. All this fear and xenophobia which arises doesn't come from rational thought; rather, it is created by feelings of nationalism and superiority. We shouldn't forbid fellow humans from just trying to live life without fear, simply because we believe in set territories of countries — these man-made borders should not be a barrier to any human's safety.

I think as Americans, we especially have obligations to receive those seeking asylum because we have the resources to help others. There are so many ways in which our country exploits the resources and labor of individuals in other (and, much of the time, poorer) countries — with Jack and Grace's palm oil article being a more recent example. The NYT article also brings up a good point near its end — if richer countries do not want immigrants, why do they not help poorer countries become wealthier? Instead of helping other countries stabilize their governments and economies, the United States exploits them, boasts of its wealth, then weaponizes this disparity against struggling workers in the name of "patriotism."

I think we all have an obligation to comply with the UN's Declaration of Human Rights because we are all fundamentally human. Our human rights are bigger than any existing bounds of nationality or race — they show we are all equal humans with the

Our nations wouldn't be obliged to help those seeking security if there was no United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights because the nations responsibility is just the people in the nation. However this agreement laid the responsibility on all nations. If people don't feel secure in their nations it should be human decency to receive them with open arms. Everyone is entitled to the rights that the document states because they're basic necessities for living. Everyone deserves to be happy and comfortable in their nation. If they don't the bare minimum should be having the ability to start over somewhere else. No one is restricted to one place the world is too big for that.

For example immigrants don't normally go to a country for fun, there's always a reason whether it's for economic opportunities, educational opportunities, or a fresh start. They deserve to attain those things if their motherland fails to give them those things. It would be ignorant to not allow someone to move somewhere else because that's not "their country". No one owns any country, we're all just living in them. Everything is simply a social construct based on biases and superiority. Once everything boils down we're all people trying to live securely, comfortably, and happily no matter where.

GREC · · · · · JAN 20, 2021 08:06PM

Greg R, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

As stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, rights such as the ability to seek asylum in other countries are supposed to be guaranteed to all people. Seeing as humans created these rules, it is just as much our duty to help enforce them and ensure they are not just empty promises. Therefore we have tremendous responsibility to help others in search of security and or a better life. So do individual nations, all of which we are members. Obviously, the situation is far more complex and to have completely free and open borders is not reasonable in modern times. However, each of our nations' laws should be created in the best interest of both existing citizens and those seeking a better life through immigration. This means allowing others to seek asylum from violence, search for better economic opportunities, and find a new and better home in each of our nations. In terms of upholding the UDHR, I believe that as with everything else in life, we have an obligation to comply with and uphold these rights to the best of our ability. This means allowing as many immigrants to seek asylum and a better life as we possibly can in a method as fair as possible. This is no easy task, as worldwide there are millions of immigrants all equally deserving of better opportunity. With this in mind, I do believe that all people are deserving of these rights, unless they commit a crime severe enough to have these rights taken away. For example, I do not believe anyone who is convicted of an act such as murder should have the right to leave their country. However, all other people, regardless of their previous situations or where they come from, should be entitled to these rights and have equal access to pursue a better life through immigration.

ISABELLA · · · · · JAN 20, 2021 07:31PM

Isabella S, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

One of the most important things humans can do is make sure that others feel safe and secure. For a lot of people the countries they live in have weak economies that cause them to live in poverty, or they are in danger because of war or other reasons. My own family emigrated because they felt that their lives were in danger, and they allowed me to have a better life than they did by moving to the US. Human decency should let us see that there is no reason for preventing people from having that same chance. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights says that everyone has the "right to life, liberty, and security of person." which means no matter where people are or need to go they deserve to feel safe. Not only does immigration improve the lives of the people emigrating, but it helps everyone else, too. Most of the time immigrants do the jobs that many people, especially in America, don't want to do. Without immigrants America would not have a very good economy. That is one of the reasons that people should not want immigrants to be forced out of the countries in which they choose to settle in. The United States has always had issues with letting immigrants live and work in this country, but people seem to forget that almost everyone in this country comes from immigrants. The land that white people feel is theirs, is not, because it truly belongs to the Native Americans who were stripped from it. Immigrants are people and they deserve to be treated as everyone else is treated.

AIDAN · · · · · JAN 21, 2021 04:07AM

Aidan C, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Nowadays, the issues surrounding immigration lie primarily within the host country's willingness to admit such people. For example, the multi-ethnic nature of the United States draws even more appeal to this country as opposed to another large-scale country that is ethnically homogenous (for example, China). Yet many US citizens oppose immigration, claiming that the admission of foreigners is somehow damaging to the country. They make this claim out of fear for the supposed 'economic ramifications', or simply out of a prejudiced standpoint that "foreigners don't belong in our country". To address the latter point first, it's clear that the idea of national identity stands in the way of many countries' immigration viewpoints (not just the US). However, I believe that the entire concept of maintaining national identity through ethnic commonalities is outdated in modern day. Globalization has affected the world to an extent that people of all ethnic origins can now live in nearly any part of the world, unlike centuries ago when people were confined to a certain radius around their birthplaces. Negative sentiment towards immigrants solely because of racial biases is inherently a form of othering, which needs to be wiped out in modern day. Furthermore, immigration to the United States shouldn't be a problem based on an economic viewpoint, given the rate at which the government has been printing USD in recent years. In fact, I believe that the need for more jobs could actually stimulate the economy, especially in a time when COVID-19 has damaged the US market greatly.

economies are supported by exploiting and stealing the resources of others (which often results in the economic and political instabilities that these nations face), have the obligation of upholding and providing the human rights of those who lack them.

JALEL | FEB 18, 2021 02:45AM

Jalel (Tunisia) Brain drain

The article mentions that a good number of people who immigrate from economically underprivileged countries to richer ones are educated and are going to benefit the countries they immigrate to. We are witnessing this in Tunisia as we have been suffering from a huge brain drain that looks like a bleeding wound in the body of the country since the 2011 (the year of the Tunisian "unfinished" revolution). Doctors, engineers, technicians and many other highly qualified people left the country to settle mainly in Europe and countries of the Arabian Gulf. So I agree with the article that the rich countries should help the less privileged countries to build a better economy if they really want to help them and reduce the number of immigrants from these countries.

Hi Jalel! Thank you for posting, I have never heard of this "brain drain" before or considered the impact of countries losing their expert personnel, which is such an important resource! Thanks again for sharing this. — EMMA

Thank you Emma. We have been suffering for years for the loss of people whose qualifications and expertise could contribute to lowering immigration especially to Europe as they can create wealth and development if they stay home. — JALEL

Really cool post Jalel! Because we live in the United States and the focus is so heavily on immigrants moving to our country, I had not considered that countries could be so negatively affected by people leaving! I am curious to know, what has Tunisia tried to do to try and prevent this "brain drain"? — GREG

I totally agree that wealthier countries should help lower-income countries develop, especially if their citizens are so worried about immigration—why not just stop it from its source and help eliminate the push factors that tragically drive people away from their homes? In my opinion, one first step to doing this right now is helping lower-income countries acquire COVID vaccines. — JACK

Hi Jalel! Thank you for posting your opinions, your opinions are really valued. I agree with your view that more countries especially wealthier countries should help. I was wondering about the extent of the brain drain. How has the brain drain effected Tunisia economically and also how the medical field has differed since 2011? — REGINA

Hi Jalel! Thank you so much for sharing your response it is so interesting to hear from people in different locations. I completely agree with your opinion that lower income countries should be assisted by wealthier ones. What solutions do you think could fix this issue in Tunisia? — SILVIA

Hi Jalel! Great response, I never really considered brain drain in regard to immigration. Oftentimes, people think that immigrants come from the lower class but they can come from many different backgrounds. Your post made me wonder, has this "brain drain" in Tunisia affected your country's progress in COVID-19 relief? — GRACE

(Aidan Osowiecki) Hi Jalel! I agreed with your sentiments on the "brain drain" that is occurring in Tunisia and how the international community should respond to these types of situations. Wealthier nations who have a larger pool of resources at their disposal should invest in other developing communities to ensure greater prosperity for every human being. In order to slow this "brain drain", what economic industries should be expanded to ensure that the education population stays? — ANONYMOUS

Rachel Roncka: This is a really interesting perspective that I have not heard of before! It reminds me of a video I saw about how in some countries healthcare workers will be paid less than taxi cab drivers, even though they are saving lives everyday. I imagine it is factors like this that drive this brain drain of professionals leaving to work in other countries where salaries might be higher. Do you know how the government or other leaders are responding to the brain drain? — ANONYMOUS

Hi Jalel. The perspective you give is pretty interesting. I feel like the term "brain drain" is usually used the other way around, being immigrants coming to more developed countries, learning, and going back benefit their own country. Stating that the country that is losing people is feeling the relief of the "brain drain" is a real perspective that is true. Thanks for your input! — DAMON

Completely in agreement with you, Jalel! When you refer to Tunisia's "unfinished" revolution, you mean to refer to the Arab Spring protests which started in Tunisia, correct? I had heard of Tarek el-Tayeb Mohamed Bouazizi's suicide and the aftermath of the protests, which I'm sure you're familiar with. So, I am wondering if you're familiar with the work of UN Women, the International Labor Organization and Transparency International because I heard these organizations had some projects there to help Tunisians in unemployment and poverty. If so, have they actually been able to make an impact and help people in your country? — OURANIA

Hi Jalel! Thank you for sharing the situation in Tunisia! I agree that it's a big concern that because an exodus of people are immigrating, those who are left behind are without the same opportunities and resources as those who left. I also agree with Jack's point about wealthier countries targeting the very push factors that cause the high immigration rates to occur as something of a solution if the concern for immigration is so high. Do you know the demographics of the Tunisian immigrants, and does it affect the state of the country in any way? — DEANNA IRIS

Wow Jalel, this is very interesting! Astounding to hear how large the issue of the "brain drain" is. How has this impacted the people, rather than the economy? Are there more health issues now that there are less doctors? I definitely think immigration is a two way street - there is the opportunity for tremendous gain for the immigrants, and the opportunity for tremendous loss for the people they leave behind - Brooks G., USA — ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 20, 2021 08:09PM

Eileen L, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I completely agree that preventing refugees from immigrating further stigmatizes this natural process. I also agree with what you said that wealthier nations need to give more widespread aid to developing countries so people are able to stay safely in their countries. I also agree that collectively people need to ignore the xenophobic sentiments that are spread by the media and leaders, but how do you think people can start to do this if all they have seen are negative stereotypes about immigrants? – TANDIN

REGINA
JAN 26, 2021 04:55PM

Regina C, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I think we have a responsibility to give what we can to the people around us. The idea of security and a better life stem from the opinion that what is given is unjust to the person. The first step is to come to the realization of the corrupt system that people are seeking other places to go for refugee as a problem. From the other side of the spectrum, I feel that we have the responsibility to admit people seeking security or a better life. The reason it is restricted now is due to fear that drives a force into the corrupt idea that immigrants are bad. Going off of the idea of immigrants stealing jobs, they are going for jobs that usually require labor that most Americans would not comply with, many will end up working more intensively, get paid less, and suffer more in order to obtain an inch of what the stereotypical white American man has. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be the fundamental obligations everyone should follow. In order to create a space where we as humans are setting a standard of equality, it will only further our respect for one another. By enforcing these ideas, it will solve a lot of the stigma placed around people or culture that we fear and do not have as much knowledge about. We only fear what we ourselves do not understand or are given certain viewpoints to follow, by enforcing these ideas, there will be a clearer picture as the respect we should have for one another is in place which will create a space for conversation and personal statements. Yet I think it is impossible to get to a point of the majority to up stand these morals as many people especially in America where many of peoples values are capitalistic and are worried about the individual continuing to progress ahead. I also thought article 6 was shocking because of how little it was expressed in the United States. Going back to the idea of the power of the individual in America, without article 6, laws instated prioritize certain people over others which creates again the idea of capitalism and progressing further than others, that in my opinion is going to be very hard and possibly impossible to ever achieve due to individual values.

DANNY
JAN 20, 2021 12:17AM

Danny N, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I believe that immigration restrictions are immoral and that we have a responsibility to help immigrants and refugees. Preventing refugees that are seeking a better opportunity further contributes to the stigma that immigrants are bad and that they are stealing jobs, or at least that is the rhetoric being said here in the United States. If one can move between cities for a better job opportunity, why can't immigrants? They often start off with low-skill and low-

wage jobs which most Americans would not want anyways. There's definitely a lot of misleading claims made about immigrants here in the United States. In the New York Times article, it stated that many people overestimate the number of immigrants in their countries by almost 20% and about 15% of people surveyed believed that immigrants receive twice as much funding from the government than natives. This further causes a divide within the country and creates an us vs. them situation where immigrants are othered. This was historically seen in the Chinese Massacre of 1871 where Chinese people were lynched in Old Chinatown in California and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, both of which were economically driven. Anyone should be able to immigrate to another country for economic reasons without being attacked or accused of stealing jobs. I definitely agree with the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights as it demands that all humans are equal. But in order for these rights to be made, there must be an effort to help others that are not in a position of economic stability, political stability, environmental stability, or any other privilege.

I completely agree with your opinion on allowing those seeking asylum and a better life into our country. I liked that you included the part where they most likely would have low-income jobs when they first come over because it further disproves the stereotype that immigrants are enemies and competition. Everyone should be able to relocate in order to receive security without being degraded or attacked. – SILVIA

SILVIA GUARNOTTA
JAN 20, 2021 12:08AM

Silvia G, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I completely believe that everyone has the responsibility to admit people seeking security and a better life to our nation. People face immense struggles within their country and need to seek safety elsewhere and are turned away constantly. Every individual deserves to relocate in order to find a better life no matter where they originate from. We have the responsibility to assist those struggling and provide comfort and protection. Within America these people are met with racism and discrimination, blatantly denied the security they require. Throughout history immigrants have been viewed as enemies and dangerous, leading to false stereotypes being spread out of proportion. This has caused many to be influenced by the news and our president and harass and mistreat those coming to our country. We have the obligation to withhold the articles within the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights regardless of where the individual immigrated from. These rights are crucial within society and must be followed in order to treat everyone equally and welcome those in need. Everyone should be able to seek asylum, leave their country, and find security within another nation. These rights apply to every human being because everyone is entitled to receive the same opportunities and freedoms. The fact that these rights have been challenged and dismissed is horrific and needs to be followed with repercussions.

beyond tangible factors however, I do agree with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in their statements regarding the acceptance of migrants seeking refuge in another country. As previously mentioned, globalization has increased accessibility to other countries for many people around the world. This means that those who are struggling within their current environment are sure to pursue a better life elsewhere, simply out of human instinct. If this opportunity is present, yet it is withheld by the host country, then we are preventing people from the unalienable right to their pursuit of happiness, a mantra written within the Constitution of our very own country. Many also forget that migrants do not necessarily have an easy process of immigration - in many cases, escape from their original country is a "final resort" of sorts when all else fails. Within circumstances like these, to deprive people of entry into a haven would be extremely cruel and inhumane. As stated in the previous paragraph, we take minimal loss when migrants enter our country, and I believe that even if there was damage to our own country, our prevailing sense of human righteousness and dignity should overrule that sentiment. America was founded upon immigration, and this theme has been pervasive throughout its history. Yet, in past decades, many have tried to oppose the very thing which has defined our land for ages. Of all countries in the world right now, America has the largest obligation to allow immigrants into our country. Consider our ancestors, who sought better life in the land which we now call home - if they had the chance, then so should the people of today, seeking a better life in America.

GRACE · JAN 20, 2021 01:45AM

Grace P, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I believe that every country has the obligation to admit immigrants, who have fled their countries because of poverty, violence, or the impacts of climate change on their homes. It is not fair that only certain groups of people have the fundamental rights of security, liberty, and life, which are entitled to everyone. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be strictly upheld by every nation as it outlines natural rights that ensure a world of equality. It is also important to point out that most of the United States' population consists of descendants of immigrants so why should any American citizen deprive immigrants of the same desire to live a better life? In the United States, as well as many other nations, anti-immigrant sentiment is often driven by stereotypes like "immigrants steal your jobs" or "immigrants live off of government welfare systems," both of which are false. This fear against immigrants is also emphasized by how people in the United States and in Europe tend to exaggerate the number of immigrants in their country to build onto the notion that immigrants are corrupt and want to take over. However, the reality is that immigrants help our economy. They often take on occupations that require more manual labor, like nail technicians, construction workers, janitors, and housekeepers. These are jobs that other people do not want because of the exposure to chemicals or other dangers. In addition, my country's low birth rate means that there are less people to take up jobs. This factor

goes further to show that immigrants would benefit the economy by taking up these unoccupied jobs. If people reach out to immigrants, they will have a more positive impression of immigrants. They would be able to recognize their work ethic, sense of independence, and courage. Ultimately, allowing immigrants the same universal liberties by helping them seek social and economic stability and security will create a more open and robust society.

I agree with a lot of the points you made here about how immigrants are stigmatized, not just in the U.S. but in other parts of the world, for the fear that they're taking over the economy. I resonate especially when you pointed out how the U.S. and Europe are motivatedly exaggerating their immigration numbers to emphasize the false idea that immigrants are "job-stealers", and for the purpose of furthering their political agenda. In the case that immigration policies improve, there will also be an influx of immigrants, so how do you think more conservative people can view immigrants in a more positive light? — DEANNA IRIDI...

ANONYMOUS · JAN 20, 2021 12:54AM

Aidan O, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I think we as Americans, and every nation as an international community, should be obligated to welcome everybody with open arms no matter where they come from. Preventing refugees from immigrating to a more developed nation in seek of a better life further stigmatizes migration, which is an organic human process. Actions such as these also upholds the classist and often-times racist (as themes of our socio-economy and race intersect) social order that we as a global society have contributed to throughout our history. US citizens and other members of Western societies must ignore the xenophobic sentiments being spread by our media and community leaders. Often-times many of these stereotypes that they create to describe a prototype immigrant are intertwined in racist and coded tropes that have no basis in reality. Our institutions utilize this derogatory imagery in order to grow support for their own agendas. Regarding the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I do believe that everyone is entitled to the rights listed in the document. However, I do believe that many of the human rights abuses that we have seen throughout our our history and in our present comes down to the fact that wealthier nations aren't giving the aid that is needed to maintain a healthy amount of community vitality throughout the whole globe. These stereotypes about migrants and refugees being inferior all stem from the idea that many of them are coming from communities that are less well off then the one they are entering to. If aid was given aid was more widely spread throughout the developing world in order to better both economic and societal infrastructures, less people would have to assimilate to foreign cultures (right to nationality) or seek refuge away from their homeland (right to asylum). Although these rights are essential to the world we live in today and to any society in general, in order to prevent the images of inferiority and stigma that is on the backs of migrants, we must invest in the communities they are emigrating from.

Jack T., Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I believe we have a great responsibility to help refugees and immigrants seeking a better life. Especially in regard to my own country, the wealthiest in the world, we can easily afford to accommodate more refugees than we are currently (I believe Trump lowered it to around 45,000 or something). I see no reason why we would not have the space and resources to actually accommodate many times more than that--yes, more than Biden's proposed increase to 125,000. Unemployment is extremely low anyway and I believe the "immigrants will steal your jobs" thinking is economically flawed. Immigrants made us greater in the past and will continue to do so, if only we give them a chance. To not do so is to condemn too many to facing the violence, poverty, or persecution they originally fled from. As I'm sure everyone will

agree, our Zero Tolerance and Remain in Mexico policies are huge moral and humanitarian failures that reflect the unhappy results of inflating unfounded fears around immigrants.

