

# MIGRATION & HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT • 2014-2015



BOSTON COLLEGE

# CHRIJ

Center for  
Human Rights  
and  
International Justice

## FACULTY DIRECTORS

### Daniel Kanstroom

BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL

*Professor of Law*

*Director, International Human Rights Program*

*Associate Director, Center for Human Rights & International Justice*

### M. Brinton Lykes

BOSTON COLLEGE LYNCH SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

*Professor of Community-Cultural Psychology*

*Associate Director, Center for Human Rights & International Justice*

## AFFILIATED FACULTY

### Kalina M. Brabeck

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

*Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership & School Psychology*

### Mary Holper

BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL

*Clinical Associate Professor of Law*

### Rachel E. Rosenbloom

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

*Associate Professor of Law*

## SUPERVISING ATTORNEY / HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOW (2010-2015)

### Jessica Chicco

BOSTON COLLEGE

*Post-Deportation Human Rights Project*

## SUPERVISING ATTORNEY / HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOW (STARTING JULY 2015)

### Aimee Mayer-Salins

BOSTON COLLEGE

*Post-Deportation Human Rights Project*

## FELLOW (2013-2014)

### Timothy Ayotte

BOSTON COLLEGE

*Post-Deportation Human Rights Project*

## MIGRATION & HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT ZACUALPA, GUATEMALA

### Sr. Ana María Álvarez López

*Project Supervisor (until January 2015)*

### Sr. Clara Agustín García

*Project Supervisor (since January 2015)*

### José Daniel Chich González

### Luisa Martina Hernández Simaj

*Project Coordinators*

### Megan Thomas

*Project Consultant*

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## ADVISORY BOARD

organizations for identification purposes only

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Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco, University of California, Los Angeles

Manuel D. Vargas, Immigrant Defense Project

Michael Wishnie, Yale Law School

PHONE 1.617.552.9261

FAX 1.617.552.9295

EMAIL [pdhrp@bc.edu](mailto:pdhrp@bc.edu)

WEB [www.bc.edu/postdeportation](http://www.bc.edu/postdeportation)

140 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

STOKES HALL N410

CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467 USA



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Center for  
Human Rights  
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International Justice

English to Spanish Translation: Carolina Carter

Design: Michelle Muccini

Cover Images: clockwise from left: Lynch School of Education Mental Health Counseling student presents as part of PAR/ESOL project; Zacualpa staff and Leaders from other Guatemalan Highland Communities meet; woman and child at women's meeting in El Tablón; chapel behind the Church of the Holy Spirit in Zacualpa, on the grounds of their convent, that was used for torture by the military during the civil war

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# Dear Friends,

We write this letter on the heels of a very busy year with limited changes in policies and practices at the national level despite new waves of migrants, particularly including unaccompanied children and mothers with their young children. These newest arrivals have been in the news repeatedly both in terms of the challenges they have faced that forced them to leave the Northern Triangle of Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras) and vis-à-vis the multiple inadequate ways that US immigration enforcement agencies (primarily Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection) have responded to their presence. We have continued our collaborations with community organizations in the greater Boston area that work with these new arrivals seeking reunification with their parents and family members as they await hearings in hopes against hope of being able to regularize their status.

Our ongoing legal work and community-based participatory and action research have continued during the 2014-2015 year. This newsletter reports in particular on the successful collaborations with Casa El Salvador and Women Encouraging Empowerment that have contributed importantly to completion of the participatory action research project on English language learning which has been summarized in the recently published final report *Migrant Families and Language: Living in Two Worlds*. The community-university collaborative team presented its findings at the recent biennial meeting of the Society for Community Research and Action in Lowell, MA. Posters summarizing the process and outcomes have been printed for community organizations to use in upcoming community meetings in which local residents and leaders will hear about and discuss findings towards planning local actions for change.

The MHRP has also completed two additional KYR (Know Your Rights) Tool Kit Modules which will soon be piloted with local community organizations and uploaded on our website for all others seeking additional resources for their ESOL curricula. As with the first two modules, these additional resources—described briefly in this report—situate legal information within the context of English language learning through participatory pedagogy. The project seeks to provide immigrant-friendly resources that facilitate personal education and political advocacy development for migrants and those accompanying them in English language learning.

The interdisciplinary team of students, attorneys and faculty continued to facilitate educational workshops for migrant youth and their families and those who work with them in schools, health and community settings. This work is also summarized in this report. Our goals are to increase professionals' and para-professionals' understanding of the immigration, detention and deportation systems; and to facilitate their education and advocacy for the youth with whom they are working and their families.

