

# Resources for Learning about Refugees and Asylum Seekers



Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.

## Introduction

During this time when so many of us are unable to gather outside of our homes, we have an opportunity to spend some time learning more about the global refugee crisis. In addition to the HIAS [blog](#) and [video gallery](#), use the articles and videos below to expand your knowledge. Invite family or friends to read or watch these resources and then discuss your learnings over FaceTime or Skype.

## Articles

1. According to this article, in an age of mass displacement, [powerful and stable nations have not figured out a humane way](#) to handle the influx of people claiming persecution while balancing domestic concerns about security and cultural change and, therefore, the world's refugee system is broken.
2. People seeking asylum in the U.S. are less likely to have [legal representation](#) under a new policy that sends them to await court hearings in Mexican border cities, recently released research shows.
3. When the administration rolled out its policy to force asylum seekers to wait in Mexico, officials said medical exemptions would help the sick. [They haven't.](#)
4. An [in-depth look at how Border Patrol agents' power](#) over the fate of migrants can separate families.
5. Learn more about the devastating abuse and murder that [more than 200 Salvadorans](#) have faced after being deported from the United States.
6. In August 2017, a deadly crackdown by Myanmar's army on Rohingya Muslims sent hundreds of thousands fleeing across the border into Bangladesh. [Learn more about what they are experiencing and how the world has responded.](#)
7. The situation for asylum seekers in Greece continues to be dire. [Learn about the draconian measures the Greek government is employing](#) – including holding migrants incommunicado at a secret extrajudicial location without due process – to try to prevent asylum seekers from passing into Greece and Europe to seek safety.
8. The Guardian asked authors for some of their favorite books about migration. [Here are their recommendations.](#)

## Videos

1. Explore the UNHCR's (the UN refugee agency) [video archives](#), which includes stories of refugees from all over the world.
2. A photo and video slideshow titled "800,000 Syrians Have Fled in Three Months. This Is What It Looks Like," shows [devastating images of Syrians fleeing](#) their homes.
3. Watch this [brief video](#) about Annie™ MOORE, the world's first software that helps resettlement agencies optimize the placement of refugees within host countries. It is named in honor of Annie Moore, the first person to be processed at Ellis Island in 1892.
4. [Midnight Traveler](#) is the firsthand documentation of one Afghani asylum-seeking family's harrowing trek across numerous borders, revealing the danger and uncertainty facing asylum seekers juxtaposed with the unbreakable love shared amongst a family in search of safety.
5. [They Live Here, Now](#) is an intimate portrait of daily life for refugees from all over the world living at Casa Marianella, a volunteer-driven emergency shelter in East Austin, Texas serving recently arrived immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.
6. You have minutes to pack up and flee your home. What do you prize most in the course of your escape, and in your search for a new country? Documentary multimedia artist Sam Ball (Citizen Film) and curator of The Magnes Collection Francesco Spagnolo teamed up with young refugee storytellers ages 18-25 to explore their most <sup>[SEP]</sup>prized possessions in multimedia installations and events from Times Square to the Contemporary Jewish Museum. [Watch the conversation about this project.](#)
7. In the seemingly peaceful and picturesque Austrian countryside resides Hans Breuer: shepherd by day, activist by night. Just hours outside of Breuer's modest rural cabin, the tranquility is disrupted as thousands of refugees cross his country's borders seeking asylum. He cannot sleep at night knowing there are refugees that need help, only a two hour drive from his home. Using a private Facebook group to connect, Breuer volunteers his time to help the refugees with everything from collecting food and water to driving them safely across the Hungarian border. He even sings them beautiful Yiddish lullabies from his childhood. [Refugee Lullaby](#) tells this poignant story.
8. In [Voyage of the Damned](#), based on the 1974 book of the same title, we are reminded of Emil Fackenheim's 614th commandment, which calls on us not to despair at the horrors of the Holocaust. The film takes us into the past even as it evokes our century, a time when similar refugee experiences are becoming commonplace.