I also 100% stand by everything in the UDHR. The rights outlined in it are fundamental and make total sense- they make clear that to be human is to have dignity, and respect this powerful ideal is the easiest but most impactful way to better society. Since the US ratified it, it should be making every effort to comply with its demands--especially Article 23 and 25. In the past the US has often prioritized individual freedom (sometimes to the extreme) over the rights of the many, to great detriment, (think courts striking down mask mandates and closures of religious buildings) and this document would help prevent that.

(02 H-->N) Civic obligation: What is our responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life? Do we have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and/or a better life to each of our nations? What obligations do we have to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Do you believe that everyone is entitled to the rights that the document specifies? Tell us why or why not.

Please post below, with your name and country indicated!

JUDI FREEMAN JAN 15, 2021 10:55PM

ANONYMOUS FEB 12, 2021 09:48PM

Faruk S, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

I believe that every person who simply wants a better life should be given a chance. Quite a few European nations have aging population, so it's in their best interests to ease immigration control. Of course, background checks are absolutely necessary in my opinion. If the person truly just wants a better life then they should have the chance to do so. There's no reason not to accept an honest, hard-working person. On the other hand - if they're a criminal who wants to escape justice, then of course they must not be allowed to do so.

I wouldn't say it has to be a legal responsibility but it is a moral responsibility. If a certain country is going through an economic crisis, or if its own citizens are massively unemployed, then there is no sense bringing in even more people who will be unemployed. However, most countries people tend to migrate to can accept migrants.

In my opinion if a country is a member state of the United Nations, it should support any resolutions and declarations adopted by the UN, and therefore this one as well.

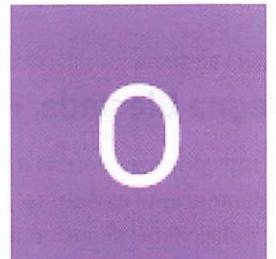
Unless the person is a criminal avoiding prosecution (but not persecution), I believe that the person is completely entitled to these rights. We are all human beings, after all. The sooner everyone realizes that, the sooner humanity starts looking towards the stars - not towards surviving.

MAURO QUIZHPE FEB 07, 2021 05:50PM

OLIVIA BURKE (oburke31)

See all the wonderful things OLIVIA BURKE has made

PADLET



ANONYMOUS FEB 04, 2021 08:26PM

Saeed , Lebanon

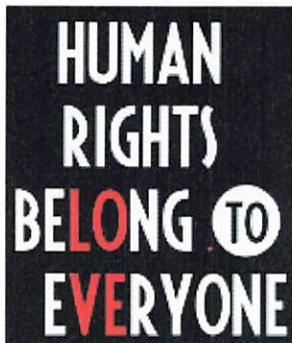
I consider that we should all admit people security or better life . Because trust me if these people are happy in their countries and are supplied with all their rights they would never leave thier land and beloved ones, thats why every illegal immigrant should be respected and treated in good manners rather than the benifits the nations would get. Not to mention, that every civilian in a country should comply and treat people according to united nations universal declaration of human rights, since its the basic rights any single living thing on earth should have . Unfortunately, alot of people are not entitled to all their rights, basically they should stand up for their rights and fight for it because its the most primitive thing a human needs to survive in 21th century.

Hope you all doing well and stay safe

Bivushi Tamrakar, Pokhara, Nepal

I believe that every human being deserves to have access to security and a better life experience. I truly believe that it is our responsibility to admit people seeking security and a better life to each of our nations. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically states 30 rights that all humans should have, and it's Nepal's duty to follow it, not only because we agreed to, but also because it's the right thing to do.

To sum up, Nepal as a member of the United Nations, must do everything possible to help the people who suffer in their country and seek asylum and I personally think that it should be the duty of every nation in the world to ensure these rights to their every member of its population.



JAGNA BIESIADA JAN 31, 2021 06:20PM

Jagna Biesiada, Poland

In my country, there is a lot of talk about respecting human rights. Poland grants asylum to people who cannot feel safe due to wars or political persecution in their country. Many citizens from eastern neighbors found in Poland a home and a job which they needed for the economic reasons of their country. My country isn't crowded with refugees like other countries. I believe that every country should abide by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and try to create conditions to accept and help immigrants who are forced to look for a new place to live in order to survive. I believe that every person on earth has the rights specified in the document, because everyone deserves a dignified life in good conditions and free choice where he wants to live. As you know, there are countries that violate basic human rights. We, as member states of the United Nations, must do everything possible to help the people who suffer in their country and seek asylum. It is known that sometimes people are driven by prejudices, so we should work to be more tolerant and not shut ourselves off from others out of our selfishness. Everyone should be aware of the obligation to comply with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but at the same time thing that if we were to be in a situation where we would have to leave our countries looking for help, we would count on other countries to help us.

Saul Hodin, Boston, USA

I believe just as humans, it is our job to help others who need it. No human deserves to live in poor and harmful conditions, so I think it is our responsibility, as those with the ability to help, to do so. Every human has the right to security and a life without needless suffering. I think, especially because we are a strong and relatively safe nation, which means we are given the responsibility to help others seeking a better life. Many people would suffer without our help, and if we have the ability to, it's our job as decent humans to take that responsibility upon ourselves. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically states rights that all humans should have, and it's America's responsibility to follow it, not only because we agreed to, but also because it's the right thing to do.

ZIANE ROBERTS CLARKE JAN 27, 2021 11:53PM

Ziane Roberts-Clarke, Boston, MA, USA

As citizens of a global society, we should be striving as much as possible to make things easier for each other. I understand that every nation has viable concerns such as the economy and resources that are unique to their environment, but it is simply immoral to allow another human being to be in need on account of selfishness. Governments should focus on creating sturdy economies that can meet the demands of providing for those who are in need. Immigrants are vital for societies to continue to survive and thrive, just as loan words are necessary for languages to continue to be spoken.

NATALIE SALTER JAN 27, 2021 10:38PM

Natalie Salter, Boston, USA

I believe that every human being deserves to have access to security and a better life experience, because it is our basic desire as humans. Who are we to turn away our fellow humans in need of help. Immigrants should be offered asylum and the ability to have a better life, because families would not immigrate illegally to this country if the immigration policy was not so strict, and the questions so difficult. Everyone is entitled to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human rights, as the name suggests it is open to everyone hence universal.

I agree! Who are we to turn away fellow humans who are in need of help. I also agree that everyone is entitled to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human rights and that the name of it even proves it is meant for everyone. — ALLISON BEARD

I agree too. Everyone deserves the right to seek a better lives for themselves. For those of us lucky enough to live in developed countries, we should be inclined to help out those who wish to better their lives too. - Christopher Nguyen — ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 27, 2021 08:02AM

Christian Lerich, Boston, USA

AS humans were all obligated to help each other out, the mindset of every man for himself makes a very difficult quality of living for those who are genuinely less fortunate and those who don't have the means to be as financially stable as you are. In terms of admissions, there's always risks when entering a foreign presence into anything, whether that be in your personal life or whatever, however when it comes down to someone seeking refuge and better opportunities, it doesn't make sense not to at least give them the chance and opportunity to have those things. However that doesn't mean freely open borders, that means carefully process things, keep people safe while allowing people opportunities to flow in and out. I feel as though every person, and every nation should have the decency to comply with the Universal Declaration of Rights, because it doesn't lessen the rights or condition of nations, but raises the quality of living for many people. Everyone is entitled to these rights as they are human rights, article 14 may become an issue when the persecution is judicial persecution, however regardless everyone is entitled to these rights regardless of past and history

I agree with you that completely open borders are not the right move. It is very important to give immigrants the chance to go to a new country in order to succeed. The UDHR is very important because it sets a worldwide precedent for justice and human rights.
— VINCENT

ANONYMOUS JAN 27, 2021 03:35AM

Mauro from Ecuador

Many people claim that we are all equal and have the same rights. I think it is true because according to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights all people have the right to life, liberty, and security. First of all, we can help people who don't have the resources to live, for example, migrants who come searching for work and a better life are often marginalized. But we can help these people by respecting them and treating them as equals because we are all humans. Furthermore, I think that we have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and a better life to each of our nations because they have a family, and they need, food, education, and they are free to decide where they want to live. Also, immigrants have often delivered economic benefits to the countries taking them in, so we should not discriminate against them. Finally, there are a lot of obligations that we have to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for example, we have to respect people regardless of their race, color, and of course their nationality because we are all the same. But I think that unfortunately there are many people who are discriminated against for example in for example in Muslim countries, where women don't have the same rights as men.



I completely agree, I think respecting people and treating them equally regardless of their identity or background is a very good place to start. How do you think that we could effectively work towards achieving this? - Isabella Cessa — ISABELLA

I agree with your opinion about helping people by letting migrants seeking a better life into the country, as that is what helping people is all about. Does your country get migrants looking for a better life, and how does your country see these cases? - Natalie Salter
— NATALIE

I love the picture you used to go along with your response, it really captures your main point. I agree with your response and noticed how you emphasized that that every human whether a immigrant or not has their own life going on. A lot of terrible things have been said about immigrants and I think your response counteracted that.
— MEGA

I completely agree with what you said about at the very least treating immigrants as human equals and respecting them, because I think that often times people don't even do that. I have a similar question to Natalie but, how does your country usually deal with issues surrounding immigration? - OLIVIA P

I think your emphasis on the fact that we are all human beings is a very important thing to remember. People tend to forget that even those they consider "inferior" are humans. I agree with what you said in regards to immigrants delivering many economic benefits! A lot of people spread misinformation about how immigrants are stealing jobs, but fail to realize that they share similar aspirations in life. — TIFFANY

I agree that immigrants often bring economic benefits to their new countries. Even though immigrants often face discrimination, they only want a better life for themselves and their families
— VINCENT

I really appreciate how you look at all the benefits posed to accepting immigrants and why there is no harm in accepting those in need. Its true, the ability to help some people is usually much easier to reach than many people think. — SAUL

This was a very thoughtful and insightful response. I agree that no one should have to suffer worse living conditions just because they were born into a violent and hostile nation. In developing countries especially, there can be high rates of crime and violence, and no one should have to suffer these consequences just because they were born in a country that isn't as safe as ours. Like you said, we are all humans. — JOHN

I also agree and I love the picture you provided for us and your response was very thoughtful so thank you! I agree with you by saying that we should treat people the same no matter their background and that we should help all people who are seeking jobs or safety. — ALLISON BEARD

Yeah I agree with you. Everyone is human. We all want to live the best life we can. Although not everyone will treat immigrants with respect, if the majority of us give them a helping hand, everyone will benefit. — Christopher Nguyen — ANONYMOUS

Thanks for bringing up that point that immigrants often deliver economic benefits to the countries taking them in. Many people think the opposite is true. I liked the simplicity of some of your words- "we are all humans." I think sometimes that's just where we need to start.

Do you notice discrimination towards immigrants in Ecuador? I enjoyed reading your response! — LUKAS

I fully agree with your point made about immigration. In a lot of nations, they feel hesitant to let such a large amount of immigrants into the country because they believe the economy will tarnish and that it would create an unsafe space for citizens. I wonder if you have any ideas on how we can combat the stigma made around immigrants seeking security or the immigration system.

— EMILY

ANONYMOUS JAN 24, 2021 10:24AM

Florence from Rwanda

(1) according to article 25 of USA declaration of human Rights: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

In Rwanda, we use to pay health insurance via mutuel de Santé to poor family members so as to access better life. Via community work people from the same village can build a house to a poor family so as to access shelter. And those who has a job like me (a teacher), we as an institution (working in one school) gather money and buy a house for poor family in the community. For security everyone participate in the community policing so as to report where there is violation of human rights to a neighbor.

I found this really interesting, do you believe that this is an effective way to help poor families who need shelters and houses? Or is it ineffective? I also wonder, how does the community policing work, are all the allegations taken seriously? — EB

I really enjoyed your commentary regarding the community-based attitude in your town in Rwanda. Do you believe that these are good practices, or would you prefer another means of solving societal issues? — ZIANF

This is really interesting, especially where you talked about how your own community helps with the less fortunate in your community. Do you think it would be more helpful with government aid? Or to just have the government not involved. — NATALIE

I love hearing about your community and what you personally are doing for your community. I like how you compared what you are doing to the overall message of helping others in times of need.

— MEGAN

I find it interesting that people come together to help the less fortunate out to ensure that they can have access to a better life. What do you think allows the people in communities to decide to come together in order to help the less fortunate? — Shuwen

— ANONYMOUS

I think that it is really cool that your community can come together as one to achieve a common goal. I really like that idea about community policing to hold each other responsible.

— VINCENT

Your response was really interesting, as I never knew about such a communal aspect of living. It was nice to see how you and your community are giving your best efforts in providing a safe and healthy life for everyone. — PATTY

This was so refreshing to read about; it warms my heart to know that your community in Rwanda is actively working toward supporting those who need the help. It really does show that you are upholding Article 25! Do you think it is enough for individual communities to do this work, or should it be expanded to more areas? — DIANA

— ANONYMOUS

I think its incredible how community work is so integrated in your life and your community's lives. I think that it is very important for everyone to participate in their communities whether it be voluntarily or mandatory. In your opinion, do you think that community work should be mandatory? And if not, why? — Thank

— ANONYMOUS

This is a very thought provoking response. I never knew of the strength of community in Rwanda. I think that it is so inspiring how you all work together when someone needs help, even if you do not know them personally. I also love how you all stick up for each other in regards to human rights violations. I wish that our country had a similar sense of community, but we are very divided. One question I have is: how far does this community of support stretch? Is it across the whole country? Is it a bunch of smaller supportive communities that are intertwined? — JOHN

Thank you so much for your response and some insight on your country! I also really liked listening to the work you and your community are doing to help in Rwanda, it is truly inspiring. It is very difficult in the world right now and it is good to see that people are supporting each other. — ALLISON

Loved reading that. The community-centered approach to promoting human rights seems to be effective. Do people ever run into problems with the community policing? Something tells me we wouldn't have the trust necessary for that to work here. I think that's awesome that you and people in your community voluntarily do that work regularly of helping poor families, since they deserve the rights to everything you mentioned. — LUKAS

Thank you for sharing that! I find it fascinating how close-knit communities can be and how society can be about sharing and relying on one another. It's really surprising to see the differences between communities around me and the one you shared. I wonder if there was ever a time when people felt less willing to contribute?

— EMILY

I love that your community does so much to support those in need and thank you for sharing that. I feel like other countries need to take a page out of Rwanda's book. Is everyone in your country on board with this idea or is there any resistance? – MAIA DOOLEY

ANONYMOUS JAN 22, 2021 09:51PM

Derrick M, Melbourne, Australia

I resolutely believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to seek asylum in other countries and build a better life. This is because we are all human beings and should be afforded equal rights and treatment, irrespective of race, religion, gender, social class or personal beliefs. Personal autonomy is something that is also a fundamental human right, which means that others should not prevent people from attempting to achieve their personal goals. Furthermore, immigrants are often a precious desideratum within countries seeking economic growth, as the migration of skilled workers helps create new jobs. In Australia, we are often characterised as a "melting pot of cultures". Crude example notwithstanding, I think that Australian society is so successful due to the flourishing multiculturalism which defines the nation. The UN's Universal Declaration of Human rights is a moral obligation which all nations must oblige with, as doing otherwise is against the spirit of humanity

I really like how you described Australian culture. Do you think that there is also some ostracization or antagonization towards any immigrants that enter Australia? – Christian Leriche – ANONYMOUS

I think the way you described Australia as being a "melting pot of cultures" is very similar to how the USA is often described! Unfortunately though, there is a lot of anti-immigrant sentiment here, and so if there is anything similar in Australia, my question is how do people who have these opinions justify their opposition to immigrants? – JASMINE .

I love how you really highlight the positive aspects of immigration such as the melting pot of cultures or economic benefits. A question I have though is, in Australia, is there a general attitude toward immigration or is it fairly divisive as in the US? – OLIVIA

I completely agree with you that everyone deserves the opportunity to seek asylum. You mentioned that immigrants can bring about economic growth and new jobs. In the U.S. the argument is often made that immigrants will "steal" jobs from American citizens and have a negative impact on the economy, and I was wondering if this same argument is made in Australia? – MARGARET

I like how you gave moral, lawful, and economical reasons to support immigration. In America, many people tend to support white immigrants more than immigrants who are people of color, and I am wondering how this compares to acceptance in Australia. –Maya – ANONYMOUS

I agree with you that everyone deserves to seek asylum, I am interested to hear more about the multiculturalism in Australia. In the US we have tend to have different political standpoints that relatively coincide with geographic location, I was wondering if theyre might be something similar in Australia? –Olivia – ANONYMOUS

I love how you mentioned Australia's multiculturalism as an important attribute to the nation. I think people tend to forget how beautiful immigration is, and how much immigrants contribute to a flourishing society. In the U.S. we have a lot of negative stigma surrounding immigrants, and I was wondering if Australia had any similar issues in regards to immigration? – TIFFANY

Your response was so eloquently and beautifully written! You brought up so many points, especially about the many positives of immigration as I feel that those are often overshadowed by anti-immigration sentiments. My question is: How does Australia compare to the United States in terms of their attitudes towards immigration? – PATTY

Your post is so well written! I found it very interesting how you brought up the diversity in Australia and I think that it's very essential for everyone to be surrounded by diverse cultures. I was wondering about the negatives of immigration in Australia (i.e. anti-immigration laws, discriminatory legislature, etc.). – Thanh – ANONYMOUS

I love how your post pays homage to immigration; it truly demonstrates the impacts and importance of immigrants being a "precious desideratum" within places like Australia and the US. You described the act of upholding these rights as a "moral obligation." Would you consider it a civic obligation as well? – DIANA

I like your stance on immigration and your open-mindedness. However, I think that immigrants who come into a new country don't always have to be skilled workers for a country's economic improvement. No matter if they are unskilled and skilled workers, immigrants are usually one of the most hard working groups of people, resulting in the economic growth of a country in general. – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 10:52PM

Tia H, Boston MA

We absolutely have the responsibility to help fellow human beings search for security and a better life because everyone deserves that chance. Immigrants seek asylum for a various number of reasons whether it's to escape bad circumstances in their home country or searching for a country that provides them with more opportunities and freedom. Our country is made of immigrants so there is no reason we should ever turn them away. Everyone is entitled to the rights of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human rights because the document specifies that is it everyone's right and even "universal" is in the name.

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 05:00PM

Paarth A, India, Haryana

I think each nation does have a responsibility to admit people from other countries, seeking security or a better life. It is clearly the morally correct act. But, some less-developed countries may not have the resources to allow immigrants, while some other countries may have political or social issues. "The world is too small for anything but brotherhood." As the article hints, immigration is not only morally right, it is also an opportunity. Countries gain a lot from the inflow of people from different regions - cultural enhancement, human resource enhancement,

and many more. The Dalai Lama has often commended India for being a “developing” country, but still allowing immigrants from other regions and providing them security. Any country which is capable of providing security and shelter to other individuals, especially the wealthy and developed countries, should offer their resources to those who need it desperately enough to leave their home nation.

Though the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not legally binding, any country which does not comply with it would be faced with criticism and lack of moral integrity. These rights should be provided to everyone equally by every nation in this world.

Every single individual is entitled to these rights, they are the basic rights which define a human being's freedom to live in this world. They are inalienable and it should be the duty of every nation to ensure these rights to their every member of its population.

I really like the quote you used, but I'm also curious as to how India does its border control, such as immigrant admission and security? - Christian ... - ANONYMOUS

I agree with you that wealthier and developed countries should especially be welcoming people from other nations who are seeking security, because they have more resources to share. I was wondering, is there a general opinion in India about immigrants and is there is any anti-immigrant sentiment, like there is in the US? - JASMINE ...