Similarly, our project in Zacualpa, Guatemala continues its accompaniment of families with members in the United States and with youth "left behind". Two Boston College Ph.D. students joined PDHRP Supervising Attorney Jessica Chicco and M. Brinton Lykes in Zacualpa to collaborate in the educational and advocacy work there. The team's report summarizes efforts to extend their work to other Catholic dioceses through ongoing collaboration with the national and regional diocesan migration projects. The CHRIJ and the MHRP join local staff in thanking Sister Ana María Álvarez López for her leadership and commitment in the development and sustenance of the Zacualpa-based work in migration and human rights. We wish her well in her next steps and offer a warm welcome to Sister Clara Agustín García who has recently moved to Zacualpa and is offering leadership to our work there.

The MHRP is also delighted to announce the upcoming publication of a volume edited by CHRIJ Associate Directors, Daniel Kanstroom and M. Brinton Lykes, *The New Deportations Delirium: Interdisciplinary Responses* (NYU Press). This volume highlights the critical need for integrated, interdisciplinary responses to ongoing repressive policies and practices that continue to characterize the US response to unauthorized migration epitomized in detention and deportation. It also offers some much-needed guidance for change.

On the legal front Jessica Chicco has summarized the ongoing intake work of our PDHRP project as well as the ongoing legal partnerships that seek to better educate lawyers on how to accompany deportees in their claims as well as provide a set of resources through which they can enhance their ongoing legal skills. As Jessica reports, we have partnered with a number of organizations that have both increased clients' access to resources as well as increased the visibility of this important but still all too limited set of legal resources for deportees and their families.



## *The Migration and Human Rights Project*

The Migration and Human Rights Project is part of Boston College's Center for Human Rights & International Justice. It encompasses a number of interdisciplinary projects surrounding deportation and forced migration in the United States and beyond, including:

**The Post-Deportation Human Rights Project:** Longtime legal residents can be deported on the basis of relatively minor criminal convictions without any opportunity to present evidence of their family ties, employment history or rehabilitation. Through direct representation, research, legal and policy analysis, as well as outreach to lawyers, community groups, and policy-makers, the project's ultimate goal is to reintroduce legal predictability, proportionality, compassion, and respect for family unity into the deportation laws and policies of the United States.

**Human Rights of Migrants Project:** Over the past two years BC has partnered with Casa El Salvador (a volunteer community organization that provides educational programs with and for the New England-based Salvadoran communities and other Latinos/as in East Boston) and English for Action (a community-based immigrant organization coordinating **participatory English language, childcare, and other educational programs to link language learning, leadership development and community-building**). The project brings together Central American immigrant community members, lawyers, psychologists, educators and social workers in participatory action research processes to document the effects of the upsurge of immigration enforcement on migrants and their families. A primary

aim is to develop research and advocacy skills among immigrant communities, and to publish detailed reports on the effects of detention and deportation on transnational mixed-status families that can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding, improve services available to them, and develop human rights documentation for sustained and effective advocacy.

BC has also partnered with the organization Women Encouraging Empowerment (WEE), whose mission is to educate, advocate, protect and advance the rights of immigrants, refugees and low-income women and their families through organizing, leadership development and service delivery. By bringing together psychologists, social workers, attorneys, and staff organizers, the joint project members identified areas in which WEE staff and constituents would benefit from additional knowledge and opportunity for discussion and then organized participatory workshops on those topics.

**Human Rights and Migration Project, Zacualpa Guatemala:** This is a collaborative project between local Zacualpans, Guatemala-based researchers and religious leaders, and Boston College-based students, faculty, and legal staff. The project has various aims as it studies social, political and psychological factors contributing to migration among the local population and seeks to offer assistance to them where practical. The project also seeks to work with those who have returned to Zacualpa—either voluntarily or through deportation—to explore varied uses of their social capital in developing local initiatives and creating more life options for those living in Guatemala.

Towards that end, Jessica along with Daniel Kanstroom have worked tirelessly to move forward our work towards a Declaration on the Rights of Expelled and Deported Persons. They have published a recent article on the declaration in the *NYU Journal of International Law and Politics* and have been actively planning for a conference next spring here at Boston College to move that agenda forward.

Finally, we take this opportunity to heartily thank Jessica Chicco for her nearly five years of dedicated and excellent collaborations

with the MHRP and as our Supervising Attorney on the PDHRP—and to wish her luck in her next steps. The project has grown and gained visibility and impact under her leadership. We close by welcoming Aimee Mayer-Salins to the program as our new Supervising Attorney. We look forward to working with her this year and to her contributions to all of our projects.

Sincerely,

M. Brinton Lykes & Daniel Kanstroom

# Participatory Action Research Project on English Language Learning

*By María Emilia Bianco, Shaun  
Glaze, Kevin Ferreira & Emily  
Sosrodjojo*

Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice (BC CHRIJ), Casa El Salvador (CES), and Women Encouraging Empowerment (WEE) are launching the report “MIGRANT FAMILIES AND LANGUAGE, LIVING IN TWO WORLDS,” presenting the lessons learned from the participatory action research project investigating migrant families’ experiences with the English language in East Boston and Revere. This project sought to explore the extent to which families are able to access community services, including, for example, English language classes, health services, and schools for their children, along with the challenges and strengths families encounter and exhibit when family members do not speak the same language(s) fluently.

