

**Forum:** Population Movement Council

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## **TOPIC 2: The question of undocumented populations**

**Be sure to consult the [UNIS MUN LibGuide](#) for additional resources.**

### **I. Introduction to the Topic**

Addressing the global issue "The question of undocumented populations," our topic is intricately linked to the overarching theme of this 2024 March Conference: "How can we use multilateral diplomacy to surmount the challenges of rapid societal change?" The weight of our discussion becomes noticeable as we further examine the global, regional, national, and local contexts of undocumented populations in the context of a dynamically changing world.

Internationally, the movement of undocumented populations underscores the imperative for collaborative, multilateral diplomacy. The rapid societal changes, driven by monetary, political, and environmental shifts, necessitate a unified international response, highly paying attention to constructing international frameworks that now not only address the on-the-spot challenges confronted by the aid of undocumented populations but also contribute to the wider purpose of fostering resilience in the face of societal ameliorations.

At a regional level, the dynamics of undocumented populations are deeply linked with rapid modifications taking place inside unique geographical areas. As they play an essential role in shaping policies, our exploration of multilateral diplomacy will become paramount. Collaborative efforts have to be tailor-made to regional nuances, acknowledging the impact of societal adjustments on migration styles and the specific challenges confronted by employing each area.

Within individual nations, the question of undocumented populations is not isolated from the broader narrative of societal change.

### **II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts**

#### **Mixed migration**

Involves the movement of individuals with different migration motives, such as refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants, and stateless persons, often using the same routes and means of transport.

Understanding mixed migration is crucial for acknowledging the diversity of reasons behind population movements. This also guides discussions toward inclusive strategies that consider the various needs and vulnerabilities associated with different migrant groups.

### **Detention centers**

These are facilities where undocumented individuals may be held while their immigration status is processed or pending deportation.

### **Regularization**

This refers back to the prison system with the aid of which the popularity of undocumented individuals is formalized, granting them felony reputation and rights inside a bunch United States of America. The mechanisms are crucial for addressing the challenges posed through undocumented populations. It offers a humane and complete approach to integrating people into society, contributing to social concord, and mitigating the dangers related to irregular fame.

### **Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

[Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#) involves the comprehensive overhaul of immigration policies, addressing various aspects such as border security, pathways to legal status, and the rights of undocumented populations. Emphasising the need for systemic solutions; comprehensive immigration reform aims to create balanced and inclusive policies that go beyond addressing immediate challenges, contributing to more effective and just immigration systems.

### **Statelessness**

A criminal popularity of individuals who are not taken into consideration by nationals by way of any state, lacking citizenship and associated rights. This is a critical period in our discourse, losing mild at the vulnerabilities confronted by way of sure undocumented populations.

## **III. Key Stakeholders**

### **United States**

The United States, United States of America, is relevant due to its status as a major destination for migrants and refugees. Its policies on immigration, border control, and asylum-seeking have global

implications. Understanding the U.S. perspective is significant as its approach often influences international migration trends and policies. Delegates need to consider U.S. policies when crafting global solutions.

## **Mexico**

Mexico, United Mexican States, is a transit and source country, Mexico is relevant in discussions on migration routes, challenges, and cooperation in the Americas. Their policies and experiences influence the well-being of migrants and the dynamics of migration routes; for so, the consideration of Mexico's perspective is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the challenges in the region.

## **National Governments**

Also known as a central or federal government, is the highest level of government within a country or state. Governments of countries impacted through undocumented populations are critical stakeholders in crafting and imposing policies. Recognizing the perspectives of national governments is essential for understanding the local context, legal frameworks, and challenges that inform responses to undocumented populations.

## **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

[UNHCR](#), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, is central to refugee protection globally, guiding policies and practices related to asylum seekers and refugees. As a key international agency and stakeholder, the UNHCR's involvement ensures that resolutions align with established refugee protection standards and advocate for the rights of displaced individuals.

## **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**

[IOM](#), International Organisation for Migrations, is instrumental in addressing the broader spectrum of migration, including the challenges faced by undocumented individuals. Further on, involving the IOM ensures that resolutions encompass comprehensive strategies, considering various aspects of migration, such as humanitarian, economic, and social dimensions.