I completely agree that as long as the countries have the means to do so, they should allow people from other countries to enter seeking security. You mention how there is some criticism around India being developing and still allowing immigrants, do you have an opinion on that? - OLIVIA ...

I agree that a country's resources have a big impact on their abilities to admit immigrants. I was wondering how you think countries should determine if they have the resources to accept immigrants, especially since in many countries there is a big divide in resources throughout the country and wealth and opportunity can be concentrated in certain areas. - MARGARET ...

I like and agree with your statement about how although all countries should welcome immigrants, some are not able to due to the lack of resources. From an inside perspective, do you think India is developed enough or does it have enough supplies to welcome more immigrants? - Mayc ... - ANONYMOUS

I agree with you that not all countries are able to allow immigrants for various reason. I am wondering why you think some countries that have the resources to accept immigrants still turn away and not allow entry to those in need? - Shuwen Mei - ANONYMOUS

sefud - PATTY ...

I loved your integration of the quote, I thought it really elevated your point about how those seeking a better life is a morally justified act. I was wondering how you think about the anti-immigrant sentiments that continue to thrive in well-developed countries? - PATTY ...

I agree with you ideas on inalienable human rights, after reading your post about stances on immigration in India, I wondered what your thoughts on America's immigration laws compared to Indias? - Olivia ... - ANONYMOUS

I completely agree with the idea that larger and more wealthy countries have more of an obligation to help others since they have the means to do so and I think its amazing that with India being seen as a developing county, immigration is still allowed at a higher level than a lot of other countries. I think this goes to show that immigration can be a really positive thing for a country and more specifically their economy. My question is how does citizenship work for immigrants in India and do you think it is even necessary? - MAIA ...

JASMINE ... JAN 21, 2021 06:47AM

Jasmine L, Boston, MA, USA

We do have the responsibility to admit anyone seeking security or a better life because 1. I think it is the right thing to do, but also 2. According to the NYT article: “immigrants have often delivered economic benefits to the countries taking them in”. Because it is international law, the declaration is not binding but rather norms we should follow. However I believe that everyone is entitled to the rights that the declaration specifies because it is called the universal declaration, meaning it applies to all people across the world, and no one can be excluded. For example in 2017, former President Trump signed a travel ban, banning non-citizens from 7 countries (later 13) from entering the US, many of which had Muslim majority populations - known commonly as the “Muslim ban”. But today President Biden signed an executive order revoking the ban, on his first day in office. I think Trump's ban was a direct violation of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights: the “right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution” (Article 14), and Biden was definitely right in revoking it.

MAIA ... JAN 21, 2021 04:02AM

Maia ... Boston, USA

We as people have a responsibility to offer asylum to those in need and to allow them security in our nations. When people in countries other than our own are being denied their human rights, I think it is our duty to provide them sanctuary and aid, especially when we have all the means to do so. There is no reason why we shouldn't accept immigrants from other countries when our country is built upon immigration and providing freedom and opportunity for those who seek it. I think it is morally and ethically unjust for countries to deny acceptance to those in need or who seek it and I therefore agreed with the United Nations Declaration. I don't understand how the declaration of human rights could be questioned since we are all people who deserve the same amount of respect and opportunities especially when their livelihood and security are being threatened. Our countries should be jumping at the chance to help those in need since we have all been helped at one time or another.

I totally agree with your statement on how surprising it is how the rights and happiness of people is under question, seems like a given right? - TALIA

MYERS JAN 21, 2021 03:55AM

Myers Boston, USA

I absolutely believe that we have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and/or a better life to each of our nations. There shouldn't be a debate as no matter what race you are you should be able to have the right to be admitted into a nation for better security or a better life. Lastly, I think that everyone should be entitled to the rights that the document specifies because all humans are equal as in the end no human should deserve special privileges over another just because of things such as race or gender.

On the premise of nation admission, I didn't really bring up race, so I was excited to see that you did. on that basis, do you also think that nation admissions are controlled based on gender as well? - Christian Leriche - ANONYMOUS

NAYELI JAN 21, 2021 04:06AM

Nayeli Boston USA

We have a responsibility to help fellow human beings in their search for a better life because no one should be left behind to circumstances that are outside of their control. The obligations we must comply with according to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights is to allow everyone seek asylum, leave their country if they desire and the right to live with liberty and security. These rights should be the bare minimum for countries to follow, and it is sad to see many countries not complying. It's shameful that asylum seekers have been criminalized and dehumanized by a variety of nations.

When discussing the topic of helping fellow human beings, the discussion should never veer partisan because it is every single person's duty both morally and from the Declaration of Human Rights to ensure that these rights are given. Every person is guaranteed the rights in the Declaration because if you try to justify a person not having basic rights, you are steps away from the actions that have resulted in genocides, caste systems, government-backed discrimination and wars.

In the US the government needs to immediately put a stop to the rhetoric against immigrants, since it's rooted in racism and misinformation. This country was built from the ground up by immigrants so it's illogical to refer to people as aliens or "other" when there is no one identity that makes up America.

I completely agree with what you said. It's immoral to deny fellow humans basic rights and the idea that immigrants are illegal and aliens is not right. This rhetoric that we have seen referring to immigrants is very damaging because the connotations make some people believe that immigrants aren't people who deserve liberty and security. - MEGAN

Emily Boston, USA

I think we all have a responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life even if we are making the slightest difference. There are people around us who are able to use their voices and power to influence what happens in our country; there are also people who have enough money to contribute to help admit people seeking security and/or better life to each of our nations. I think it's really important to help other nations especially when the United States is able to share resources and also provide opportunities that we like to call the "American Dream" (which is different for everyone).

We should be obligated to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Everyone is entitled to the rights that the document specifies. It's sad that basic human rights need to be written, but at least there is something that people can ensure they are treated properly. It shouldn't be a debate whether someone deserves leisure time or owning their own property.

I completely agree that we have a responsibility to admit people seeking asylum or a better life into the U.S. You mentioned that we are able to share resources, to what extent do you think that we are obligated to share those resources to help other countries in need, not only to immigrants coming to the U.S.? - MARGARET

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 03:05AM

Maya Boston USA

I do believe that we have a responsibility to admit people seeking security, refuge, and a better life in general in each nation, but especially in the USA. If you were struggling and wanted a place in which you were finally safe, you would want to be accepted, so why wouldn't you do that for others? According to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the "right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." America was founded around 250 years ago by immigrants, something that those who are anti-immigration never care about because it both positively affects them and they were white. I think everyone is entitled to the rights that the Declaration of Human Rights specifies because everyone deserves to be treated humanely. Human rights have become so controversial and this document is filled with rights that nobody should ever have taken away, as they are such basic rights that need to be respected.

I completely agree that especially in the U.S. and are able to live in a much safer country than many other people, we have an obligation to welcome in those who are seeking asylum. It should not be a debate that no one should have these basic human rights stripped from them. - JOHN

Agreed. I don't know why I hadn't heard about the document before this year because the articles in there are important for protecting human rights. The language you quoted is pretty explicit too and there's not much room for interpretation, but we still don't always seem to follow it. - LUKAS

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 01:30AM

Thanh Boston, USA

I believe that we all, especially those with certain privileges and a stable life (i.e. have proper housing, a stable income, access to education, etc), have a responsibility to support and help fellow human beings search for security and a better life. It isn't morally just for people to gate keep and hoard certain resources and opportunities from others seeking a better life when they already have more than enough.

We are definitely obligated to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights because they ensure that every human being is respected and that groups of people aren't persecuted. Everyone is entitled to the rights that the document specifies because it lists the basic human rights that everyone deserves such as no slavery, no torture, no arbitrary detention, and etc. There is no reason for someone to be denied these basic human rights, including even people like murderers (since the law would in theory persecute them according to what they have done/ their crimes and not based on random opinions or race/ gender/ sexuality).

I really liked how you included side comments to really tie in your statement! I noticed that you mentioned that basic human rights should also include murderers and how the Declaration itself would (in theory) persecute them. I wonder while you were writing this, were you also thinking about the school to prison pipeline, or how in the US, we have the highest number of incarcerated people. I would love to hear your thoughts on that too! - EMILY HUANG

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 03:21AM

Johny Boston, USA

I believe that we do have a responsibility to admit people seeking a better life with more freedom and safety to our country. It is not fair to say that just because we were lucky enough to be born in a country safer than most, we are more entitled to safety than others. That is just morally wrong. Everyone should have equal opportunity for safe living conditions and personal freedoms. I think that everyone is entitled to these rights, but unfortunately, in many parts of the world, these rights aren't actually enforced by local governing bodies. These are basic human rights, and everyone is deserving of them, no matter who they are, where they come from, or how they identify.

I completely agree with you about how we shouldn't keep our successes to ourselves. (Like what's the point of living in a society if you're not going to contribute to it?) I think that those who have more privilege/ accessibility to resources should learn about their own privileges and how they can help others. - Thanh Son - ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 01:44AM

Christopher Boston, USA

I think we do have a responsibility to help fellow humans in their search for security and a better life. Everyone wants a better life.

we need to give a helping hand to those who are in need of things that may allow for an improvement in their lives. For developed nations, I truly do think that we have the responsibility to admit people seeking security and a better life to our nations. Compared to developing nations, we have jobs and opportunities that may allow for these people to improve their lives.

We do have the obligation to comply with the UN human right declaration. As humans, we must help our fellow humans in need. Therefore, I think everyone is entitled to the rights that the documents specifies. Those rights gives the human the passage towards happiness. Without things like life, liberty, and security, it is hard for people to achieve happiness in life.

I agree with your ideas on responsibility to help others. I also liked your reasoning for why developed nations are responsible for admitting immigrants due to the opportunity that more developed nations can provide whether it be in the form of safety, jobs, or education. -Olivic - ANONYMOUS

LUKAS JAN 29, 2021 03:08AM

Lukas Boston USA

We do have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and a better life to our nations. Everybody deserves to have a chance at a better life, and it is ironic to reject immigrants while also neglecting to offer any help to poor countries. As was stated in the NYT article, if we wanted fewer immigrants we would help these countries adapt to climate change and open up markets to their exports.

Of course, when it comes to persecution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights clearly states in Article 14 that everyone has the right to seek and enjoy asylum in other countries from persecution. This document was created after WWII for a reason, to prevent further threats to humankind. So yes, we all have an obligation to defend immigrants seeking security, and to speak up if our government does not welcome or treat them well. Because they also have the right to "enjoy asylum," not suffer through it.

I believe everyone is entitled to the rights specified in the document. They are basic human rights that are necessary for the common good.

Yes I agree that people should be able to "enjoy asylum" opposed to suffering through it. Its insane that in the United States asylum seekers are subjected to horrific treatment at the border, as well as in holding facilities. Also i wasn't aware that the declaration was created after ww1 so thats an interesting fact. - NAYELI - ANONYMOUS

I like how you pointed out how the best way to stop immigration is to stop people's need to immigrate. I have no problem with immigration, but those who do should, instead of making life worse for immigrants, making it better so they don't have to immigrate in the first place. - SAUL - ANONYMOUS

VINCENT JAN 21, 2021 01:25AM

Vincent Boston, USA

We definitely do have a responsibility to help other people who are seeking a better life. No matter if they are from the USA or not, they deserve a chance to improve their situation, especially if fleeing a dangerous situation. I don't believe that they should just be allowed into the country, but it should be much easier to get a green card or citizenship. I was lucky enough to be born in the USA and I want others, who were less fortunate, to have a chance for a great life.

Immigrants are a vital part of the United States and that is why it's so great. The USA gives people an opportunity to experience different cultures and live a good life without fear.

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 12:59AM

Maggie Boston, USA

I believe that we do have a responsibility to allow people seeking security and/or a better life into our country. Article 14 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the "right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution" and article 13 states that everyone has the "right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country". I don't see why we should be able to deny resources, security, etc. from individuals and families in need when we are one of the most privileged countries in the world, not to mention that we have a moral obligation to help when others are suffering. I think that we have an obligation to follow the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that everyone is entitled to those rights because they are basic human rights. By not respecting them or by only respecting them in certain circumstances you would be denying certain individuals a quality life and saying that their lives do not matter.

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 01:02AM

Shuwen Boston, USA

We have a responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life whenever possible. As individuals, it is our responsibility to help those in need if it does not endanger oneself. That is not to say that if the situation is dangerous, then we should not help them. In terms of immigration and refuge, we should not deny them entry into the nation. I believe that immigrants are not a threat to the nation. It is right for them to escape dangerous situations in their home country.

Everyone is entitled to the rights of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is not up to us to decide who is worthy of the rights. In no situation should people be denied their universal rights. Those rights are there to ensure that everyone is treated as humans.

I agree with you that immigrants are not a threat to this nation, and that it is irrational to pick and choose who is entitled to the rights of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In terms of your statement, "As individuals, it is our responsibility to help those in need if it does not endanger oneself," do you believe that it is a rational argument for the Trump administration/Republicans to disprove of illegal immigration, as it could potentially pose as a threat to the nation? – DIAN'

PATTY JAN 21, 2021 12:41AM

Patty Boston, USA

We do indeed have a responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and better life. My family has been in that position before when they first came to the United States, seeking a better future for themselves and those close to them. As a result, I believe that everyone is obligated to admit people seeking security and a better life. It's not morally right to deny those privileges to immigrants in need, especially when it is absolutely necessary to them to escape the dire environments in which they live in to create a better life for themselves. Everyone is entitled to the rights that the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifies, as they are the basic and moral norms of humanity. We are obligated to comply with these so that everyone is guaranteed a quality of life that doesn't exceed another's.

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 12:27AM

Isabella Boston, USA

We have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and/or a better life to each of our nations. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights was established in response to World War II. The creation of it was intended to prevent atrocities that had taken place in World War II from happening again. It was the first time that the world had globally agreed and marked out all humans as equal. The creation of the document promoted globalism, which has been proven to benefit individual countries as well. Everyone is entitled to the rights that the document specifies such as the "right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution," (article 14), "the right to change his nationality," (article 15), and the rights to "life, liberty, and security of person," (article 3). There is no reason that one individual should have a higher quality of life than another. If one individual was granted these rights and another was not, what factors determine who can and cannot exercise basic human rights freely? People should not suffer while others living in comfort are able to help, especially when there is no evidence of there being an overall negative effect on them. For example, there is a misconception that immigrants have an overall negative effect on the wellbeing and even the quality of life of individuals in the United States. Many United States citizens believe that immigrants have a negative effect on the economy. Some think that immigrants do not have a strong work ethic and rely on welfare. Many think that immigrants "steal" jobs. The contradiction of those two ideas should be enough to prove that they are false. Studies in the United Nations and the United States have shown that immigrants

nave an overall positive effect on the economy of their countries. A report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found immigration has an "overall positive impact on the long-run economic growth in the U.S." Immigrants also contribute more in tax revenue than they receive through government benefits. Economic effects aside, there is a moral obligation to help people who are suffering. Refusing to allow all individuals to exercise their basic human rights is ethically and morally wrong. Many people attempting to exercise these rights are only searching for a better life. Many are fleeing crime-ridden countries, countries in poverty, wars, and persecution. If citizens of the United States were facing ill treatment or living in a hostile environment, would we not also attempt to immigrate?

I think your last question is really interesting and something I heard a lot during the last four years was along the lines of "if you don't like it here, then leave" in response to any criticism of what was happening in the US. People who say this are essentially recognizing that you have the right to leave a country for another one if for any reason you don't wish to remain. So why do they then oppose immigrants coming into this country? They acknowledge that people might leave their country because they feel unsafe or disagree with the government, but then they fail to apply this to immigrants entering the US. — JASMINE

DIANA [REDACTED] JAN 21, 2021 02:57AM

Diana [REDACTED] Boston, USA

It is not only a moral obligation for humans to help others in search of security and a better life, but also a genuine responsibility. Some people, such as Americans, are inherently more privileged than others, so it can be difficult for some to truly understand what those who are seeking asylum are truly enduring. Despite our differences in perspective, we all have the responsibility of upholding the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We were all born into this world with the inherent rights to things like life, liberty, and security of person. There is no reason why one group of people, such as Americans, should deserve this right more than others. Just because some people are more fortunate, such that they do not have to worry about seeking refuge, doesn't mean they can turn an eye on those who are suffering. Therefore, it is in everyone's best interest that we all assist those whose rights are being denied despite any perspectives, borders, or oceans that may separate us.

ANONYMOUS [REDACTED] JAN 21, 2021 12:18AM

Olivia [REDACTED] Boston, USA

I think that we all have a responsibility to help other human beings in search of security and a better life in any way that we can. If we are in a position where we have the opportunity and the resources to help someone in need I think it is important to take the opportunity and do what you can to help others. I do believe that we have the responsibility to admit people seeking security or a better life into our nations because it is what we would want to be done for us. Some people flee from situations that we could never understand and it is important to offer help in their time of need. I

think we all have the obligation to comply with the Universal declaration of human rights and that everyone is entitled to these rights because it is a way to make the world a better and safer place for everyone. Human rights must be respected and met because if we can't even do that for each other the world will become a much more dangerous place for everyone.

TYRONE [REDACTED] JAN 21, 2021 12:00AM

Kyra [REDACTED] Boston, USA

I believe that everyone who's life is secure (ie- shelter, stable job, enough food, etc.) should help others whenever and wherever they are able. As a strong country in the 21st century, we have no excuse to not comply with the UN's Declaration of Human Rights. As a country we have a moral obligation to help those in need when we can. Like others have said, you can't control where you were born. If your safety is threatened you shouldn't have any trouble finding a country who will grant you asylum. Not only that, but you should also be able to immigrate for education, or jobs, or even just because you want to. We're all human beings and we all live on the same Earth.

ANONYMOUS [REDACTED] JAN 20, 2021 11:49PM

Megan [REDACTED] Boston, USA

To help other human beings in search of security and a better life, we have a responsibility to give people a chance for immigration. Many people are born into countries with high crime rates and corrupt government systems and have no choice but to flee in hopes of a better life. Some who would argue against immigration make claims that are false, and more so fueled by racism and xenophobia. We have obligations to respect with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The obligation to protect requires States to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. I believe everyone is entitled to the rights specified because these rights are basic human rights that need to be respected.

ALLISON [REDACTED] JAN 20, 2021 08:28PM

Ally [REDACTED] Boston, USA

I think that we do have a responsibility for helping fellow human beings because we have the resources for it and it is morally right. You do not choose where you are born and what privileges you get so it is unfair. It is not fair that people in other countries must fear their lives while other people in countries do not fear. I live in a country where I do not fear for my life so I could not imagine the fear these people must face in their countries due to the danger they face daily. With the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human rights, people have the right to seek asylum so they should not be denied of this right. People are in danger and are seeking safety and are entitled to seek asylum.

TIFFANY [REDACTED] JAN 29, 2021 12:54AM

Tiffany Boston, USA

I believe we do have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and/or a better life. Regardless of nationality or ethnicity, we're all human beings at the end of the day, and we should strive to support each other by whatever means. According to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, every person has the "right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." On a moral and logical basis, there's no reason as to why we couldn't properly accommodate immigrants with our given resources. Considering the history of the U.S. and the Constitution's recognition of inalienable human rights, we definitely have an obligation to comply with the UN's Declaration of Human Rights. Everyone is entitled to the natural-born rights listed in the document, or else it wouldn't be referred to as the "Declaration of Human Rights".

