

DePaul Migration Collaborative

DMC

Advocating for Justice, Educating for the Future

Monthly Newsletter

WHO WE ARE: The DePaul Migration Collaborative engages scholars, practitioners, students and alumni to find solutions to society's most pressing problems in the areas of migration, mobility and human rights.

Events

Events

5/1 @8:30am *Broken by Design: Refuge and Responsibility 2026* Symposium

Registration Page: [Broken by Design: Refuge and Responsibility Tickets, Fri, May 1, 2026 at 8:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Note: In-person tickets are sold out, but you can register for our in-person waitlist for if seats become available.

Non-DMC Events

3/19 @7:00pm *Stories from the Frontlines: Immigration in America 2026 w/ Viator House of Hospitality*

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87592975977>

4/13 @6pm *Massacre River: The Woman Without a Country with Dr. Lorgia Garcia-Peña*

Location: Arts and Letters 103

News

Transformation In the Face of Instability: Nuevos Vecinos Volunteers Share their Stories



On February 25, 2026, a community feedback session was held at Nuevos Vecinos, an organization dedicated to the dignity of migrants and providing them with needed resources, to share preliminary findings from a research study based on fifteen in-depth interviews with Nuevos Vecinos volunteers. The presentation highlighted a central themes that emerged from the interviews including transformation.

Participants described arriving in Chicago during a period of crisis and instability and eventually becoming leaders who serve their own community through volunteer work. The findings showed that 93% of interviewees described shelter life as stressful or traumatic, and 67% reported arriving in Chicago with little or nothing. Nearly half of the volunteers interviewed began to volunteer within two to four weeks of receiving assistance. Additional findings emphasized the importance of dignity, community, and information-sharing within the organization. Thirty-three percent of participants described gaining confidence through receiving clothing for job interviews, while 87% referred to the Nuevos Vecinos community as "family." Participants also described the organization as a critical information hub for legal and housing resources, especially in contrast to shelters where 40% reported limited access to helpful information. The session concluded with reflection, conversation, and a shared meal, reinforcing the collaborative partnership between community members and researchers. Special thanks to Professor Monica Reyes for leading this research as part of the Solutions Lab initiative.

Accounting for Context, Culture, and Stress: Asylum Client Interviews

On March 11th, the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic hosted a workshop led by DMC Practitioner Venera Bekteshi. This workshop was open to legal service providers and accredited representatives.

The session introduced practical strategies for approaching client interviews with greater context and care, while also inviting participants to preview and contribute feedback to a developing toolkit designed to support practitioners working with asylum applicants. Through discussion and collaboration, the workshop highlighted the importance of trauma-informed practices and culturally aware interviewing techniques in strengthening both advocacy and due process for those seeking protection.

Thank you to all the participants who gave valuable feedback on the toolkit!

Welcome New Research Assistants!

We are pleased to welcome our newest research assistants Savio and Kazbano to the DMC!

They will be joining Practitioner in Residence Venera Bekteshi to collaborate on the development of a practical toolkit designed to support practitioners preparing political asylee cases. This project aims to provide accessible guidance and resources that strengthen advocacy and improve support for individuals seeking asylum.

Welcome to the DMC—we look forward to the important work ahead and to the impact this project will have for practitioners and the communities they serve!



Savio Fernandes
Master of Science in Human-Computer Interaction

"I am really excited to use my research skills to support the refugee and immigrant community. This work is very important to me; I currently volunteer with Heart-to-Heart, where I've learned a lot about the importance of supporting people's well-being. I am eager to bring my dedication to this project and help create tools that truly support practitioners and the people they serve.

I am also eager to learn how qualitative research is turned into a practical toolkit. I want to see how data from interviews can be used to improve documentation and care for others."

Kazbano Tariq
Master of Science in Research Psychology

"I am excited to work with the DePaul Migration Collaborative as a Research Assistant, where I can bring together my academic interests and fieldwork with refugee communities. I am especially drawn to trauma-informed work serving immigrant and refugee communities, and I look forward to further developing my research skills while gaining deeper insight into practitioner tools."



In Case You Missed It

Resources and Calls to Action

Resources

[IL IMMIGRATION INFO | Know Your Rights](#)

[Immigration Resources | DePaul Migration Collaborative | Centers, Institutes & Initiatives | Academics | College of Law | DePaul University, Chicago](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions Related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers on DePaul University Property | Immigration | Services | Office of the General Counsel | DePaul University, Chicago](#)

[ReadyNow! -Emergency Alert System for Immigrant Families](#)

Calls to Action

[Volunteer — IL IMMIGRATION INFO](#)

[How to Help MIBFC — Midwest Immigration Bond Fund](#)

Share [Know Your Rights](#) Information with family, friends, and community members.

Migration News

Without Paywalls

[Immigration court loses nearly half its judges from a year ago, Chicago Tribune](#)

[As President Trump pushes deportations, immigration data becomes harder to find — Chicago Tribune](#)

With Paywalls

[More than 900 children have been held in ICE custody past the 20-day limit | The Independent](#)

[Nurul Amin Shah Alam: Nearly blind refugee found dead in New York days after immigration agents dropped him at a coffee shop alone, officials say | CNN](#)

[Trump's immigration comments may incite hate crimes, UN watchdog says, BBC](#)

[How Iran's women footballers took asylum in Australia and what happens next | Football News | Al Jazeera](#)

[Children languish in ICE detention long past 20-day court limit, NBC](#)

[UK asylum appeal backlog doubles in a year to hit record high, BBC](#)

[Immigration agents are using Meta's AI glasses — and critics are alarmed | The Independent](#)

[Legal refugees now face long detention after DHS reinterprets law on applying for a green card after a year, The Conversation](#)

[Asylum seekers increasingly being detained and pressured to leave the U.S., NBC News](#)



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