## **IV. Key Issues including Background Information**

### **Border Control Policies and Human Rights**

The tightening of border control policies in many countries has led to increased challenges for undocumented populations. The difficulty here is great because of the capacity violation of human rights, with concerns about pushback operations, detention conditions, and the denial of access to asylum procedures. Recent developments, such as changes in immigration enforcement strategies, underscore the need to balance security measures with the protection of human rights.

### **Labor Exploitation and Economic Contributions**

During the mid-20th century, the Bracero Program illustrates the reliance on migrant labor for economic purposes. The significance of this issue is underscored by the long-standing debates on guest worker programs and the ethical implications of exploiting undocumented workers, emphasizing the need for comprehensive immigration policies. Undocumented populations often face exploitation in the labor market, including low wages, unsafe working conditions, and lack of legal protections. Interconnecting with the vulnerability of undocumented workers and their contribution to host countries' economies. In addition, recent discussions on regularization programs and the economic impact of undocumented labor underscore the need for comprehensive approaches.

### **Legalization and Pathways to Regularization**

Many undocumented populations face legal limbo, lacking recognized status in the host country. This issue has historical roots in migration patterns, economic disparities, and conflicts, leading to large numbers of individuals residing without legal recognition. Determining pathways to legalization and regularization to provide undocumented individuals with legal status, protect their rights, and facilitate their integration into society.

### **Access to Asylum and Refugee Protections**

After World War II the international community recognized the need for a framework to protect displaced individuals. The establishment of the 1951 Refugee Convention and subsequent protocols laid the foundation for the current legal framework. Historical instances, such as the mass displacement during the Balkan conflicts and the Rwandan genocide, underscore the ongoing relevance of ensuring accessible and effective asylum procedures for those fleeing persecution. Additionally, the challenges related to accessing asylum procedures and protections for undocumented populations are critical, due to barriers faced by individuals seeking refuge, including restrictive policies, limited legal pathways, and inadequate

support systems. Recent developments in international refugee law and regional agreements emphasise the importance of ensuring fair and accessible asylum processes.

### Healthcare Access and Public Health Concerns

Limited access to healthcare is a critical issue, especially for undocumented populations. Historical pandemics, like the [HIV/AIDS](#) crisis, have emphasised the importance of ensuring healthcare access for vulnerable populations. Recent events, such as the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, underscore the public health implications of excluding any group from essential healthcare services.

## V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
1951	The United Nations Convention, relating to the status of refugees defines the rights of refugees and the obligations of host countries.
1964	Bracero Program Ends; Undocumented Laborers continue to arrive from Mexico. Washington ended the Bracero program, causing a surge in undocumented immigration. lax policies prevailed until both governments addressed the issue two decades later.
1989	The Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasizes the rights of all children; regardless of their migration status. Impacting how nations approach the rights of undocumented children.
1995	Schengen Agreement, introduced passport-free travel within certain European countries, impacting migration patterns and the movement of undocumented individuals within the Schengen Area.
2000	<a href="#">AFL-CIO</a> Labor Union Supports Amnesty for Immigrants in the United States Illegally.
2008	Adoption of the <a href="#">Lima Declaration</a> on the Humanitarian Protection of Migrants
2018	Global Compact for Safe, orderly, and Regular Migration adopted; provided a comprehensive framework for addressing the challenges and opportunities of international migration, including the protection of the rights and well-being of undocumented migrants globally.
2020	The <a href="#">COVID-19</a> Pandemic's impact on Undocumented Populations includes limited access to healthcare and increased economic hardships. It underscored the

intersection of public health and migration issues.

- 2020 [European Union Pact on Migration and Asylum proposed](#); reflects ongoing debates and negotiations among EU member states on migration management, including the treatment of undocumented migrants.
- 2022 During the Taliban takeover, Afghanistan experiences a significant displacement crisis, with many Afghans fleeing the country and seeking refuge in neighboring countries as undocumented migrants.
- 2024 [ASEAN Summit on Migration](#); Southeast Asian nations convene to discuss regional cooperation and coordination on migration issues, including the protection of undocumented migrants and the management of irregular migration flows.

## VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

### Border Control Policies and Human Rights

As delegates face the challenge of reconciling security concerns with the protection of human rights. Consider advocating for comprehensive immigration reforms that prioritize efficient asylum processes, alternatives to detention, and international collaboration. Striking this balance is key to addressing security needs while upholding the fundamental rights of undocumented individuals.

### Labor Exploitation and Economic Contributions

Undocumented workers' exploitation demands attention. Advocate for fair labor practices, regularization programs, and legal protections for all workers. The delegates are to align immigration policies with economic needs, recognizing the contributions of undocumented workers while ensuring their rights are safeguarded.

### Legalization and Pathways to Regularization

Balancing security with humanitarian considerations, gaining political support, proposing phased plans for resource allocation, conducting awareness campaigns to change public perceptions, and fostering diplomatic efforts for global collaboration is a challenge in case of this issue. Crafting effective pathways

to legalization may face opposition from those emphasizing national security concerns. Solutions involve proposing resolutions that strike a balance between security and humanitarian considerations, drawing on successful historical models of regularization.

### **Access to Asylum and Refugee Protections**

Limited access to asylum procedures poses challenges in safeguarding the rights of those fleeing persecution. The delegates are expected to be involved in advocating for strengthened asylum systems, increased resources for processing claims, and regional cooperation. Emphasize fair and accessible asylum procedures and explore international burden-sharing mechanisms to distribute responsibilities equitably among nations.

### **Healthcare Access and Public Health Concerns**

Recognize the intersection of healthcare and migration issues, especially highlighted by the [COVID-19](#) pandemic. Explore solutions that prioritize preventive care, vaccination programs, and community health initiatives. Emphasize the importance of public health for the overall well-being of both undocumented populations and the broader community. Consider the lessons learned from the pandemic to build resilient healthcare systems that leave no one behind.

## **VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research**

The Chairs strongly encourage the delegates to consider their country's unique perspective while anticipating diverse approaches from other nations, for this results in a more fruitful debate. Start by conducting thorough research on your country's historical stance, current policies, and diplomatic priorities regarding undocumented populations. Delegates must craft solutions that reflect the realities and capabilities of their country while acknowledging the diverse challenges faced by others. Propose pragmatic measures, thinking about the economic, cultural, and political contexts of each collaborating nation; striking a balance between country-wide hobbies and international cooperation is prime.

Recognize that countries will approach the issue differently based on their unique geopolitical, cultural, and economic circumstances. Anticipate a spectrum of opinions and be prepared to engage diplomatically with varying viewpoints. For instance, a country with interest in the topic - such as Turkey - might approach undocumented populations through the lens of economic opportunities, seeking to leverage migration as a tool for influence and regional development. Meanwhile, a resource rich country - such as Saudi Arabia or Russia - might view undocumented populations as a source of cheap labor, contributing to

their economy while grappling with concerns about social integration and strains on public services. While, a low income country might perceive undocumented populations as a strain on limited resources, potentially exacerbating existing socio-economic challenges.

This consideration will make the solutions you've proposed viable and suited. So actively seek out states with similar processes to coping with undocumented immigrants. Forging agreements with international locations that proportion commonplace dreams can fortify the impact of your choice. Collaborative efforts among like-minded nations usually gain greater aid and make contributions to the general fulfillment of the choice. However, keep in mind that the goal is to create a resolution that not only advances your country's interests but also contributes to a comprehensive and cooperative global approach to undocumented populations.