I completely agree with everything you said, and absolutely believe that it is immoral to deny any humans basic rights. You alluded to the Constitution and the Declaration of Human Rights multiple times in your response, and I am curious about what exactly you think our present government should do to make America because you seemingly value law a lot in this argument. -Maya
- ANONYMOUS

For one, I believe a more reasonable immigration process would be a start in bettering our country. The asylum process can take as long as 6 months to a couple years depending on the claim, but some individuals don't have that much time to spare. The topic of immigration is one of several injustices we must address.
- TIFFANY

JAN 20, 2021 06:24PM

Olivia B Boston, USA

I think that we do have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and/or a better life into our nation because based on the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that is the right of every individual, to seek asylum from persecution, "change his nationality", etc. I think also there is a moral obligation; why should people from other countries be denied the privileges of the U.S. solely off the fact that they weren't born here? If I happened

to be born into a country where I faced persecution I would hope that people who were lucky enough to be born elsewhere could recognize that and open their doors. I do believe that everyone is entitled to the rights specified in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights because without those rights, people would be allowed to take away what really makes someone human and I think that no matter what everyone deserves these basic human rights.

I agree with what you said. The question you poses is interesting because in the US people argue that immigrants are a threat to the country. What policies, if any, do you think is necessary to help the government assess immigrants coming into the country and allow for everyone that needs security to be welcomed here?- Shuwen
- ANONYMOUS

I totally agree with you. -Bivushi - ANONYMOUS

JAN 20, 2021 01:00AM

Emmanuelle Boston USA

I think that everyone has a moral responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of a better life. Who are we to decide who gets to have a good life and security? I think we should admit people seeking security to our nations, because if the Universal Declaration of Human Rights really means anything, then we should be allowing people who need help to get it. I think that every single person is entitled to the rights that the document specifies because everyone is a human and all humans deserve the same rights regardless of anything.

I am agree! - ANONYMOUS

I completly agree that we should not be the deciding factor in whether someone deserves a good life. Too often regular citizens feel like they have the superiority to speak on these issues and claim immigrants should not travel to other questions. Do you think the borders of countries should be more accessible or at least less threatening as they are now? - NAVELI

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(03 O-->T) Civic obligation: What is our responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life? Do we have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and/or a better life to each of our nations? What obligations do we have to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Do you believe that everyone is entitled to the rights that the document specifies? Tell us why or why not.

Please post your responses below, with your names and countries indicated!

JUDI FREEMAN JAN 15, 2021 10:57PM

ANONYMOUS FEB 04, 2021 02:29AM

Ben Boston MA USA

I think our responsibility is to help others in search of a better life. We are obligated to do this, I feel, not just because of the UN, but out of common decency as human beings caring for others, who possibly don't have the means to help themselves. I think that every human is entitled to not only the rights outlined in the document, but to experience equity, so that everyone is able to survive and support themselves and others around them.

ANONYMOUS JAN 31, 2021 03:22AM

Yukine Hiroshima , Japan

I think our responsibility is to accept immigrant and not to discriminate them . I have two reasons .

First , we should help people in need . I think helping people in need is common knowledge . If immigrants are accepted in my country , it may cause some troubles . But , we are the same if we have some different charm .

Second , if they accept , we give them a big benefit. World is getting more and more globalized . So we want to have many skills to cope with that .I think immigrants help us that .

For these reasons , I think our responsibility is to accept immigrants and not to discriminate against them .

I agree with this. Immigrants not only have different causes that make them unique, but also make them very important to expanding our world's diversity and power. They help in so many ways and provide no damage, as most politicians would like to make the rest of the world think. – ANDRF

KADER490002 JAN 30, 2021 01:33PM

Sayad Gazipur, Bangladesh

Our responsibility for helping fellow human in search of security and a better life depends on our personality and our sincerity. This issue of refugees and migrants has been the center of debate and discourse for quite a few decades now. We have a moral obligation to follow their Declaration of Human Rights about this issue. In these facts our own country's people can handle it. Because of their responsibility. No one is really entitled to rights. We do have a moral obligation to give people rights just based on.

I agreed with most of the stuff that you said, but I disagree on the point of deserving rights. I think that everyone is entitled to rights. If they were not universal, then they wouldn't be rights.

– BENJAMIN ZABORSKI

ANONYMOUS JAN 28, 2021 12:36PM

Pradeep Pokhara, Nepal

Everyone here deserves equal right and opportunities. If we people start discriminating each other than the brotherhood will never ever develop in this world. Regardless of the people's race, caste, gender they are entitled to the rights in United Nation's Universal declaration of Human Rights. We all should help each

other to enjoy our rights and that behavior change peoples from animals. It is not like he/she will not be heard just because he/she comes from different society.

I totally agree, I think everyone deserves equal respect no matter where they come from. Learning from people in different cultures is super important no matter where you are -cecilia – ANONYMOUS

Absolutely: with an equal base in rights and opportunities we can grow closer as a global community! It can only help people around the world. – JOANNA

I totally agree! with equal opportunities and rights, we can only grow closer together as a world. – KATHERINE

I agree that helping each other seems like the way to develop a brotherhood that is needed. – LUCY

This is very well said! I like what you said about our behavior being what changes us from animals. I feel like this is so true: our compassion and our emotional intelligence is what makes us so different from any other species. Why do you think some countries seem to value this less than others? – OLIVIA

I full agree with you on this and I couldn't describe this better myself the only way to progress in the world is to make sure everyone has equal rights and oppuntunities. – SARAH

ANONYMOUS JAN 27, 2021 08:22AM

Maysam M. Beirut, Lebanon

Our responsibility as citizens must accept everyone no matter their race, gender, or what their religion is. All humans deserve to be treated equally, and they must feel safe and secure with what the government provides. No one should be discriminated against or hated since this just causes more problems in society. Also, It should not be up for discussion whether a person's human rights should be allowed or not just because they come from a different place.

I completely agree with you! Just because we all may come from different places doesn't make us any different from any other person. – ERIN

I agree! There's so much hate in the world. No one's basic human rights should be even considered to be taken away – KATHERINE

Yeah definitely, discrimination against those based on immutable characteristics should not tolerated, but I have a question about one of the claims you made: When you say "They must feel safe and secure with what the government provides", does this mean that they should be content with it or that the government should provide so that they feel content? – JACOB

I completely agree, it's so upsetting to see people being discriminated against solely because of what they look like or where they're from, and regardless, this type of bias should not incite a violation of one's human rights. And like you said, human rights are something we all deserve, so this shouldn't even be up for discussion. I wonder if there will ever be a time where we can universally agree on this. Do you think there will be? – GIAN

I agree with you, we shouldn't treat others base on who they are. Human rights for all shouldn't be a question. – ANDERSON

I like how you made the distinction that discrimination and hate ultimately cause more problems in society at large. Well written. – ALBERT

Thank you, rights of a human being shouldn't even be questioned because of where they come from or what they look like. It's hard when the government makes their people feel scared or alone. Under Trump's presidency in America, there was lots of fear and anger. – LOLITA

I agree with you on every point you made here! The discussion of the validity of people's human rights just feels wrong to me. as there should be no mincing words about it: human rights should be irrevocable for any reason. – BENJAMIN

ANONYMOUS JAN 26, 2021 10:12PM

Lucy Boston, MA, USA

I believe that we have the responsibility to be kind and try to get along with others. There is no reason to stop others from bettering their life. So many resources are being hoarded despite there being a need to help immigrants everyday. If we can help each other and understand that everyone is entitled to their human rights then we can work together and advance as a community. The U.S claims to be so righteous, yet immigrants needing help are dehumanized. Everyone is entitled to the rights in the United Nations' Universal declaration of Human Rights and no one should be denied welcome for just being themselves.

I totally agree and really like how you made the issue come down to kindness of people and wanting the best for one another. We live in a society where everyone pushed others out of the way to get to the top, almost like every man for himself. We all need to work together, better ourselves and each other at the same time, to advance as a society. – LOLITA

JACOB BENTON JAN 29, 2021 12:21AM

Jacob Benton, Boston, MA, USA

I believe that all humans have an obligation to try and better the lives of ourselves along with others. I think that the principle that people should work with is trying to get the greatest amount of pleasure for the greatest amount of people to the detriment of the fewest people. That being said, it depends on how many people are being admitted, what the issues are in their own countries, and whether or not our own country's people can handle it. If all is well and good in the world, then I would like very limited immigration restrictions. The free flow of labor/people benefits us all. We have a moral obligation to follow their Declaration of Human Rights, but as the most powerful country, we don't really have any strong repercussions if we don't follow it. As for whether or not people are entitled to rights? Technically no. No one is really entitled to rights, as in there are no natural rights that are tied to humans. We do have a moral obligation to give people rights, just based on how I think our society should function.

It is actually really interesting but I do agree with your last point, we technically don't have any natural rights. Since human society has developed in this way, however, I do think it's necessary to dictate and maintain human rights in some capacity. — JOANNA

I agree with what you're saying, and I can even see hints of a Utilitarian approach that values pleasures for bringing about happiness and such. And while it is true that, just as any other species, we are not really given inherent rights simply for existing, it's important for civil society that we establish some type of rights.

— GIAN

I was wondering though, if we don't have any natural rights as you say, what gives us a moral obligation to help others?

— GIAN

@Gian simply because it benefits us all. We all can benefit from people having stuff like food, water, and shelter. It's a utilitarian thing — JACOB

ANONYMOUS JAN 25, 2021 08:57AM

Pranav INDIA

This issue of refugees and migrants has been the centre of debate and discourse for quite a few decades now. Solutions have been put forward like global citizenship, rehabilitation, expedited citizenship and others relating to citizenship. But it all boils down to the main question which is whether the country can afford to sustain the migrants/refugees and provide them with basic amenities and a "better life" which they need and deserve. India has been a country which has accepted refugees and migrants with open hands. India's acceptance starts from the early 50s when India had gained independence and had gone through a brutal partition. Refugees were a constant issue for quite a few decades. India also has a large labour mass who come from neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh. The recent CAA also envisions to provide expedited citizenship for persecuted minorities. India has always strived to provide rights to all its citizens and others not just from a foreign policy standpoint but from a humanitarian view. Each person deserves to live a life with facilities like food, water, shelter, employment, health, education etc. As a developing nation these form our credo. Migrants do help in different ways like setting the balance in the job market by ageing it or making it younger for specific industries. But this is not always good too. When this balance is toppled, the indigenous market of the country faces a loss. This also generates a sense of animosity against the "aliens". At the end of the day the rights in UDHR should be available to all. But it is also unfair to expect countries which are already burdened by a big population and fragile economy to provide subsistence for these migrants/refugees when their own citizens are unable to sustain. This is where global citizenship comes into the picture. The basic premise is to provide a global citizenship to all people. It is supported by the argument that such interconnectedness would make it much easier for refugees/migrants to get rehabilitated and with other countries also pitching in monetary investment shouldn't be an issue. But this reasoning falters around the need for security and national integrity. It essentially breaks down the concept of citizen and nation and borders. Making the whole

world one community recognizes a much more developed technological capability and transport facilities which we yet have to achieve. It also weakens national security as it allows any and all people to enter the nation in the name of "global citizen". Only countries which can bear them costs should take in these groups as it is in the benefit of these groups in the long run

I agree, we need to provide global citizenship to everyone and get rid of borders that separate us. I have a question that I would like to know your opinion on, if you were a world leader but your country couldn't support the costs of immigrants, would you still take in those groups or no? — ERIN

I agree that global citizenship is a great idea and would make the world a better, more connected place. In response to Erin's question, I think that's a really hard position to be in, and many countries, like the US, try to claim that immigrants create a worse quality of life for its citizens. I think if a country truly doesn't have the resources to support immigrants they should be able to turn them away or possibly help relocate them to another nation. — cecelia

— ANONYMOUS

I love the idea of global citizenship, especially since there is currently an estimated 12 million stateless persons in the world—a mind-boggling number for me. Still, as you pointed out, I think that this idea is very far from becoming a reality as of yet, especially since more developed countries will undoubtedly spin this as some sort of breach of national security. I just wanted to ask, how does expedited citizenship work in India? Is it hard to get? — PIN YI

I really did not think about how a country would also have to factor in their own population and economy when allowing immigrants into their country. I totally agree that only countries who are able to provide for that kind of immigration should allow for that to happen, otherwise they're going to ruin their own economy. I just wonder what would happen if even those countries are no longer able to support it.. — Emily

— ANONYMOUS

This post was well flushed out and elaborates as to the importance of supporting immigrants instead of demonizing them. Overall, the point you made is key—we need to begin to see the world as one cohesive community built up of several sub-groups of people based on their personal and physical qualities. But looking beyond that, we can eventually come to understand that we all are equal and deserve to be treated equally. — ANDREW

ANONYMOUS JAN 23, 2021 05:05AM

Antonia V, Australia

I believe that all those seeking asylum, security and safety should be granted exactly that. They are humans who are being treated as pests. Australia is well known for prime ministers wanting to "send back the boats" and most asylum seekers get sent to detention centres. It is wrong and it should be our responsibility for us to ensure that people have a right to live an enjoyable and safe life. Another way people come is via immigration. As someone who comes from immigrants I am all for it. You create a beneficial community of different cultures to share which is really a beautiful thing. Without immigration there is no way to educate people about the world around us. Of course there will always people who make the same argument "they are taking our jobs" but honestly, if they have found a job then they are clearly more qualified for the

JOB. THE UNDOHR SHOULD BE APPLIED TO EVERYONE, NOT SELECT PEOPLE FROM SELECT COUNTRIES. AUSTRALIA HAS THE LAND, THE MONEY AND THE ABILITY TO HELP THOSE IN NEED YET WE STILL NEGLECT THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. THESE RIGHTS ARE SO BASIC AND WE ENJOY THEM EVERYDAY. SO WHY DOES THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REFUSE TO GIVE IT TO THOSE WHO NEED THEM MOST?

I am an immigrant as well and have family members who were also immigrants. I think that there is so much that we can learn from people who are different from us. That whole "They're going to steal our jobs" argument has no merit as well. It's just an excuse to push their hatred and xenophobia. – KALI

I loved your argument about immigration bringing many cultures together, so often hate and bigotry comes from a place of ignorance, and people need to realize that other cultures are beautiful and beneficial too! America is said to be a "melting pot" of cultures, so I agree a community with different cultures can be amazing! I also liked your comment on jobs, if someone beats you out of a job I doubt them being an immigrant was the reason behind it, but rather they were more qualified. – BRIGID HAMWELL

Super well-spoken, I agree. And as Brigid mentioned, with America being considered such a large melting pot, it's possible for us to constantly see both the agreeable and disagreeable sides on immigration, such as the example you brought up about the "job stealing". This is only ever a fear mongering tactic to drive immigrants away, and this type of rhetoric is dangerous.

– GIAN MARTINEZ

Very well put and I agree with you 100%. I like your insight on how without immigration, people wouldn't be as exposed to worldly cultures as they are now. Immigration is a necessary thing and is beneficial to both parties involved. Why do you think that the Australian prime ministers are so quick to say "turn back the boats"?

– AN TRAN

I completely agree with everything you said here, Antonia. Unfortunately, I see a lot of parallels between what you say about the Australian government and the United States (though, hopefully not with the new President). I also really agree that if an immigrant gets a job over someone else, they were just more qualified. I think we need to create welcoming environments for immigrants. "Stealing jobs" is a common claim from people who oppose immigration.. why do you think this is so common? –Olivia S (Boston, USA)

– ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 22, 2021 07:10PM

Jasmin Austria

Our responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life is to provide them with everything that's stated in the UDHR, especially housing, food, clothing, medical care, security and the right to change one's nationality. Other than that it is our responsibility to accept them and to show hospitality. The rights specified in the Declaration should be entitled to everyone, as the document itself states. Other than the fact that according to the Declaration of Human Rights we have to grant people asylum and that everyone has the right to move and settle in a different country there is the concept of charity. Europe, being a mostly Christian continent, should remember this and act accordingly. Something many people seem to believe,

however, is that people are responsible for the conditions in their home countries. Most people agree that people trying to get away from war or natural disasters should be granted asylum, because they weren't responsible for the war or the natural disaster. But we should ask ourselves: Are the people coming to richer nations seeking a better way of life and work really responsible for the economy in their countries? No. Because, very simplified, we are rich because they are poor. Or they are poor because we are rich. Some countries never recovered from the colonisation by mostly European countries. In some countries the global warming, mostly fueled by rich nations, has impacted the economy. Farmers can't grow anything because there's a lack of water, some regions experience wildfires or flooding, and if we go on living like that, the worst is yet to come. And last but not least, bad working conditions exist partly because we want to pay the least sum of money possible for everything we buy.

So saying that these people are responsible for the bad situation in their country is, excuse me, garbage, and therefore it is ridiculous to withhold their right to seek asylum because it is us who are responsible for the terrible conditions in some countries.

I agree with you that it is incredibly important to provide everyone with the rights stated in the Declaration of Human Rights, but do you think that those rights should be enforced more since it seems that currently, there are many people without access to them?

– LEC 

You bring up many issues that we should face. I especially enjoy your explanation of "we are rich because they are poor". That speaks to a lot of why countries feel superior and terrible treatment is given to people coming from those countries seeking better lives. The Declaration of Human rights is a must. – SHAUN PHAN

I love your response, you really covered all the bases (an American idiom meaning having done everything necessary, probably not an international thing), we really have no business judging the value of immigrants based upon where they come from, because the actions of a few don't speak for the whole. Possibly my favorite part of your response was when you said, "Because, very simplified, we are rich because they are poor. Or they are poor because we are rich." Wow, that was just, wow. I really felt that in that you encapsulated the effects of not only colonization, but also capitalism and how in our thirst for cheap products and labor, we end up doing damage to the economy of other countries, only to turn down their refugees when they seek a better life. – BRIGID HAMWELL

Echoing what Shaun and Brigid said above, I found what you wrote to be very profound and impactful--especially, the phrase "we are rich because they are poor." I feel that this is the issue with almost all isolationist/ protectionist policies and stances, because they simply just do not take into account how the actions of richer countries affect the poorer ones. We have exploited them for centuries, and mere "humanitarian" aid simply is not enough, especially since the money usually comes with strings attached that cripple their economies even more. Countries in Europe and North America should definitely be more welcoming to those who seek asylum, who are often desperate for the slightest sliver of a chance for a better life. I just want to ask, what are your views on "normal" (ie. not asylum) immigration measures? – PIN YI CHEN

IAN BRIGGS JAN 22, 2021 04:26PM

Ian  MA, USA

It is a moral duty of every human to help and care for your fellow person. If that means giving the homeless a home, then so be it. If that home is your country, then so be it. Immigration is always a difficult situation, but in the long term immigration proves worthwhile. Many countries in their history had large populations move in, populations which in their time were demonized and oppressed. The dominant culture caused serious harm out of a fear of being replaced. In many of those cultures, time has weathered those tensions and created a unique and distinct culture from the fusion. The modern xenophobia is race based, being against those from the middle east. Germany is talked a lot about when discussing immigration and refugees. While refugees are predominantly from the middle east, the top 5 migrant countries of origin in 2013 include 4 European countries. It goes Turkey, Poland, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Italy. As of 2019, the top 5 countries in terms of immigrants to Germany was Romania (230,096), Poland (130,689), Bulgaria (83,218), Turkey (51,610). Note the difference here, a migrant is someone temporarily staying, an immigrant is planning to be permanent. The recent migrant crisis is not a long term issue, these populations are planning on returning home once it is safe. A lot of figures have made arguments that these migrants are going to replace the local culture, and the people who say that are either misinformed or lying. The numbers do not show a negative effect to the long term economy or culture or immigration or migration.

