

Volunteer Delegations to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

Overview

There are currently more than 13,000 asylum seekers in Ciudad Juarez, either waiting for their opportunity to present themselves at the border so that they can request asylum, under a process called metering, or that have been sent back to Mexico to wait for their asylum claims to be adjudicated, pursuant to the Administration's Remain in Mexico policy (as known as Migrant Protection Protocols - MPP). These asylum seekers are not aware of their legal rights and don't understand the very complicated process of seeking asylum in the U.S.

Volunteers are needed to stay in El Paso, Texas and travel into Ciudad Juarez daily to assist local staff in serving asylum seekers by providing Know Your Rights presentations and screening asylum seekers for potential legal representation.

What happens during a volunteer delegation?

Volunteers will meet each morning to discuss the schedule for the day. HIAS cell phones will be distributed to groups of volunteers each morning, to ensure reliable communication with HIAS staff. When going to Juarez, volunteers will travel with the HIAS Field Coordinator to the crossing and will be met on the other side by staff from HIAS de Mexico.

HIAS staff will assign tasks to volunteers including delivering or assisting with Know Your Rights group presentations (based on a script that will be provided) and meeting with individuals/families in the MPP program to gather the basic facts of their case (using a screening form) so that HIAS staff can determine whether to refer them to our partners in El Paso for possible legal representation.

The volunteer delegation is not designed as an expressly educational experience, nor is it focused on witnessing the border crisis; it is entirely about providing direct service to asylum seekers. If this opportunity does not fit your needs, find other ways to take action at [HIAS' Take Action for Asylum Seekers page](#).

Who should participate?

Each delegation will consist of a minimum of two and a maximum of eight volunteers. All volunteers must be at least advanced-proficient Spanish speakers, but need not have any experience working with asylum seekers or in immigration law. HIAS will provide training.

What is the time commitment for participants?

Participants should arrive on the Sunday evening prior to the week selected to volunteer, and plan to stay until at least noon the following Friday. Participants must be available to work from 9am-6pm each day of the delegation except Friday.

Additionally, all participants are to watch a recorded webinar training and review provided written materials prior to the start of the delegation.

What is the cost for participants?

Participants are responsible for all logistics and expenses related to travel, lodging, meals, and any other costs associated with the delegation. Volunteers may stay wherever they choose – there are many hotel options in downtown El Paso.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please fill out this [Interest Form](#).