



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Migrants Traveling Toward a Light: Will We Be that Light?

“If we are to address the global refugee crisis, resettlement can and must be revived. Refugee crises cannot be left to countries of first asylum. Refugees will continue to move until they find a country that has the capacity to receive them, so everyone must play a role in addressing forced displacement” (Mark Hetfield, HIAS President and CEO). There are an estimated 84 million forcibly displaced people around the world and the number continues to increase each year.

HIAS serves as one ray of light. The year 2021 may not have been much better than 2020, but HIAS remained committed to providing vital services to displaced persons, assisting more than 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers worldwide. HIAS offers a [list of ways you can take action](#) for refugees and asylum seekers in your community. (HIAS, founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, was originally established in 1881 to aid Jewish refugees.)

“The **Center for Migration Studies (CMS)** is another ray of light. CMS is a New York-based educational institute devoted to the study of international migration, to the promotion of understanding between immigrants and receiving communities, and to public policies that safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants, refugees, and newcomers.” www.cmsny.org.

CMS recently released “a new report with estimates of the US immigrant populations that would be eligible for permanent residence (legalization) if any of the following bills became law: the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021, the Dream Act of 2021, the Citizenship for Essential Workers Act, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, or the US Citizenship Act of 2021.

The CMS report – *Ready to Stay: A Comprehensive Analysis of the US Foreign-Born Populations Eligible for Special Legal Status Programs and for Legalization under Pending Bills* – also offers detailed statistical profiles of immigrants who are or could become eligible for special legal status programs, such as Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

CMS estimates that 42.5 percent of undocumented immigrants have lived in the United States for 15 years or more, and 6.7 million US citizens live in the same household with someone who is undocumented. The report affirms the potential benefits of legalization programs, such as helping to integrate long-term undocumented residents and their US citizen family members, keeping families together, and raising wages. It also highlights administrative programs that offer temporary status and work authorization to immigrants.”

<https://cmsny.org/publications/ready-to-stay-report/>

O Lord, refugees walk in uncertainty and fear along the roads of exile. Come to take them by the hand and guide them to a place they can call home. You are our help. (Magnificat, 12/9/21)