ERIN FROST JAN 22, 2021 02:12PM

Erin Frost, Boston, MA, USA

Our responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life is to allow them to stay in our country. Most times these human beings are coming from places much worse than the US, so why should we ban them for searching for a better life for themselves and their families? The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be applied to everyone. We're all human and we're all entitled to the rights that the document specifies. We have the resources and money to help these people coming from 3rd world countries. No one should be denied from a country based on their race, religion, sexual orientation, etc.

Very well said and I completely agree. At the end of the day were all humans and we all deserve basic human decency
— KATHERINE KIESSLING

I agree, most people just want to shoot for a better life, who are we to say no to that? — ANDERSON DAROSA

ANONYMOUS JAN 22, 2021 01:38PM

Hadeel Ghannouchy, Lebanon, Tyre

The protection of immigrants and refugees is one of the most significant duties that all individuals and countries must fulfill since this is a moral and humanitarian act that reflects the extent to which everyone respects United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially when it states in its 14th article the

right to seek and to enjoy in other countries Asylum from persecution. And with respect to the way of helping these people then it could be at least in respecting them, supplying them with all their basic needs including shelters, job opportunities, education and all human rights. In brief, we should treat them as we would like to be treated in their case. Moreover, Lebanon is one of the countries that receives refugees and immigrants from different countries especially Arab ones, in spite of the economic and political difficulties that it suffers from. Therefore, it cannot supply them with all what they need.

I agree with you that it is moral and humanitarian for countries to accept and protect immigrants and refugees. Do you think that there should be higher expectations for what more privileged countries do for immigrants, and what does it show about some countries that a country such as Lebanon is able to provide aid despite its own circumstances? — LEC

I completely agree that aiding refugees is a moral issue, and we have an obligation to help them. I also agree that respect is extremely important, and something I see a lot of people lacking with regards to immigrants and refugees. I like how you mentioned that aiding refugees reflects the extent to which nations follow the UN UDHR. That's very true! Do you think countries care if they do not adhere to the UDHR? What obligation to you think we have to follow it?
— OLIVIA

I agree with you that it is moral and humanitarian and our obligation to accept refugees and immigrants especially in the United States. Coming from a country with lots of resources and opportunity and privileged countries should help the less fortunate. Do you feel other countries are doing their duty as they should be to help? — SARAH YOUNG

JAN JAN 22, 2021 07:05AM

Jan PL

One of the greatest duties is to support immigrants, but in my opinion the policy proposed by the Germans in the EU is bad, because if we conduct this type of policy, we may be monopolized by inigrants in our own countries. The policy that has been chosen by Poland is to support people from countries where things are not good: civil wars or natural disasters. And it seems to me that my position on this matter has its basics in the vicious terrorist attacks.

I'm not sure what you mean by monopolized by immigrants, but if you mean taken over, then I am not sure of the problem. Maybe this comes from a difference in how we derive our philosophies, but I don't know that a national identity is that important. You strike me as a social conservative, so respect for voicing your opinion so openly, but you parrot the same talking points of every white nationalist. I understand the fear you may feel of being under attack by immigrants and the terrorist attacks that have happened over the past few years but these do not come simply because they are immigrants. It is a result of the conditions they were either raised in or live in. Should European countries be able to alleviate the financial and social stress of the immigrants then I would wager that the issues they may cause you will go away. Simply sticking them back in their own countries and giving them money does not seem to be helping them. By bringing them in and assimilating them, maybe you'll get to keep your national identity or whatever you were trying to get at. — JACOB DEER

It makes sense that the priority for immigrants is placed on those seeking asylum from some form of threat and harm. I don't really understand your first point and would love some clarification, though, do you mean monopolize as in be outnumbered by?
— JOANNA LI

@Joanna, I think he is referring to the great replacement theory.
— JACOB DEER

What are some of the policies that you are talking about? "in my opinion the policy proposed by the Germans in the EU is bad"
— ANDERSON DARR

I'd like to hear more about how things are in Poland, and what may have brought you to this kind of a conclusion. Although I'm not familiar with EU immigration policy, and I haven't been keeping up on terror attacks either, so I'm interested to hear what matters to you the most regarding these issues. — ALBERT PAUL

This is interesting although I am a little confused. What are the policies of the EU immigration policy? I am not familiar with it.
— SARAH VOON

To the people asking: I think he is referring to what is happening in Germany where they have taken hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the Middle East. There have been some terrorist attacks but people who derive their identity from a racial or national background blow it out of proportion to stir up xenophobic fears about immigrants. — JACOB DEER

BRIGID DEER JAN 29, 2021 02:41AM

Brigid Deer, Boston, MA, USA

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore." These are the words engraved at the base of the Statue of Liberty, to me, it's a promise, a promise to always accept those seeking refuge, no matter the reason or previous home. By the looks of the current immigration policy of the United States, you'd think the poem came with footnote saying "but only if they know more about American history than most natural citizens and are willing to wait up to a decade to get their citizenship approved." It's our responsibility to help those who need it, after all, you can't brag about everyone wanting to live here if you aren't willing to actually let people in. We have the economic resources to offer help, and it

would actually benefit the country to have more taxpaying citizens. Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that no one can be denied the right to change their nationality, and the Declaration in a broader sense prohibits discrimination/distinction based on race, national origin, etc. (specifically Article 2) meaning that as it is our duty to uphold and protect the human rights of all, there's really no excuse for turning away people at the border, it's not our place to deny them of their rights.

I completely agree with what you are saying, especially the part about just how difficult it is to actually get US citizenship, or even get into this country at all. There have been so many studies that have demonstrated that immigrants are a net gain to the countries that they choose to settle in, and Americans should feel honored that so many people think that the US is the land of liberty and opportunity, rather than feeling threatened and xenophobic. I just wanted to ask, do you think that there is a circumstance or set of circumstances in which the US—or any other country—is justified in turning people away at the border? — PIN YI CHEN

ANONYMOUS JAN 25, 2021 05:26PM

Camagun, Cape Town, South Africa

The world is diversified. In our world's history there have been countless explorers namely Christopher Columbus, Marco Polo, and South Africa's very own Jan van Riebeeck. All these explorers have one thing in common is that they see potential in their respective nations of interest and they decided to colonise it. Even if it is against how the indigenous/natives felt. Meaning in our world there are many (if not millions) of multiracial/multi-cultured people or people from multi-cultured descent. So yes, we should accept/admit that we have a responsibility for people seeking security and/or a better life to each of our nations. As an African myself, I can only speak from an African perspective. In the course of Africa's history we have endured a lot and many of our ancestors have experienced slavery due to the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Which has taken many Africans and dispersed them among the different American regions which laid the foundation of the nation today, and also greatly profited The British and other European countries. Days like Juneteenth is highly celebrated in America especially amongst those from African descent because it embodies freedom and liberation. Things like "Trump's Wall" is immoral because it is based on xenophobic and racist beliefs and on the diversion of people rather than unity. Some have suggested that a barrier is immoral. Then why do wealthy politicians build walls, gates and fences around their homes?" , President Donald Trump.

Taken from : <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/4681167>
[Why does Donald Trump want to build a wall? - CBBC Newsround.](#)

Compares Immigrants especially Mexicans from the border to thieves, which is wrong. Power house countries like U.S.A and U.K should comply more to ; Articles : 1, 2, 3, 13, 22, and 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights because they set the example / stage for the other countries to follow. Reasons being that these articles were chosen because I believe that everything we do must be done in the sense of brotherhood. All rights should

comply regardless of , race, colour , language , religion ,political or any other . That everyone has a right to liberty and security of person. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests. Yes I do believe that everyone is entitled to the rights that the document specifies . Because immigrants in your country or elsewhere are only there because they want to have a better life for themselves, their families, and their future families. Especially in African countries like Nigeria , South Africa, Cameroon, Zimbabwe , and the DRC and even Mexico . Our riches like Gold, Silver , Oil , Platinum , and even Labour have been taken away from us and left us depleted . Only benefitting the rich countries and left many hungry and poor. We should promote unity rather than diversion as Democrat Senator, Chuck Schumer stated on the number of Illegal Immigrants is highly exaggerated by Donald Trump because statistics have shown that the number of arrests at the US-Mexico border have decreased a lot since the early 2000s. We should open our arms to those who seek a better life because they come from worse situations than ours.

An interesting comment brought up early on into this response was the case that most countries in the world had be colonized or invaded at some point in history. As a collective human race we see borders and nationalities shift constantly and trying to defend your borders with walls in areas that at one point were territory of the peoples you are trying to keep out, especially if these peoples are not bringing violence, is unnecessary. – JIM AM

I agree with much of what you are saying. Becoming a better nation is coming to terms with our faults and our pasts. We must recognize that we are a land of immigrants and understand that we are wealthy off the backs of people from all parts of the world. Why are we treating them badly when we depend on them? – SHAUN

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 04:50PM

Tanvi  **Gurgaon, Haryana, India**

Good morning! wishing everyone a very nappy new year.

There are several reasons for believing that migration can be both beneficial and not advantageous at the same time. I believe that those countries who have enough resources to provide shelter and jobs, can lend help to people from other nations and open their doors to migrant workers. Migrants contribute to the nation by paying taxes, and make social contributions. It even boosts the working age population. Migrants also arrive with requisite skills to boost the GDP of a nation and can contribute to technological progress. However, it is also true that migrants can be a threat to the indigenous job market. What's more is that it can lead to conflict between the migrants and native population-since they are looked at as a threat to the population. This may be true in underdeveloped or developing nations. The second thing to note is that not all who seek shelter in other countries are migrant workers. A lot of them are refugees. They are simply fleeing from the conditions of war, discrimination and poverty in their own nations. Morally, it is important to welcome them into the neighbouring nations. I believe that it's our responsibility to show compassion, kindness and support to our fellow human beings. Refugees, defined by international law are people who are in need of protection. I believe that refugees need to be treated slightly differently though. In today's time people who are refugees are unable to change this label which is assigned to them. They can be given jobs, which are created specially for them. For example-more resources deployed for the development of pending projects. This way they will not be replacing the people of the nation and they will also be receiving the treatment they deserve. To support this claim, there are several studies which show that an active workforce comprising the refugees will benefit the EU's GDP. The Guardian newspaper has shown that the inflow of migrants in Germany has benefited the country's GDP. Thus, it is true that we must allow and open our gates to people in need. Specially, when the discussion is about humanitarian rights in the case of refugees.

The UDHR applies to all of us-all the people, around the globe are morally obligated to follow the guidelines of the charter. Even though it's not legally binding, the strong plea of moral obligation makes it unique. It is true that we mustn't harm others, hurt others or take undue advantage of another human being. We must be vigilant about what our rights are and what our responsibilities in every sphere is. All states also have the duty to protect and promote all human rights for everyone without discrimination. In short, every human is entitled to dignity, respect and love. There are some rights which are inalienable and every individual is worthy of having them. All 30 articles show that each right is equally important. Thus, we need to comply with all the moral duties and responsibilities.

Yes. I believe that all the people, across all the nations are entitled to the rights of the UDHR. Even though some nations are unable to make this utopian dream a reality due to their circumstances, people around the world must be given these rights. They are inalienable and each person is worthy of them. When the charter was signed, every nation had promised that they would try to

enforce these rights in their nations. They must live up to this expectation through their domestic legal provisions and try to make this dream a reality.

Well said, Tanvi! I really don't think I could've said it any better. The rights of the UDHR is something that every nation has promised to uphold, and it would not be morally right to not guarantee the right to enter a country, especially out of need for safety. What do you make of the wall that Trump has built to keep people from crossing the border into America? — ANONYMOUS

Well said, Tanvi! I really don't think I could've said it any better. The rights of the UDHR is something that every nation has promised to uphold, and it would not be morally right to not guarantee the right to enter a country, especially out of need for safety. What do you make of the wall that Trump has built to keep people from crossing the border into America? — Emily M... — ANONYMOUS

I wholeheartedly agree with this response and I thought the differentiation between migrant workers looking for jobs versus refugees looking for safety is very important. In many countries, America especially, this distinction is not made by politicians supporting or defending immigration. Anti-immigration focuses solely on the fact that outsiders are coming to take jobs and pro immigration focuses solely on the case that they are coming from a violent country. — JF... — ANONYMOUS

GIAN... JAN 21, 2021 10:46AM

Gian... Boston, MA, USA

Our responsibility for helping fellow human beings is to be understanding to those without privilege, and do our best to assist them, as well as being accepting of everyone and responsibly administering help to those in search of security, asylum, or a better life. As long as we have the ability to help others in need without jeopardizing ourselves, it is incumbent upon us to adhere to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and take some responsibility in improving the global quality of life. Per the namesake, human rights are supreme rights that one cannot deny humans, like the right to live, or their rights to freedom, etc. So yes, all humans are entitled to their human rights and their protections. It is not up to anyone to deny these rights to all other humans.

Another banger by Gian — ALBERT YANG

"As long as we have the ability to help others in need without jeopardizing ourselves" — ALBERT YANG

"As long as we have the ability to help others in need without jeopardizing ourselves" Many countries would debate to what extent is or isn't jeopardizing themselves. While I think everyone agrees with the general sentiment, what did you mean by this specifically? — ALBERT YANG

PIN YI... JAN 21, 2021 10:41AM

Pin Yi... Boston, MA, USA

Our responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life is to take care not to restrict our borders

based on anti-immigrant rhetoric that do not have any real basis in fact. The US has been historically viewed by the world at large as a country of exceptional economic mobility, a country where anyone can become successful, so long as you are willing to work hard enough. To turn immigrants away simply of their race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or some other thing that they have a basic right to (as delineated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), goes against this view of America, especially since this country was through the toil of immigrants and slaves. I think we also have a responsibility to help other, poorer nations, not by barging into their internal affairs, but by facilitating trade with them and providing them with opportunities to develop their economies and infrastructure. And I absolutely think that the US--and everyone, honestly--should adhere to the rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as every human being is just as fundamentally equal to any other human being, and no one should have the right or ability to deprive another person of these extremely basic rights.

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 08:22AM

Kali... Boston MA, USA

I think that the rights listed in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights are basic human rights that should apply to all people. I think that it's really easy to notice our differences sometimes, but different doesn't mean bad. I think it is our responsibility as just people to treat everyone with the respect and dignity they deserve, no matter their race, religion, circumstances, sexuality, etc. I think that it's also our responsibility to be welcoming to those who come to our countries in search of security and a better life. Especially the U.S., a country that was built upon the solid backs of immigrants. As the daughter of immigrants and an immigrant myself, I know that there's only hope, no malicious intentions. It's already hard enough having to leave your home and the life you've always known, so I think that we ought to be as welcoming and understanding as possible.

I agree Kali! I am also an immigrant myself, and my family came here with the idea of the American Dream. No one willingly leaves their home to a new and foreign place unless they hope for a better life. I feel like it is a human decency if anything to allow for that to happen. —Emily M... — ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 06:33AM

Sarah Young, Boston MA USA

Our main responsibility for helping our fellow human beings in search of security is to accept everyone for who they are and welcome everyone no matter who they are. To give everyone a chance as corny as it sounds. That others feel comfortable and safe in our country. America has a responsibility as a first world country built up on immigrants to help other people in need and should definitely help other countries in need to give other people a chance at a better life. Human life is so short that everyone

wants to live their life to the fullest and have the ability and the right to a life with basic human rights that are protected.

Thank you Sarah, I completely agree. America has built itself as a nation that accepts others, the land of opportunity, and a fresh start. So why must this nation turn down people in search for new life, just like our ancestors once were? We need to help each other live our lives to the best of our ability. – LOLITA

JOANNA L. JAN 21, 2021 06:25AM

Joanna L., Boston MA, USA

Our responsibility as individual Americans depend greatly on our material means. I believe it is the responsibility of the wealthy to provide financial and material aid to others, which will open opportunities for housing, education, etc. On a national level, we do have a responsibility to provide asylum for those seeking security and admittance for those seeking a better life. The United States of America absolutely must be held to the standards of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Not only is this nation a member of the United Nations, but considering the USA's self-proclaimed position as the most righteous and advanced country in the world, it is even more imperative to adhere to the Universal Declaration. Finally, everyone, regardless of where they live, deserve the rights that the document specifies. Human rights are the freedoms that define us as humans, and to deny those rights is to deny humanity.

Excellent said, I love that phrase "Human rights are the freedoms that define us as humans, and to deny those rights is to deny humanity". You're right, as the richest country on the face of the Earth, I agree that we have a duty to be the golden standard and provide the basics to not only our citizens but also those abroad.

– JACOB

TINA M. JAN 21, 2021 06:05AM

Tina M., Boston, MA, USA

It's our responsibility to help other humans who want or need a new home in order to give themselves a better life or seeking security. The only case where that is not the case is if it will be a threat to the safety of our country and the structure of our government. As a country which is made up of immigrants and a first world country with the power and resources to help, there is no reason to turn a blind eye on those who need help. All people should be entitled to the rights that are specified in the UN's Declaration of Human Rights, since it is something that has been agreed on and signed by leaders of nations from around the world. Humans live for a short period of time (compared to how long the planet has been along), so as humans, we should all live to the best of our ability while we are here, and the best way to guarantee that is if everyone is able to live a life where their human rights are protected.

ANDERSON ROSA JAN 21, 2021 03:54AM

Anderson Rosa, Boston, MA, USA

Our responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life, is to accept them for who they are, and admit them into our country especially when our country is known as the land of opportunity. It wouldn't be just to only allow a certain sort of people to have a chance at this "opportunity" The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, states "Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality." No matter what, I believe that every human being should be granted all the rights included in the Declaration of Human Rights. No matter your age, race, religion, or nationality. An example of this I would like to talk about is the California Gold Rush in the late 1840s. If you heard that a bunch of gold was found in a certain place you would rush over. That's exactly what happens during the California Gold Rush, emphasizes on the word rush. The thing about it though is that Chinese Immigrants came over to have a chance in the "Land of opportunity", the land being America and the opportunity being the gold. Unfairly though, California imposed heavy taxes on immigrant miners, and pushed around by white miners, sometimes forced out of the diggings. This is a prime example of what we shouldn't do, everyone should have been allowed to have their chance at this opportunity, but unfortunately that wasn't the case, because such rights didn't exist yet, but now that they do, we ought to respect and follow them.

I think that the use of the Gold Rush as an example of how immigration should not be handled is a good one. It really shows how there was discrimination against the immigrants was wrong.

– BENJAMIN

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 03:40AM

Albert, Boston, MA, USA

While there is little an individual can to aid people when it comes to broad-scale human rights issues regarding the search for security, it is the responsibility of America as a whole to ensure that those searching for security may find it within our country. America has a responsibility to admit those seeking asylum, and as a democratic first-world country, we should be held to uphold all of the UN's declaration of Human Rights. Everyone deserves to have the human rights listed, and it is regrettable that, in our world of extreme wealth and extreme poverty alike, many have been stripped of their human rights, for one reason or another.

I completely agree with this take- any country that has the means to support others ought to. – BENJAMIN

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 03:44AM

Cecelia, Boston, Ma, USA

I think that while we should strive to help others create a better life when possible, it is not an obligation. However I think that if you were to restrict immigration it should be for a legitimate reason, you can not do so to discriminate against certain groups of people based on race, ethnicity or religion. It seems to me like most anti-immigration rhetoric is based upon othering rather than any actual problems that come with immigration.

Under the UN's universal declaration of human rights we have the responsibility to grant asylum to people who have been persecuted (article 14), which I don't think the US has been upholding. As a member of the UN, other nations should force the U.S. to live up to the standards set in the universal declaration of human rights. Everyone is entitled to human rights no matter what, it's right there in the title **human rights**, what someone is entitled to as a human being.