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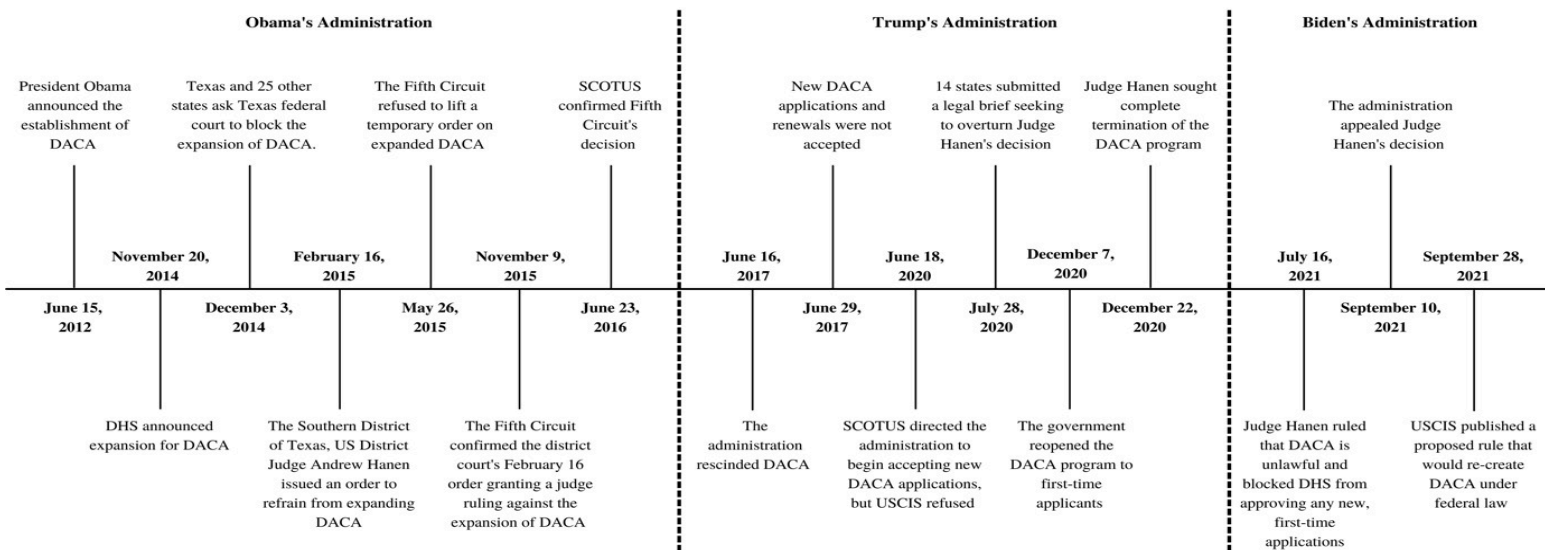
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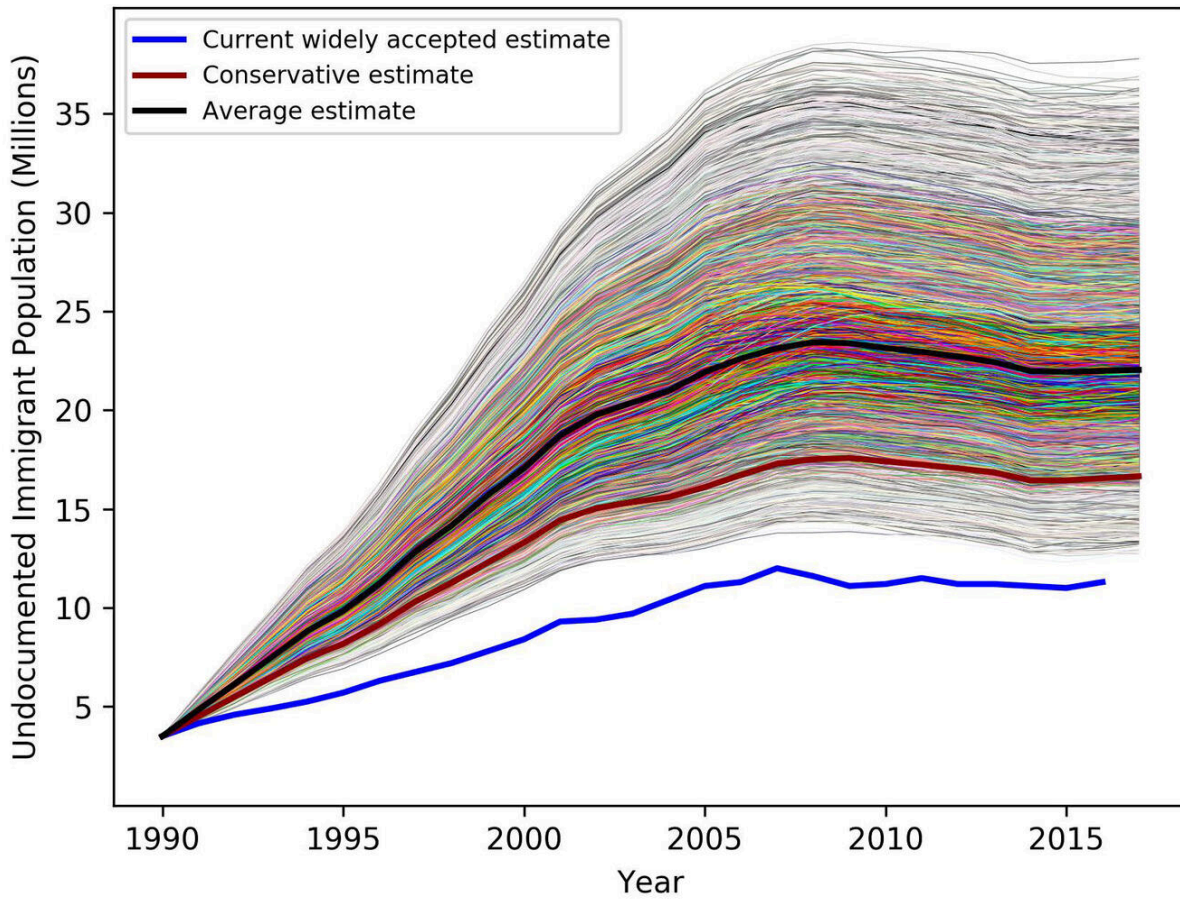
### IX: Additional Resources

