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

10/22 @5:30 pm Flight from Guerrero: An *Exodus* Documentary Screening & Discussion (In-Person Only)

RSVP: HERE

11/04 @ 6 pm From Passion to Action: Immigration Advocacy in a Rapidly Changing World (Zoom Only)

RSVP: HERE

5/1 @ 9am Broken by Design: Refugee and Responsibility 2026 Symposium

More Information: Coming this winter!

Non-DMC Events

10/ 23 @6pm Exiled and Erased: Understanding the Rohingya Genocide and Refugee Crisis

In-Person Location: SAC 270

News

Crevices and Crutches Laid Bare: Global Governments and Civil Society Responses to Migrant Housing Research Presentation

Left to right: Shamiso Gombera, Dr. Ramya Ramanath, Julia Wagner, and Yamilca Villareal

On October 9th, Solutions Lab grantee Dr. Ramya Ramanath presented her research on migrant homelessness and global responses alongside IGH (Institute of Global Homelessness) director Julia Wagner and research assistants Shamiso Gombera and Yamilca Villareal.

The study drew from a series of semi-structured interviews and a focus group discussion with NGOs, government officials, housing rights activists, lawyers and academics between December 2024 and July 2025 in the cities: Chicago, Santiago, Glasgow, Pretoria and Montevideo.

Julia Wagner and Yamilca Villarreal opened the presentation by giving a global overview, contextualizing the intersection of migration and homelessness. They explained that there is a gap in research and in data with only 78 countries having official homelessness data that rarely includes the experiences of forced migrants.

Afterward, Dr. Ramanath presented her own findings. The research focused on irregular migrants. This includes individuals enter a country irregularly or who may have exceeded their term of legal status. Dr. Ramanath shared the different resources that each city provides for irregular migrants, and she also identified gaps in resources that create challenges to them. At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Ramanath emphasized the need to supplement human rights approaches with economic approaches because housing markets themselves create a barrier for migrants and citizens alike when it comes to access.

If you are interested in hearing more about her research and specific country analysis, stay up to date via our newsletter and social media.

When in Rome: Exploring Human Dignity and the University Responsibility in Refugee Accompaniment

From October 1-3, 2025, over 200 participants from 40+ countries gathered in Rome for the *International Summit, Migrants & Refugees in Our Common Home: Roles and Responsibilities of Universities*. The event brought together leaders in higher education, research, government, and refugee advocacy to address one critical question: How can universities best serve forced migrants, immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees?

The summit was a dynamic three-day exchange of ideas, filled with plenary sessions, working groups, and discussions focused on education, advocacy, research, and direct service. Attendees explored ways universities can lead in advocating for human dignity through actionable solutions in support of displaced populations. For many, it was a call to strengthen partnerships and strategies that connect academic research to real-world impact.

DMC Senior Program Manager, Jill Nyhof Rodriguez attended and shared that one of the most profound moments of the summit was a special audience with Pope Leo. In the address, the Pope offered his blessing to the collective efforts of those gathered and urged attendees to "seek always to put the dignity of every human person at the center of any solution." The Pope's message reaffirmed the pivotal role universities play in advancing human dignity. For those of us working in higher education, it was a timely reminder of the unique position institutions hold in shaping policies, driving research, and advocating for vulnerable communities.

Jill shared a particularly memorable conversation she had with Sister Norma Pimentel, Executive Director of the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. While the two discussed conditions faced by migrants on the Southern Border and in Chicago, Sister Norma encouraged to "always be led by love," for "hate is a poison in the water." Her words left a lasting impact, emphasizing the importance of compassion and solidarity, even in the face of adversity.

This commitment to action and compassion will guide us as we move forward, working to ensure that the University remains a vital player in addressing the challenges within global migration.

New Report Alert: Protecting Rights Across Contexts and International Sharing (PRAxIS)

The PRAxIS project led by Practitioner in Residence Joshua Friedman explored how Chicago and Vienna can better protect refugees' rights to adequate food and housing. Through in-depth research with Afghan, Syrian, Iraqi, and Rohingya communities throughout the two cities, PRAxIS identified key challenges — from high rents and food access barriers to fragmented services and limited tenant rights awareness — and offered concrete policy and legal recommendations for change. Together, governments, NGOs, and communities can act to strengthen these rights.

For those interested: the report is featured on our website via the reports tab.

Welcoming New Voices to Our Advisory Team

We are thrilled to announce the newest members of the DMC Advisory Council! These distinguished individuals bring a wealth of experience, expertise, and passion for our mission, and we are excited to have them join us in shaping the future for the DMC. Their diverse backgrounds will help guide our advocacy, research, and programming in service for migrant communities.

Please join us in welcoming Professors Dina Birman, Stan Chu Ilo, Jordan Levy, and Veronica Llerena to the team! We would also like to give a warm shoutout and thank you to Rubén Álvarez Silva alongside Professors Rajat Mazumder and Lien Tran for their continued commitment!

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

Calls to Action
Volunteer — IL IMMIGRATION INFO

Share Know Your Rights Information with family, friends, and community members.

Migration News

Without Paywalls

Chicago apartment ICE raid, Tenants detained for hours and American kids separated from parents | CNN

CTU says immigration crackdown impacting attendance at CPS - ABC7 Chicago

Apple Blocks Immigration-Tracking App From App Store - Business Insider

Trump taps Army Reserve, National Guard for immigration judges | AP News

Alligator Alcatraz detainees drop off grid after leaving site | Miami Herald

ICE Eyes New Social Media Intelligence Program to Support Deportations With Round-the-Clock Monitoring: Report | IBTimes

US awards $4.5 billion in border wall contracts, DHS says | Reuters

After mass exodus, limbo: Rohingya refugees test international resolve | UN News

UNHCR says refugee convention faces greatest threat since its 1951 creation | AP News

Conflict sends 300,000 people fleeing from South Sudan in 2025: UN | News | Al Jazeera

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