I think what you said was perfect. It is no obligation of ours but we must treat people with dignity and respect. We pride ourselves on being one of the world leaders but yet we still lead by horrible example. If we don't want to treat our own citizens that way why would we treat others the same way just because they come from across an imaginary line. — SHAUN PIERCE

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 02:55AM

Leo [REDACTED], Boston, Ma, USA

Our responsibility for helping fellow humans in search of security and a better life is to accept them into our country and give them the chance to pursue that better life no matter where they come from. Many people in the United States have recent ancestors who were immigrants, and for those same people to not accept people like their own ancestors is illogical. We also have obligations to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration consists of rights that are considered by the United Nations to be basic rights that every human should have. Therefore, everyone is entitled to those rights, no matter where they come from. To deny someone their basic human rights is to deny the fact that they are also human, which is a recurring theme throughout history. This is why it is incredibly important that we ensure that everyone has these rights, so history does not repeat itself.

How can we enforce these rights so we make sure that history won't repeat itself? — AN TRAN

LEV SUCCURRANDESE JAN 21, 2021 02:35AM

Lev Succurrandese, Boston, MA, USA

Our main responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security, a better life and happiness is to welcome people from other places with open arms into our country. I believe that everyone in the world should have the right to live wherever they want to, and with this right comes the responsibility of every nation to welcome immigrants. If the inalienable rights of humans are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, then blocking or stopping people from entering our country is hypocritical. We absolutely have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and a better life to each of our nations, as part of our duty to the greater good of humankind. We have every obligation to comply with the UN's Declaration of Human Rights, and absolutely no excuse to go against it. These are the basic rights that every human is entitled to, and it is the bare minimum that we respect this. Every human is entitled to the rights that these specify. There

is no condition or way that these rights should or can be taken away from a human being.

ANDRE WELLS JAN 31, 2021 08:53PM

Andre Wells, Boston, MA, USA

We absolutely do have a responsibility to help those who come to the United States needing help. In that case, we have every obligation to align ourselves to the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Everyone is entitled to it, despite anything pertaining to their history. If we made it for everyone, why would we exclude others from receiving proper human rights? As a country that is supposed to be first-world, one that is supposed to be the land of dreams, one where someone can start anew and live a prosperous life—why is it so difficult to offer people these opportunities we so claim to give? In that case, for people to officially receive them, they must also be receiving the treatment that the Dec. of Human Rights provides them. In other words, we as a country, are not doing the fullest to provide others with their rights. And as a result, we are unable to help them fulfill their dream of commencing a new life. We are unable to help them thrive. And as a country, we need to do better, to give people the resources they need to thrive—to do well, so that we can officially continue calling ourselves the land of the free and the place where one's dreams can come true.

I loved reading your response, I think it was beautiful said. I'm curious about your thoughts on the question you proposed about why is it difficult to offer people the opportunities we claim to give? — ERIN PIERCE

I'd like to think that that's based on the book we read about Caste; particularly, the people who want to stay at the top stay there and keep others at the bottom in order to remain at that status. If we can erode that, then we can become a better nation. — ANDRE WELLS

OLIVIA [REDACTED] JAN 21, 2021 02:35AM

Olivia [REDACTED], Boston, MA, USA

America today prides itself on being a melting pot of cultures. All of us are descendants of immigrants, and that's what makes the culture of the United States so unique. In recent years, however, many immigrants have been discriminated against and denied entry to our country. I believe we have a responsibility to welcome those seeking asylum in our country. America has been a host for immigrants for centuries, and there is no reason this should change now. Our country has been filled with xenophobia, but I do not think we can choose to stop welcoming those seeking refuge when it is convenient for us. As humans, we have an obligation to help others when we are able.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights exists for a reason, and the United States is a part of the United Nations for a reason. I believe if we want to be part of such an organization, we should be following its principles. Specifically as they pertain to human rights, as these are not things that should be determined by nationality. I don't think it should be difficult to comply with this

declaration of human rights. Human rights should be something the government and lawmakers always seek to protect.

I believe everyone is entitled to the rights the document specifies. Basic human rights should not be debated, but sadly, they are. The rights listed in this document are essential to human life and respecting others.

LOLITA TULF JAN 21, 2021 01:48AM

Most of the world associates America with "the land of the free, the American dream, and the land of opportunity" because of how it was portrayed many years ago. These slogans, created when the foundation was being laid for the country, are the reason immigrants and people who wish for a better life came/are coming to America. These immigrants came because they thought they were being granted a prosperous life, but instead they were immediately shunned out of society. An example of this first occurred when Chinese came to the West and were accused of stealing jobs from Americans. Their homes were burned and they could barely make a living. If America can talk the talk, the right thing to do would be to follow through and walk the walk. A nation as a whole should not be able to pick and choose when they want immigrants and when they don't. As a human race, it is each of our responsibilities to want the best for one another. If a country is established in a way that claims it wants the best for its people, that is now a responsibility. Everyone should have the same rights, and I think it's absurd to even question the rights of a person because of their race, the way they look, or where they come from.

I liked how you brought up the treatment of Chinese immigrants, one thing about that situation that really surprised me and spoke to how white Americans forget they were once immigrants too and are all talk was how the Irish were the loudest anti-Chinese voices. This is rather interesting seeing as the Irish love to over exaggerate the hostility towards them upon their arrival in the states, you'd think they'd have more compassion for other immigrants instead of their xenophobia. — BRIGI...

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 12:42AM

Shaun Boston, MA

Americans love to pride themselves about being a "land of opportunity" where the American Dream comes true and yet there was still support for keeping out certain groups of immigrants during this past presidency. We must find ways to change those types of feeling and the help those who seek a better life for whatever reason that may be in America. We are a land build from the backs of immigrants. We should always continue to honor those who have built up this country by helping immigrants like them. We should lead by example and other countries will certainly follow suit. By leading by example we can make an impact worldwide. We have an obligation to follow the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Not only does it sit right in the countries conscience to know that we treat everyone well, it also sets precedent to other countries. As one of the world leaders, if we treat our immigrants badly, it may have cascading effects

everywhere and the UN's declaration of rights will be taken less seriously.

I agree, I think that big countries don't follow the declaration of human rights it won't be taken seriously- cecelia — ANONYMOUS

KATHERINE ... JAN 20, 2021 11:48PM

Katherine Boston, MA, USA

for centuries, people have come to America for several reasons, a major one was to find the "American Dream". I think if people need the help, we as Americans should help them. Trumps promise of "building the wall" is what won over many people in 2016, and for the next four years he continued to make racist and xenophobic comments. I do believe people are entitled to the rights of the document.

Why do you think there's so many people, Trump supporters namely, that are so against immigration? — AN T...

What perpetuating this mindset across millions of Americans — AN T...

ANONYMOUS JAN 20, 2021 11:22PM

Amber Boston, MA, USA

One of the most important values that America upholds (at times) is the "land of opportunity." With that phrase comes great responsibility, if we are to claim to be a land of opportunity, it is only just that we follow through with it. As stated by the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ALL nations must abide by it. No nation is superior than the other, no person in each nation is superior to another, therefore, it is out of pure human decency and morality that every human being is permitted to have basic rights. There is no denying that. All of the 30 articles clearly state rights that you wouldn't even think would have to be noted like, "(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits." (Article 27). The Trump administration has further prolonged the negative connotation of immigrants, by building a wall, banning Muslims, and other racist and xenophobic rhetoric. As seen when, "many of the non-Hispanic white voters who tipped the presidency to Mr. Trump were motivated by fears that they were losing demographic ground to other groups" ("Migrants are on the Rise Around the World, and Myths about them are Shaping Attitudes," New York Times, June 20, 2018). We need to uphold the articles in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that no one is ever afraid of opportunity.

I liked the article you linked in your response. The ideas of the demographic swinging the white vote one way or another from the first black president to a far right republican president makes me wonder what you think will happen in upcoming elections. How long will the white vote allow people of color or women in office before they feel under represented and it swings the other way again? Do you think there's anything that can be done to stop this ministate of losing and gaining demographics. — JFF ...

Emily [redacted], Boston, MA, USA

There is no question that everyone has the obligation to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Like it states in Article 13, everybody has the "right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country", and as such, everyone has a "right to change his nationality" (Article 15). We all have this universal right to leave our country and settle down somewhere else if we wanted to, and that is how most of us have come to be in our countries. Especially for those in the United States, we would not have been here if our ancestors had not decided to travel across the ocean to come here for a new home-- a place where they can establish a new life with freedom to do whatever they wish. It would be hypocritical and entitled to believe that there are certain groups of people who do not "belong" here, when really, no one does. That's the beauty of it. We're free to seek out other countries for a new beginning. If we're allowed to enjoy this human right, then I think it is also our obligation to uphold it for others. We do have the responsibility to help and admit others who are in search for security and a better life, in much the same way our parents or the many generations before us had done. To refuse to do so is taking away the rights that we are all entitled to, and is plain wrong.

I 100% agree with you. When we often hear others say "Go back to your country" or other xenophobic rhetoric like that, it comes from a place of entitlement and is also hypocritical. It is important to remember our roots, as a majority of the American populations are descendants of immigrants. We are on stolen land after all.
- ANONYMOUS

An Tian, Boston, MA, USA

Historically, America has branded itself to be the land of the free, the melting pot, leveraging the "American Dream" notion towards refugees. This occurs through the 20th Century Vietnamese boat people, early Irish and German immigrants in the 1840s, or Mexicans seeking work in the U.S. It is absolutely our responsibility to help fellow human beings through welcoming them into our country with open arms and providing them refuge to resettle on U.S land. As for the obligations in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, such as the "right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." (Article 14) and "the "right to life, liberty, and security of person." (Article 3), the way I see it, it shouldn't be a matter of obligation for us to "comply" but rather there shouldn't be a second thought and we should be taking in these immigrants and refugees not out of

legal obligation but out of human goodwill. However, this is idealistic and far from true from the reality. Instead, we have presidents who build walls and pass laws to keep out immigrants. The issue that Americans see with immigrants is that they're taking our jobs, which is long withstanding argument dating back to the Chinese immigration and their work on the railroads or in the gold mines. We learn from the article though that immigration can be beneficial, seeing the economies in Australia and Switzerland high in GDP and in immigration. As Clemens says in the article "immigration can be an opportunity." Lastly, I think everyone should be entitled to the rights in the U.N Declaration of Human Rights, but I'm not naive and understand that although everyone should theoretically be entitled to such rights, that isn't the case globally.

I agree with you 100%. An. I feel like immigrants who come to the U.S. deal with a lot more than they should. I think that this all just comes from a place of hate and not a need for security.
- ANONYMOUS

I agree with you 100%. An. I feel like immigrants who come to the U.S. deal with a lot more than they should. I think that this all just comes from a place of hate and not a need for security.
- ANONYMOUS

Henry [redacted], Boston, MA, USA

As shown on the New York Times article, the population of the USA is 15% immigrants. For a long time, the USA has been a hub for immigration, dating back to the gold rush and events similar to that. America was known as the place where you could achieve your "American Dream", to which is up to your own interpretation of what the American dream really is. Seeking asylum and terms similar are used in the USA. Though US laws have been advanced in protecting civil rights, the US has definitely fallen behind in protecting the universal human rights that are in the UDHR. I do believe people are entitled to the rights in the document, unless it is taken advantage of.

I liked how you mentioned the "American Dream" because it's usually a dream of success and wealth, but most immigrants face a lot of struggles when they arrive because they are unwelcomed. The U.S has definitely fallen behind on protecting human rights especially denying help to people who are just trying to get a better life.
- ANONYMOUS

(04 U-->Z) Civic obligation: What is our responsibility for helping fellow human beings in search of security and a better life? Do we have a responsibility to admit people seeking security and/or a better life to each of our nations? What obligations do we have to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Do you believe that everyone is entitled to the rights that the document specifies? Tell us why or why not.

Please post your responses below, with your names and countries indicated!

JUDI FREEMAN JAN 15, 2021 10:59PM

ANONYMOUS JAN 30, 2021 02:33PM

Md.Rakibul **Gazipur, Bangladesh**

Everyone are a part of society.If the society gets hurt due to our reckless actions,We are bound to be affected at some point of time. Our responsibility for helping fellow human in search of security and a better life depends on our responsibility and our sincerity. We should care of the society. I think everyone who are in search of security and a better life should be welcome with open hands.Refugees should receive at least the same rights and basic help us any other foreigner who is a legal resident and freedom from torture and degrading treatment. Refugees are required to respect the laws and regulation of their country of asylum.

ANONYMOUS JAN 27, 2021 04:52PM

Ville **Rajamäki, Finland**

I do think that everybody have responsibility to help others in need. Majority of immigrants are running away from danger in their home countries so in my opinion it is their human rights to try to have a normal life to their selves or their children. In western countries we might think that being safe is normal, but in the less fortunate countries it is quite the opposite.

I do think that everyone is entitled to the rights that UN has listed. No one is above another human being. In the end of the day we all are very much alike; just trying to get through the day. it doesn't matter where you came from, it matters who you are today.

I strongly agree with you Ville, and believe that people in the west, me included, take for granted the safety that we have in our countries. I think it is great to learn more about the misfortunes that others face, and how we can help them. I was wondering what Finland does regarding immigrants, and how their policies regarding that are. (Greta G, Boston MA USA) – GRETA GRYGALIS

I like the point that you made about no one being above another human being, I 100% agree, I was just wondering what is the stance that people in your country take on the topic of immigration, are they accepting towards it? (Katy Boston, MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

Hi Ville! I really loved your point about how many of us think that feeling safe is normal, and we often take it for granted. Many Americans seem to not understand this, and think that it should be fine for an immigrant to return to their original country, despite that country being possibly unsafe. My question to you is similar to Greta's: what differences can you tell between the immigration policies in America and Finland? (Zoë Boston, MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

I agree, Ville, and I think you brought up a good point that many immigrants face danger in their own countries and immigrate for safety reasons. Do you have any major immigrant groups in your community? If so, where are they from? (Azalea Boston, MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

I also agree with you! immigration is a very polarizing topic in the US, so I'm wondering if its as polarizing in Finland? Is it something that the government prioritizes, or not considered a significant issue?(Gabi Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

I like the point you made about no human being above another human. That's important to know because everyone needs to know that they are equal to everyone else and if everyone treats everyone equally and kindly I think more people will help others new to America – ANONYMOUS

I agree with everything you said! I really like your point about how no human is above another, I think that is a really important thing to note. A question I have for you is why do most western countries feel as though they are more entitled to a safe life than others? (Lila, Boston MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

I like the point you made about no human being above another human. That's important to know because everyone needs to know that they are equal to everyone else and if everyone treats everyone equally and kindly I think more people will help others who are new to America (Colin McManamy Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

I agree with your views on immigration. Everyone deserves to be treated equally. One question I have for you would be: What is the immigration policy like in Finland? – JACKSON WEI

I like how you clarify that there isn't a single person that is above another, regardless of their potential status in society. I feel as though that is something that many people forget. Regardless of who someone is, we don't know what they've been through and we should try to help them if they're trying to escape from danger in their old country. I wonder, though, do you think there is a limit to who should be accepted? (Shamir Remy, Boston MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

HNIN EI JAN 28, 2021 04:52AM

Hnin Ei Hara, Myanmar

In my point of view, I do believe that we have a responsibility to admit people seeking security or a better life. In my country, some homeless people are facing danger and they don't have their rights. So, I think we must try to give them a better life by making rights for them. I believe that everyone is entitled to the rights because rights are based on our humans and that rights will give a lot of benefits and give a better life. I heard that people in poor countries do not get all their human rights. I do hope that if people have more knowledge about human rights, the world will be more beautiful and their life would be better

I think your point about the homeless population having no rights is a very important one that isn't discussed enough. The same goes for our country. Our homeless people are left for dead basically with little government support or any way to get out of homelessness. In America, it is incredibly difficult to get out of poverty, it rarely happens. Our homeless population needs to be treated like actual humans rather than garbage or drug addicts because they are often just people who never got a fair shot in this world. We need to not only provide them relief, but we need to change the stereotypes that plague the homeless community. (Josie Baile, Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

It is sad to hear that homeless people in your country are stripped of their lives simply for being in a less than stellar situation. They never asked to be homeless and it is possible that they were simply unlucky. Things are not that much better here in the United States as those in the lower class are often looked down upon. Has your government done anything to try and elevate the status of those who are living without a roof during this pandemic? (Shamir Remy, Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

Your point about homeless people in your country lacking rights or not having any at all is extremely upsetting. I can see that phenomenon reflected across many countries in the world, one being the United States, where the government fails to give the lower class and people in poverty the attention they deserve and people who are better off do not care about those in poverty simply because it doesn't concern and affect how they live. Is there a country with policies that you admire and what do you think your government can learn from those countries? (Xixin Liao, Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 27, 2021 02:51PM

Jorinda Naciševičiūtė, Alytus, Lithuania

We do have a responsibility to accept and guard people who seek security, education or have financial problems. I believe that as people form different nations we have an obligation to protect and respect everyone. Everyone needs to have the right to find better places, to try and restructure the law. As a person from a country with immigration problems, I have to believe that different countries can accept the fact that they can help developing or lower income countries by welcoming immigrants and not dismissing their needs. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 13: people can leave and come back to their residency, by that they get the freedom to expand their knowledge, see different realities and send their needs and expectations back to their home countries. Those messages can influence the government to try new things, to make changes and hopefully decrease immigration. Then, in article 23: it is mentioned that everyone has the right to equal payment and work, so that makes no space for discrimination or different opinions causing disagreements. In my opinion, everyone is entitled to the rights that The Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifies. If everyone chooses to respect these rights, politics would become more fair, economy levels would increase and other expectations would become the new reality.

I agree with everything that you said, and I believe that everyone has entitlement to those rights given to them in the UDHR. You mentioned it just a little, but what are the immigration policies in Lithuania? How strict are they? (Michael Lee, Boston, USA) – MICHAEL LEE

Jorinda, I definitely agree with you that everyone is entitled to the rights specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I also agree that if everyone chose to respect those rights, politics would become more fair. My question for you is how do you think we can convince those who don't respect them to change their minds? The kind of people who chooses not to extend basic rights to everyone is not the kind of person who can be won over by an argument of empathy and compassion. What are your thoughts on this? – ANONYMOUS

Jorinda, I definitely agree with you that everyone is entitled to the rights specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I also agree that if everyone chose to respect those rights, politics would become more fair. My question for you is how do you think we can convince those who don't respect them to change their minds? The kind of people who chooses not to extend basic rights to everyone is not the kind of person who can be won over by an argument of empathy and compassion. What are your thoughts on this? (Katie R, Boston, MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

I strongly agree with what you said Jormaa, as everyone is entitled to human rights and protection, as specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I was just wondering what the immigration policies of Lithuania are and where the majority of immigrants to Lithuania come from? (btw my parents are from Lithuania, and I visit there often) Greta G, Boston MA USA
- GRETA G

ANONYMOUS JAN 26, 2021 05:56AM

Tapasmi I , Gurgaon, India

Migrants may leave one place for another in search of a decent living or better education, to flee persecution, or simply to be close to family or friends. I earnestly believe that we have a responsibility to admit such people. The opposition to immigration often paints 'outsiders' as harbingers of disease, crime, unwelcome culture, compromise of national identity, an idea stemming from fear and prejudice that disregards the benefits of the intermingling of international customs. Immigrants change culture for the better by introducing new ideas, expertise, customs, cuisines, and art. Far from erasing the existing culture, they expand it. Many studies indicate that increased immigration is associated with overall increases in GDP and productivity. Harvard economist George Borjas wrote about a family of economic models he called the Immigration Surplus. Population growth via immigration increases the demand for goods, which can, in the long run, lead to more hiring and higher wages. It not only gives people a chance to better their own lives but to bring about positive change to others'. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states 30 articles that I believe capture the very essence of the bare minimum that sustains humanity. While the UDHR itself is not legally binding, the protection of the rights and freedoms set out in the Declaration has been incorporated into many national constitutions and domestic legal frameworks, as is the case in India. It is up to an individual to take their life into their own hands and craft a future, but it is these basic necessities that build the foundation to make that a reality. Be it an escape from war-torn countries in the search of arms that welcome them, families that wish to give their children opportunities they never got themselves, individuals that have taken it upon themselves to carve out their own destiny- every human being is deserving of such a prospect. By joining hands with those that need our help, those whose help we need, those from whom we can learn- we can step towards a world of acceptance, love, and humanity.