The impact of COVID-19 and anti-immigration policy on an undocumented student in the United States

#### [DACA - Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#)



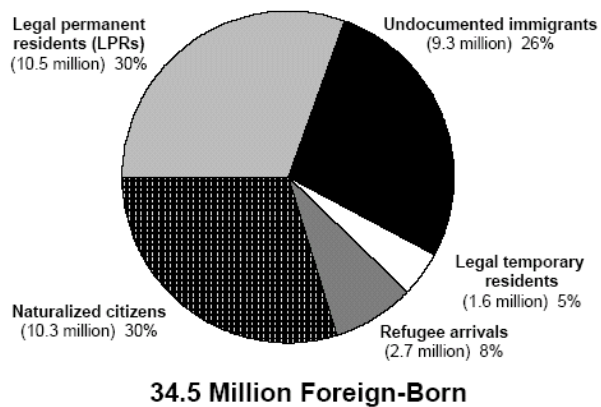
Graph of Undocumented Immigrants as Previous Estimates



**Source:** Mohammad M. Fazel-Zarandi, Jonathan S. Feinstein, Edward H. Kaplan, “The Number of Undocumented Immigrants in the United States: Estimates Based on Demographic Modeling with Data from 1990 to 2016, *PLOS ONE*, 2018

Pie chart of Foreign Born Populations ( 2002 )

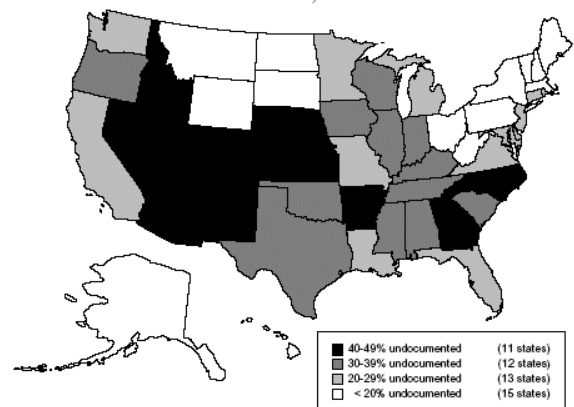
**FIGURE 1. LEGAL STATUS OF THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION, 2002**



SOURCE: Urban Institute estimates based on March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Map chart of Foreign Bor Populations by State ( 2000 )

**FIGURE 2. SHARE UNDOCUMENTED OF FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION, BY STATE, 2000**



SOURCE: Urban Institute estimates based on Census 2000.