I like the point you brought up about the economic benefits to higher amounts of immigration Tapasmi! Where do you think that this "fear and prejudice that disregards the benefits of the intermingling of international customs", as you put it, comes from? Why are people so afraid of newcomers in their country? I'd love to hear your thinking on this! (Maianh , Boston MA, USA) - ANONYMOUS

I absolutely agree with everything you wrote, your English is outstanding! What specific areas of the UNDHR have been incorporated into the laws in India? I agree that, while it isn't legally binding and is only the bare minimum, it is morally correct to follow these rules. - SYDNE

I completely agree in regards to the benefits of immigration on a country, and I believe that here in the US, these benefits are very apparent. For example, many people in the US know a second language or are learning a second language because of immigration from other countries. In Boston, it is very easy to hear people talking in Spanish or another language, and it is truly amazing to see my city filled with so many diverse and beautiful languages and cultures! Does immigration to India have a similar effect, in your opinion? We very rarely hear about immigration in India, so I'd be interested to hear about your perspective. - SAMUEL

I agree that immigration has many amazing impacts to any country, such as incorporating new cultures into a country, and about the fact that prejudices against immigrants are often based on fear rather than facts. Some people who hold anti-immigration attitudes argue that we cannot let everyone into the country, so I wonder what do you think about the issue of undocumented immigrants? (Gabi , Boston MA, USA) - ANONYMOUS

I agree with all of your points! I loved your closing point about everyone coming together! A question I have for you is if they have the resources to increase people's lives, why are they not using them? (Lila , Boston MA, USA) - ANONYMOUS

I think it is incredibly important that you brought up the economic benefits of immigration. Like you said, many people fear job loss or other economic issues that would come from more immigration so by citing how it does the complete opposite, is important in changing the narrative about immigration. I agree with your point that people are more afraid of new things and new people entering their country and that xenophobia is something that I hope people will eventually look past. In your conclusion, you mentioned togetherness and community and I agree with those sentiments and also believe that that is the only way to get rid of that xenophobia towards immigrants. (Josie , Boston, MA, USA) - ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS FEB 09, 2021 10:44PM

Hawraa k, Tyre, Lebanon

Now for me, I think we have the duty to authorize people that are searching for a better life in our country because they have the right to live as we all have and to be treated equally. But unfortunately, some Lebanese people believe that immigrants and refugees are snatching some of our freedom, especially the right to work. This is all inaccurate thinking, we must support this disadvantaged population that comes to a new country in having a stable work condition, education, and health services similar to the typical person. Furthermore, in Lebanon, there is a myriad of people living in poverty and they are enduring erratic treatment and even discrimination. For this reason, we should work in aiding those people and also formulating all their rights. Overall, every individual deserves to carry all his basic needs and to be entitled to the rights the document specified, even if he is originated in a different place or not.

I 100% agree with all of the points you made! I definitely think it's really important to help those who are seeking a better life. When people choose to leave their countries, it is often because the conditions are so bad, they feel like there is no other option. Do you think that the government should focus more on immigration policies, of dealing with the poverty and discrimination already going on in Lebanon? Is there a way to focus on both?

- ESLI

m Lean: yes I totally agree with you: I know that it won't be easy to change someone's beliefs but soon enough people will understand that everyone is equal and we all deserve equal rights. Just by getting together, learning more about each other (just like what we are doing) can make a change, You know how they say „walk now, to run then,, slow and steady eventually we will make a change and save many lives. The amount of positive effects will be endless! – STASII

hi Douglas! honestly what a question! and the answer is yes. Our diverse culture definitely divides us in some cases, but there are some people out there that would actually want to see all of our difference, which is an amazing thing! It's definitely very different but we all have differences, right? – STASII

hello Fiona! i love your response! thank you, and for your question I don't agree with the way my country deals with immigration. Yes, it can be very dangerous to let someone from another place here it might come to a war, hopefully not. But i feel like everyone deserves to be treated the same, at the end of the day we are all humans no matter what colour or what religion we are. I wish my country would provide us with better security to be able to help immigrants who could use some support. – STASII

hi Xixin! this question really got me thinking, but for the sake of forgiveness i would give them a chance. Everyone deserves a second chance and i think that it's better to be the bigger person and help someone, rather than doing what they did to you. I know that many people won't agree with me but we all have different opinions, am i right? – STASII

ANONYMOUS FEB 02, 2021 08:53PM

Anastasija (North Macedonia)

I agree with most people saying that there is a difference between wanting better security and wanting a better life. Personally human rights belong to each human being. Seeking a better life in a better country isn't something that should be forbidden, and being an immigrant isn't supposed to be a negative thing. People from different places, religions, beliefs and colour should come together and work together. Yes, climate change and mother nature can make people want to move to a better place but you can't really stop them. I don't want to get mixed in politics but, building up a wall to basically forbid someone from wanting something better. In my opinion every country should be welcome to anyone looking for a new place to live, cause next day maybe they will want to live somewhere else too, how will they want to be threatened?

Hi---thanks for this. Can you identify who you are and where you are writing from? – JUDI FREEMAN

it's me Anastasija from North Macedonia ! – STASII

Hello! I agree and have similar opinions to yours! I have one question: do you think there is a way that people in general could somehow influence acceptance to immigration? Is it possible for the people supporting immigration in that country (we'll say, for example, North Macedonia) to persuade the government to change their stances? And if so, how? (Michael ... , Boston, USA) – MICHAEL ...

Hi Anastasija! I think you brought up some really good points, especially about the wall! Building a wall just to keep others out is cruel, and probably not even effective. Do you think that your country handles immigration well? If no, what could make it better in your opinion?(Willa ... Boston, MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

Hi Anastasija! I completely agree with the points that you have brought up. My question for you is: how are immigration policies in North Macedonia, and what do you think is the general public opinion of immigration in your country? (Serena Tirrell, Boston, USA) – SERENA

I agree with you Anastasija. Everyone deserves to live in a safe place. A question I have for you is: How would you convince people who are anti immigration to change their views? – ANONYMOUS

I agree with you Anastasija. Everyone deserves to live in a safe place. A question I have for you is: How would you convince people who are anti immigration to change their views? (forgot to log in) – JACKSON

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 06:35PM

Douglas ... Boston, MA, USA

I think there's a difference between people seeking security and people seeking a better life, with this I think we should be obligated to admit those who are seeking security/ asylum but it's not an obligation to admit those just seeking a better life. It's kind of like survive or thrive where we are obligated to make as many people as possible survive but not obligated to have everyone thrive. Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is the article that relates best to the question only discusses asylum from persecution, so I believe we are obligated to enforce this right onto ourselves and others but that doesn't mean admitting everyone. There's also the clause within Article 14 stating " 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" so not everyone is entitled to the rights specified in that document according to that document.

Summary: Those seeking survival from their country should be admitted universally, but those wanting to thrive shouldn't be universally admitted.

I like how you've shown what is different between those trying to survive and those trying to seek a better life. Someone could be trying to seek a better life, but that doesn't mean they are in any particular danger. They just see that they could continue to elevate their status in society if they move else where. In your opinion, what do you believe is the cutoff between someone who is trying to survive and someone who is trying to better their life but isn't in any particular danger? (Shamir Remy, Boston MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 25, 2021 11:52PM

Colin ... Boston, Ma, USA

I believe that we have the responsibility to help anyone seeking a better life in a new country or our country. We should all see what the right thing to do here is. We must support others who come to a new country to seek a better life and assist them and help them

succeed. we would all hope for the same treatment if we were in need, so anyone that is seeking a better life in a new country should not stand alone. I see no reason as to why they shouldn't be allowed in our country.

I agree with what you're saying Colin. People should treat others the same way they want to be treated so we must first support others if we want to be supported as well. My question for you is how would you persuade someone who thinks differently to see the point you're making? (Xixin Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 04:15AM

Willa Boston, MA, USA

I stand by the cliché phrase, treat others the way you would like to be treated. While I don't know if most people would apply this on a national or even global scale, I would. I think we have a responsibility to help those around us pursue freedom, security, and a better life. While this does not mean we have to become best friends with every person seeking this that we come across, and save them, we have to at least not stand in their way. Almost everyone in this country (excluding Natives), is an immigrant or a descendant of one, so it is beyond hypocritical for an Irish immigrant to tell an Mexican Immigrant (who are both equally American) to "go back to their country" as if they couldn't turn around and tell you to do the same thing.

I agree with Gabi and definitely think that we have a duty to grant asylum, and ensure everyone gets a fair, peaceful chance at getting into the United States (along with reformation to our Visa process that can take up to 15+ years to get).

I do think that we are all entitled to the rights of the United Nations, and since that is so, the United States needs to better comply with them. We must better our asylum and immigration processes. As Fiona said, we are a country built off of immigrants, and for past presidents (Trump) to completely disregard that and enforce racism and xenophobia rather than acceptance is horrific. Article 14 says we have the "right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." We are not an exception, rather we are an example as the world's "melting pot". We are seen as a place for pursuing freedom, security, and prosperity, so we must act like it.

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 04:03AM

Aris T, Nurmijärvi, Finland

As a nation, we should not be obligated to help any person trying to leave their homeland just like we shouldn't be obligated to help any country not being capable to help their own citizens.

We have rights to do so, but there mustn't be any obligation. Otherwise we would with the same logic be obligated to take those who don't even accept our laws and practices and why should we have to do that?

interesting Aris. I understand what you are saying, but if you were the one needing help/ wanting to start over in a new place, wouldn't you want someone to welcome you in their country? Wouldn't you also accept their laws/practices if they extended their hand out to help you? (Tiffan Boston MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

I find your point interesting as well Aris, however coming from a country that does not lack resources to the degree of the other countries that are being fled from, do you think that it is okay to turn away people seeking out help, especially if you have the privilege to do so? (Maian Boston MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

I find what you are saying interesting, but if it were you or someone else that you care for being the one searching for help, wouldn't you extend a hand to help? (Greta Boston MA USA) – GRETA

What the three people before me basically said is that they disagree, however I think you're absolutely correct, however they kind of didn't get your point though. What I think Aris is saying is that nobody should be obligated to bring people in because nobody has the right to enforce that on a country. As well as the fact that Aris is from Finland which has a smaller economy than Bangladesh it isn't really able to just bring more people into the country because there might not even be enough resources to support that. (Douglas Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

Hey Aris, I sort of agree with you to a point on this. I believe that it really depends on a country's location and status on if they are able to help others. A lot of places can't really afford to be taking care of too many people who are coming and seeking help. However, I do believe that if the country has the resources they should have an obligation to help others because it is only right to share your wealth with those in need. I was wondering if you think this topic is a topic of morality or practicability? (Fiona Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 03:52AM

Samuel Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I believe that we have the responsibility to assist anyone seeking a better life in a new country. As humans, we must support each other through our individual or societal struggles, and if any person feels that they must leave their home for safety or opportunity, they should receive help and no obstacles. I believe that we should allow the vast majority of people who want to come here into the US, because immigration has proven to be beneficial to the societies of the countries it happens in. Also, we have space, and if they want to come here, I see no good reason why they shouldn't be able to come. Many immigrants are hard workers, and they will greatly benefit the economy. They will also raise families that will go on to support our country in the future. Also, we have a moral obligation to help immigrants, because the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says that we should. Unfortunately, many countries, even the US, ignore the rights presented in this declaration, and human rights are constantly being violated throughout the world. I think that, at the end of the day, all human beings, regardless of who they are or where they are from, are entitled to these rights. Otherwise, we aren't treating our fellow human beings as real people, but as something less. While this may

be difficult to enforce around the world, we should still try as hard as possible to ensure these rights for as many people as possible.

JULIA · JAN 28, 2021 07:56AM

Julia P, Brzesko, Poland

I think we have to treat everyone equally. If someone needs help, we should help them. It is our responsibility to treat people with kindness and respect. If we have a chance to help somebody, we should move in for the kill. I think everyone knows that most of us are privileged. We have got clean water, food, clothes, house and a country we live in. Some of us don't have it, so in my opinion we could share all those things with them. I know it is kinda hard to do, but for me a human being is more important than arguments between countries' presidents. My motto is I am going to treat other people, as I would like to be treated.

I totally agree with you Julia! My question for you is if there is a way to make people change their perspectives on immigration and the treatment of others? (Tiffany · Boston MA, USA) — ANONYMOUS

I think there is, but it is a long way. Firstly we should educate others and let them understand why treating people well is so important. But to be honest - I wonder if it is possible for our society to be 100% tolerant someday, cause everyone is different and everyone has their own perspective. I hope as many people as possible will be tolerant someday. — JULIA P

I completely agree with you, Julia! That is a refreshing perspective on the topic and I am glad you stand by it. A question I have is how many people in Poland (or just the area you live in) have this way of thinking, too? — SYDNEY ·

Unfortunately I don't know the exact figure of tolerant and intolerant people, but I don't think there is many of tolerant ones. Poland is quite illiberal country. — JULIA

Hi Julia! I really liked what you said about your own personal motto, and I think everybody needs to consider it more often. I agree it is our responsibility to simply treat others how we should be treated and to extend a helping hand if we have the resources to do so. I wanted to ask you: what are Poland's immigration policies like, and how might they compare to America's? (Zoë · Boston, MA, USA) — ANONYMOUS

Hi Julia! I like how you mention that the rights and safety of other humans should be prioritized over political feuds between countries. My question for you is: how does politics affect immigration and immigration policies in Poland? — SERENA

^ Serena · Boston, USA — SERENA

I absolutely agree with you Julia, I like your point about most of us being privileged, we take too much for granted often and don't realize that not everyone has the things and privileges that we're fortunate enough to have. That's why it's important to help anyone when we get a chance no matter what, you never know what might be going on in their life. (Colin · Boston MA USA) — ANONYMOUS

Hi Zoë, in Poland here we have 2 million immigrants. They are mostly from Ukraine and Belarus. However Polish government isn't really open for new immigrants. Public television is under the supervision of the ruling party and there is a lot of propaganda. They don't say immigrants are bad, but they mean it, so it has an effect on the common man. They show only the bad sides of immigrants. I don't know the exact situation in America (I read a bit about it here). I read that US ignores the fundamental civil rights and I think Poland does it similarly. — JULIA P

Hi Serena, I think it depends on the credibility of the government. It is terrible that the government doesn't want to help other people because of which country he's from. — JULIA P

Hi Serena, I think it depends on the credibility of the government. It is terrible that the government doesn't want to help other people because of which country he's from. I wonder if people will understand someday that we're all equal. — JULIA P

Of course, Colin, you're absolutely right. I am glad a lot of Gen-Z people has this point of view. — JULIA P

ANONYMOUS · JAN 21, 2021 03:47AM

Fiona · Boston, MA, USA

I believe that as human beings we should want to help other human beings. A human's origins or background shouldn't matter when they are in need of a helping hand. America has the resources to let immigrants in and help them to get better lives, so why shouldn't we? We would hope to expect the same treatment for our neighbors if we were in need. A human shouldn't be denied access to a safe and happy life. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights goes through the rights that humans are born with and protects the people in a sense. The idea is to provide equal opportunity to success and a happy life across the board and protection from those who try to take this away from you. Therefore I would believe that everyone should be offered the rights that this document provides. Why wouldn't someone deserve the right to be protected from people who try to take away their rights? As Americans we believe that our freedom is most important, we were founded through ideas of freedom. However, some people still think it is okay to take away other people's freedoms and rights to just exist because they come from somewhere else or they seem different to us. Our country was founded off of immigrants and now many people believe it is right to keep them out. All of our ancestors were in their shoes at one point and I think people need to look at the bigger picture and think about the real reason on why they're so afraid of immigrants.

ANONYMOUS · JAN 21, 2021 03:19AM

Gabi · Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I believe that countries have a duty of accepting immigrants who are in need of asylum. I think that it's just a matter of having good morals, and recognizing what the right thing to do is. It's a matter of considering that if you were having a hard time and needed a neighbor to help you, you would hope that they would be kind

because all people are entitled to the protection of their human rights. This world that we live in is not fair, but what we should do at the very least is ensure that everyone stands equal on the same line and have access to their human rights regardless of who they are, where they're from, and what they identify with.

Xixin, I definitely agree with you that the US is extremely hypocritical in their anti-immigrant sentiments. I also agree that even though the world isn't fair, we should still do our part to create equal ground for everyone to stand on. My question for you is what would you tell someone who asked what the point of working for equality is if we can never achieve it? (Katie R, Boston, MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 12:02AM

Azalea, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I think we have a responsibility to help people seeking security and a better life by doing our best to admit them to our nations. I believe that everyone is entitled to the rights that the document specifies and that nations are obliged to comply with them.

In the United States, almost every single person is either an immigrant or a descendent of immigrants. However, there are some strong anti-immigrant sentiments, especially against non-Europeans. The immigration process is often very long and complicated. Sometimes it takes years. Many people are in unsafe situations and can't wait years to come to a safer place. I think that to better comply with the UN Declaration of Human rights, we need to do better to support people's right to security, asylum, and change of nationality. An inefficient and exclusionary immigration process puts migrants at risk of danger and exploitation.

A bit of current events--today, our new President Biden (!) reversed Trump's travel ban aimed at Muslim-majority countries (in his campaign he had proposed a "Muslim ban"). He also stopped funding for the border wall with Mexico. I was relieved to see this, and I am curious about what the new administration will do (or not do) to reform the immigration system to better comply with the UN rights.

I completely agree with the fact that we need to do better to support people's right to security, asylum, and change of nationality, which you stated, I was wondering, touching upon the immigration process in our country, do you have any ideas on how to better it, and what do you think of it in your opinion, I often find myself thinking of how harmful it can be. (Katy, Boston, MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

Hi Azalea, I agree with you that the long and complicated process definitely places a lot of migrant's lives at risk since many people are forced to leave their native country due to violence and gang activities. What policies do you think should be implemented to address the immigrants at the border and the deportation of undocumented immigrants in the United States? (Xinyan, Boston, MA, USA) – XINYAN

ANONYMOUS JAN 20, 2021 11:52PM

Shamir, Boston MA, USA

We all come from different places around this world. Some of us live in comfort knowing that nothing terrible will happen to us while others live in constant fear that they could die at any moment. Regardless of what our background is, there is one thing that connects us all. We are all human beings. The only way in which society can advance is if we help one another in times of need. We have a responsibility to ensure that, where ever evil arises, people are able to escape in hopes of finding a better life. To deny persons of the opportunity to live a safe and secure life is no different as to partake in the malicious acts that led those persons to escape from where they once were. Complying with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights ensures that we always look out for those in other countries who are in need. Complying with all obligations prevents evildoers from being able to enforce their reign of terror upon all of their citizens. Because we are all human beings, every single person is entitled to the rights that were specified by the United Nations document. As the leader of the free world, the United States must do all that it can to ensure that injustices are never committed against anyone. As MLK once said, "Injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere." If we don't guarantee the rights to every single person, the ones stated by the United Nations, we are partaking in the injustices they're trying to escape from. Freedom and Democracy can survive if we do our part to ensure a better future for all.

Hi Shamir I agree with what you're saying but I have a clarifying question, the universal declaration of human rights also states that they can deny those who are contrary to the principles of the declaration of human rights, do you agree with that statement? Douglas, Boston, MA – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 20, 2021 11:20PM

Maianh T, Boston MA, USA

We most certainly have a responsibility to help fellow human beings in search of security and a better life. Especially being a more developed country, the US has an abundance of resources to provide this, through the hundreds of years of work done by immigrants. I completely agree with Zoë's point about the US being hypocritical in having a substantial amount of gratuitous attitudes towards those who seek out a better life in this country. This country was and is being built at the expense of immigrants, but gives it thanks by creating increasingly difficult citizenship processes, offering little help in worker safety and security, and spewing demeaning and threatening comments. Like the New York Times article said, the focus should not be on the amount of immigrants coming into the country, but the reason for why. People don't pick up and leave their home for a place that may not welcome them as a first choice. They don't come to take jobs or destroy the economy. They come because their country is not providing for them and this is the final card up their sleeve. Being a country that was built on immigrants, is especially our obligation to uphold the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the declaration that everyone is entitled to. The least we

enough to. Because of this, I believe people should be allowed the rights which they are born with, that are outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I recognize how difficult it is to amend the US immigration laws, but something must be done regardless. As Azalea explained, the immigration laws in the US make the process long and arduous. This completely disregards the urgency in which many immigrants are traveling, and is basically slamming the door in their face. I believe that in addition to being hypocritical, as others have said, the anti-immigration attitudes of today stem from a place of privilege. If you have shelter, meals, a job, and money to support yourself, you have your necessities. However, many immigrants are looking for the opportunity to gain those because their native country's situation is so difficult right now. The New York Times article rebutted the stigma that immigrants don't work, or that they are a huge part of the population of countries. Therefore, in my opinion, the xenophobia is just racism and colorism in disguise.

Totally agree with your statement that xenophobia is just racism and colorism in disguise Gabi! In addition to stemming from a place of privilege, do you think that these anti-immigration attitudes could also come from the pressures of needing to assimilate? Speaking from an immigrant family perspective, I notice that even other immigrants shame those seeking asylum or have illegal stay. Do you have any thoughts on maybe why that is? (Maianh Boston MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

I do think that from the perspective of immigrants who are xenophobic, they view their opinion as assimilating into America. I think that some immigrants use xenophobia as a 'pick-me' strategy as if to say "I am different than the other immigrants and therefore should be accepted in America. I also know that some immigrants believe that because their personal experience immigrating to the US was long and arduous, that others should also experience that, and are xenophobic for that reason, because they don't want others to have an easier experience. (Gabi Boston MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

XINYAN JAN 21, 2021 01:49AM

Xinyan Boston, Massachusetts, USA

I believe that as immigrants ourselves or descendants of immigrants, we have the responsibility to not only acknowledge that there are groups of people who are seeking security and a better life in other countries, but we are also responsible for actively stepping up to help them. Since everyone is protected by the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they are obligated to comply with them to ensure that others also receive the same rights. Everyone is entitled to these rights since birth in order to provide equal opportunities for people to have a better life. Despite being a country built by hard working immigrants, many Americans are fueled by xenophobia and racist stereotypes to push immigrants out of the country and prevent those who dream of a better life to enter. The immigrants are forced to leave their homes due to economic problems, violence and gang activities, global warming, or simply because they want a better life for their family. Nevertheless, Americans are blinded by the false perception that immigrants are taking away their job, so they fail to understand the struggles that immigrants face. I agree

with Professor Alesina in the New York Times article that "Anti-immigration parties foster these misperceptions in a variety of ways strategically to gain support for their anti-immigration stands." Politics is one of the main causes for xenophobia and hate crimes. The solution to this problem is to petition for immigration policies and vote for a candidate that will accept immigrants into the country. We have the responsibility of helping to create a safe and welcoming country for the immigrants.

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 12:40AM

Katy Boston, MA, USA

I believe that it is our moral responsibility to help others. If we see someone is in trouble it is not ethical to walk away and ignore them, we should always help to the best of our abilities. This also goes for helping others search for a better life. We don't get to choose the life we are born into but we can choose the life we make out of it, and wouldn't you want to receive help if you needed it, so if someone else needs help we should provide. Everyone should always comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They are the rights that people deserve no matter where they are in this world, no matter their race, social status or class, skin color or religion. We need to start recognizing the hate and xenophobia in this country and condemn people who encourage and continue to display it. Everyone in this world deserves to be treated equally and it is time the world realizes that.

I definitely agree with your points here. While it is important that people follow the Declarations of Human Rights, the golden rule (treat others the way you want to be treated) should also be upheld. Regarding your last point, how can we instruct others to treat everyone fairly? It seems that we have been making attempts to do so, but they have been done in vain. – SYDNEY

I definitely agree with your points here. While it is important that people follow the Declarations of Human Rights, the golden rule (treat others the way you want to be treated) should also be upheld. Regarding your last point, how can we instruct others to treat everyone fairly? It seems that we have been making attempts to do so, but they have been unsuccessful. – SYDNEY

ANONYMOUS JAN 21, 2021 05:23AM

Xixin Boston, MA, USA

I believe that everyone has an obligation to admit people seeking security and/or a better life to each of our nations. It should be recognized that at some point, all of us were immigrants to the country we're now in. Many of our ancestors have immigrated to foreign lands in hope for a better life and now that generations have passed and we're living comfortably where we are, we shouldn't forget our immigrational history. In countries like the United States, there are more than enough resources to share with immigrants as opposed to what people are claiming that immigrants are only there to steal their jobs and opportunities away from them so our country is one that we should definitely welcome immigrants with open arms into. We have an obligation to comply with the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Sydney H, Boston, MA, USA

Though it is ultimately not the public's decision to choose how immigration is handled in our country, we all must realize that we have a responsibility in this process: We must treat these new members of our society with great respect. While immigration is viewed by many Americans as wrong and upsetting, it is hypocritical given the fact that the majority of US citizens immigrated here at some point. While I have not been faced with the hardships of immigration (specifically xenophobic experiences), I know that my great-grandfather was tasked with overcoming these instances. With the clear directions shown in the articles of the Declaration of Human Rights, it is unbelievable that immigration is looked down upon. These rights should apply to everyone, no matter their background or heritage. One statement that stood out to me was Article 14, which grants people the "right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." With the constant xenophobia and attacks on immigrants present in our own country, I believe there should be extensive protection surrounding these articles and the persons they concern.

Your point about xenophobia in immigration is a very important one. A lot of people hide under the false guise that they don't want "illegal" immigration because of the economy or a loss in jobs for American citizens. I do believe some people truly think that, but I also believe a lot of people use this as a cover for their xenophobia towards peoples from other countries. These immigrants face the worst xenophobia in the way that they are incredibly dehumanized. Whether they are being referred to as "aliens," or the simple fact that they are locked in cages shows how many simply don't believe these are real people who just want to provide a comfortable and safe life for their family. It is disgusting the way that these people are treated when they are simply trying to flee a dangerous country and seek asylum. These are human beings and they need to be treated like it.
(Josie Baile Boston, MA, USA) – ANONYMOUS

hi Sydney! i totally agree with you in many ways! the fact that you literally told our reality just makes me wonder how can we fix things? We have to do something to help this situation we're in.
(Anastasija North Macedonia) – STASII

ANONYMOUS JAN 19, 2021 11:45PM

Zoë Boston, MA, USA

I believe that each of us has the fundamental responsibility to take in others in need when we have the ability to help. In the United States, I think it is hypocritical to not accept all immigrants because of the fact that our country was founded mainly by both voluntary and involuntary immigrants. There are more than enough resources in our country to take these people in and any xenophobic argument that immigrants "will rely on "true Americans" tax dollars to live" or that they will "steal Americans' jobs" is ridiculous, because, just as the New York Times article talked about, immigrants bring economic benefits to a country and most Americans' perception of the status of immigrants is exaggerated. Some immigrants also leave their countries in the global South because of climate change, which is mainly caused by global North countries' practices. It is each country's duty to take in any immigrant looking for a better life, especially if that

country's practices are adding to the reasons for more immigration. Everyone is entitled to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights because everybody is born equal, and so each political power in the world has the obligation to comply with that declaration of rights.

ANONYMOUS JAN 19, 2021 08:37PM

Greta G, Boston, MA, USA

In my opinion, everyone has the responsibility to help out fellow human beings achieve a better life and security. Extending basic human rights to all people is something that everyone must do. Not everything that we have in our lives is somethings that others have, such as basic fundamental human rights. We do have a responsibility to aid others and help them achieve a better life if that is to be in our nations. Just like a lot of my peers, my parents were immigrants to the United States, and while they were not running away from a horrible life and had a lack of human rights in the country they lived in before, they still wanted a better life. They achieved that when they came to the United States. We have an obligation to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as it sets a baseline for how people across the world should be treated. No one should suffer from being persecuted and other horrific violations of Human rights. I firmly stand with Article 14, which states the "right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." Everyone who is human is entitled to basic rights, as we are all people.

Hi Greta! I completely agree with everything you wrote. My mother was an immigrant too and although she was not fleeing a horrible life in her own country, she came to America with her family in hopes for a better life for future children. Why do you think so many Americans are xenophobic and do not recognize that it is a human right to be treated equal and welcomed? (Zoë Boston, MA, USA)
– ANONYMOUS

GRACE JAN 19, 2021 07:53PM

Grace C Boston, MA, USA

I believe that every nation has a responsibility to admit people in search of security and a better life. The vast majority of the United States population is descended from relatively recent immigrants or immigrated here themselves, so I feel that we have a particular obligation to maintain open borders and support pro-immigration policies. Further, I think that the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides a very strong minimum for the immigration rights all humans deserve: everyone should be able to seek asylum, migrate to other countries and change their nationalities. I think it is wrong that people may be denied the right to immigrate based on their country of origin, as that should not be the sole determinant of someone's future. As Porter and Russell wrote in their New York Times article, immigration is necessary to many countries including the United States, and almost all of the "downsides" are greatly exaggerated or outright lies.

could do is use whatever advantages we have over other nations to allow a place of refuge, but we also need to look to build up other countries as well. No one should be pushed out of their own home without their own accord and I think that that is something many Americans fail to sympathize with.

ESLI R. · JAN 20, 2021 09:51PM

Esli R, Boston, MA, USA

I believe that everyone is entitled to the right to seek security in other countries. We as a country are not only required by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to allow immigration, but also have a moral responsibility to help those who need it. This includes allowing for effective and efficient immigration. While immigration policies are primarily made by the government, we can use our voices by voting for politicians who stand for helping immigrants seeking asylum, and making immigrants in our own neighborhoods feel safe and welcomed. Negative stereotypes and harmful rhetoric by people in power often perpetuate false information that can lead to unnecessary hysteria surrounding immigration, when in reality immigrants are not harmful. Arguments advocating for harsher immigration policies are often based on false perceptions, as the New York Times article points out. Not only is it our responsibility as human beings to help those in need, but immigration can also be helpful to countries, and should be viewed as an opportunity, not a problem.

Hey Esli! I really agree with your statements on electing politicians who fight for the preservation of immigrants' human rights. You asked me a question on whether I think the perception of immigrants can change in America. I believe that there will always be stubborn racists who see immigrants of color as stepping on American opportunities that they believe are designated only for white citizens. Still, people can change, especially if the media does. With the recent election of Joe Biden, I hope that less of this divisive rhetoric that you were talking will be in the media. Those who hold anti-immigrant sentiments will hopefully be discouraged, seeing that the new administration does not share those beliefs and cannot excuse such beliefs. Do you think that the recent deplatforming of Donald Trump and extremist groups will settle down the hysteria and overexaggeration regarding the "threat" of immigrants?

— LEAH P. · JAN 20, 2021 09:51PM

^ (Leah P, Boston, USA) — LEAH P.

I think it is really interesting that you mentioned an efficient immigration process, because, from what I know, it can take an eternity for an immigrant to even have their application noticed, and the system itself is deeply flawed. In order to create a better immigration system, we need to make sure that those fleeing violence or seeking a better life are able to come into America as quickly as possible, because in many instances, their lives are in immediate danger.

— SAMUEL · JAN 20, 2021 09:51PM

ANONYMOUS · JAN 20, 2021 09:28PM

Katie · Boston, MA, USA

In regards to the United States, I believe we definitely have a responsibility to admit immigrants seeking a better life. Our country was born from immigrants. Like Zoë says, it would be

hypocritical of us to turn immigrants away, as the former president would have us do. But what I find most ridiculous is that so often those that advocate to keep immigrants out are the ones that simultaneously preach "patriotism," as if they don't realize the one of our founding fathers, one of the original patriots, was an immigrant.

We also have the obligation to comply with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It's even in the name: *universal*. They are the rights that people deserve no matter where they are on Earth, and to ignore those rights or put them aside because some consider them inconvenient is despicable. The United States is one of the leading countries in the world, and as President Biden says, "We must lead not by the example of our power, but by the power of our example." If the United States won't hold themselves to these standards of basic human rights, how can we expect anyone else to? I also believe that everyone is entitled to the rights that the document specifies. They are described as human rights. Not rich human rights, not first world human rights, but simply human rights. We are all human, regardless of our circumstances, and we all deserve these rights.

I think that you did an amazing job highlighting just how important immigration is in our country, and how hypocritical the people who preach patriotism but are also anti-immigrant are. Like if they loved this country so much wouldn't they want to share it with other people? Right? My question for you is how do you think we can help change some people's biased attitude towards immigrants? (Willa · Boston, USA) — ANONYMOUS

SOPHIA · JAN 20, 2021 01:55AM

Sophia · Boston, MA, USA

As the New York Times has said that immigration is not slowing down anytime soon, and with this comes the rapid growth of myths, and stereotypes. And as fellow human beings we have a responsibility to protect and shelter those in need. Those who have been granted their human rights have a responsibility to help grant others theirs. The UN declaration is not a suggestion but a DECLARATION. This means that we are obligated to follow those rights. Everyone is entitled to the rights that they were given at birth. The rights that are given to us at birth are supposed to set us on an equal playing field to reach other opportunity. But, unfortunately these rights are not granted and therefore right from birth many people are at a disadvantage.

I really found it interesting when you said, "The UN declaration is not a suggestion but a DECLARATION." I believe that whole heartedly. Many people in the USA think these rules are not for them to follow and think they don't apply to them so they don't have to listen. But in reality it applies to every single person around the globe. We need to stop ignoring this declaration and start following it in our everyday lives. We need to learn more about immigration policies in our country and start making change happen. (Lilah C, Boston, MA, USA) — ANONYMOUS

Do you know any examples of people not following this declaration (in America or anywhere around the world)? (Lilah C, Boston, MA, USA) — ANONYMOUS

I totally agree with you Grace! My question for you is what would be your solution to our immigration problem in the US? (Tiffany Trinh, Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

LEAH: JAN 19, 2021 07:56PM

Leah P, Boston, MA, USA

I believe that everyone has an obligation to accept immigrants into society. It is up to the individual on how generous they want to be but extended basic rights to all is fundamental human morale. Nations should accept immigrants because immigrants actually help overall in increasing diversity and employment. America especially was founded by immigrants, some who came willingly and some who were forced. If America preaches its superiority and American Dream, then how does excluding immigrants from attaining that dream make sense? Many nations are wrought with crime, famine, and other struggles that any person would want to escape if they can. Many Americans lack the empathy to realize that they would want to escape bad conditions as well. Therefore, I believe that every person is entitled to the rights listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The "illegal immigrant problem" has been blown completely out of proportion due to the blatant racism of many white Americans who believe their rightful jobs will be taken away.

Hi Leah! I definitely agree with everything you said, especially the parts about how immigration actually helps increase diversity and employment in countries. I also think the point you brought up about many Americans not being able to empathize with immigrants and put themselves in the shoes of these people who were forced to leave their countries is a really important point. Do you think there is any way to change the perception of immigrants in the United States? Is it possible to get people to empathize? – ESLI

Hi Leah! I definitely agree with everything you said, especially the parts about how immigration actually helps increase diversity and employment in countries. I also think the point you brought up about many Americans not being able to empathize with immigrants and put themselves in the shoes of these people who were forced to leave their countries is a really important point. Do you think there is any way to change the perception of immigrants in the United States? Is it possible to get people to empathize? (Eslin, Boston, MA, USA) – ESLI

I agree with everything you said and I like your point about why the nation should accept immigrants, I agree I think it can help our country in diversity and job employment – ANONYMOUS

I agree with everything you said and I like your point about why the nation should accept immigrants, I agree I think it can help our country in diversity and job employment (Colin, Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 19, 2021 07:35PM

Lilah C Boston, MA, USA

I 100% believe we all have a responsibility to admit people seeking a better life because I like to think if I was in a situation where I needed to leave my home country for a better life another country would welcome me. We need to look at the world in other people's

shoes. It's not fair for us to not welcome everyone to America because at one point our ancestors were doing the same exact thing. My great-grandparents came from Ireland in search of a better life so it is only right we keep that going for many other immigrants wanting to build a better life in America. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights applies to everyone across the world no matter what and we as Americans and just humans have an obligation to uphold those rights. We need to start condemning the people in America who say that immigrants are "ruining this country" or "taking our jobs" because that is just racism not fear for your job. Every human on this planet deserves the same treatment and the same rights no matter who they are.

I completely agree with your points, especially your statement about fearing loss of your job vs just being racist. I believe it is necessary to point out the obvious differences between the two actions. How do you propose we do this? I suggest we focus on intent vs impact when discussing a topic like this one. – SYDNEY

ANONYMOUS JAN 19, 2021 05:35PM

Lila C Boston, MA, USA

In my opinion, We as human beings are obligated to help others who are in search of a better life. People do not get to choose what life they are born into, and to fault someone for wanting something that you were simply born with is just wrong. I think that people deserve any chance they can get at a better life and should not face hate simply because of it. A huge problem in the United States especially is xenophobia. I have always found this really ironic because this country was founded off of immigrants, and has been built by immigrants. We have the obligation to comply with the UN's declaration of human rights because every single person on this earth deserves to be treated like a human being.

I totally agree with you Lila! My question for you is what would be your solution to the amount of xenophobia we face in our country and if there is a way to limit the number of instances as well? (Tiffany Trinh, Boston MA USA) – ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS JAN 19, 2021 04:14AM

Tiffany T Boston, MA, USA

I believe that it is our duty to allow other fellow human beings to enter and search for their new lives in this country. I do not think that it is fair for us to be the only ones allowed to live and prosper in the U.S since we are all originally immigrants except for the Indigenous population. Admitting people in to seek new opportunities is something that America needs to adapt and understand because, unfortunately, some Americans think that all immigrants are stealing "American" jobs, which is evidently untrue. We have an obligation to comply to the UN's declaration of rights and everyone should be granted these rights no matter their gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, etc.

I agree, Tiffany: it would be hypocritical to oppose immigration as a descendant of immigrants. Do you think people use "the economy"/jobs as an excuse to be xenophobic? (Azalea Thompson, Boston MA USA) -- ANONYMOUS

I completely agree with you Tiffany! You made some really good points about how prominent xenophobia is in the United States. A question I have for you is, Why have Americans as well as people from other countries developed a sort of superiority complex to people who were not as fortunate to the country they were born in? (Lila C.) -- ANONYMOUS