Previous research has found that English proficiency is related to better economic opportunities and health and educational outcomes for migrant families. However, recent fiscal policies implemented after the start of the economic recession have constrained funding for English language classes and other migrant-focused services. The effect of these policies has been a challenge for many migrant communities, such as those in the Greater Boston area, where organizations such as WEE and CES have had to rely on volunteers to accommodate the many people signing up for services.

Seeking to take action as part of the research process, CES, WEE, and BC CHRIJ worked together and co-created a participatory research plan to learn more about these migrant families, that is, about Spanish-speaking adults who have taken English classes, dropped out, and never-attended English classes—as well as their children.

The research found that nearly every interviewee talked about problems and successes with accessing services. Children are more likely to report having no problem with accessing services, primarily due to their better English language ability. When families talk about having problems, the vast majority of problems (77%) are healthcare or school-related. Bilingual staff helps families access multiple services, though this assistance is at times limited by the availability of that staff.

Families report that helping each other with language is a daily experience. Children act as interpreters and translators for parents who do not understand English, and parents help their children learn or maintain Spanish. Both adults and youth report wanting to foster children’s Spanish skills mainly to facilitate communication with Spanish-speaking family and friends and to position children better when searching for future employment.

All adults reported wanting to learn English regardless of whether or not they had attended English classes. For those who had taken classes, about half had attended classes at multiple institutions. Many adults reported wanting more conversation classes and more practice speaking about personally relevant issues. Adults reported generally positive experiences with English courses even though work and childcare made attending class challenging or impossible. Parents in classes reported English to be most helpful at the workplace or with their children.

The report closes with a list of recommendations. Among them are reversing fiscal policies that restrict funding for English classes; providing bilingual services that could facilitate the access of migrants to healthcare, schools and other institutions; understanding the value of bilingualism and promoting programs to teach Spanish to children of migrants; and adapting English classes to the needs of this population, including the provision of affordable classes and childcare.

Copies of the report are available online or from the participating organizations.



**Featured Photo:** Women from the Women Encouraging Empowerment group

## Spotlight on

### *Community Education on Immigrant Youth and Deportation*

Over the course of the year, we continued our education and outreach focusing on immigrant youth. Our attorney and students conducted a series of workshops in schools and community settings aimed at professionals who work with immigrant youth or families. These included a workshop with guidance counselors and deans at the nearby Brighton High School, which, with one third of its population marked as English Language Learners, serves a high number of immigrant students and families. We also conducted a workshop for the staff of the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, which operates a vibrant youth center and English Language Learning classes, and the Cape Verdean

Consulate which sponsored an event for professionals and community members. The Brookline Community Mental Health Center, which hosts monthly professional development events for social workers, also invited us to conduct a workshop on deportation and immigration this spring. Lastly, a brown bag conversation on detention and deportation with a focus on the effects of parental deportation on children and families was sponsored by the Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) Global Health and Human Rights seminar, where MHRP attorney Jessica Chicco presented alongside Kalina Brabeck, Associate Professor of Counseling at Rhode Island College and Affiliated Faculty of the CHRIJ.



# Ongoing work on Know Your Rights/English for Speakers of Other Languages Tool Kit

By Peter La Mear & Gloria McGillen

Even amidst the political gains secured for undocumented persons in recent years, migrants and refugees in the United States navigate a complicated body of immigration laws and policies and encounter hardships unseen by many citizens. Deportation rates are at record levels, threatening undocumented and mixed-status families with separation, while foreign-born students remain twice as likely as native-born students to leave high school before graduating. This year, the Migration and Human Rights Project has continued the Know Your Rights (KYR) Tool Kit project, developing two new multi-lesson units. Unique among critical rights-literacy programs for migrants and refugees, the Tool Kit is designed to supplement a program's existing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) curricula through incorporating content on rights and legal literacy into an existing ESOL program. This design simultaneously addresses unfamiliarity with marginalizing US legal structures and exclusions based on English language proficiency, two of the primary challenges facing migrants and refugees. The Tool Kit project emerged out of a series of community-based participatory Know Your Rights workshops organized by CHRIJ during 2007-2013, and was developed with our community partners Women Encouraging Empowerment, in Revere, and Casa El Salvador, in East Boston.

Our multidisciplinary team of educators, psychologists, and lawyers has continued to design lessons and curricula within the popular education framework, privi-

leging and building on student understanding and experience to construct new knowledge of social and political realities. The two new units developed this year critically examine issues of family rights and the United States educational system, and aim to empower migrants and refugees to navigate their new home and to act for change. The new units continue to employ participatory lesson activities, including poetry writing, script-writing and role-playing, representing experience in visual art, and democratic discussion of artifacts of culture.

The development of the new units also represents an evolution in the team's understanding of the Tool Kit's potential for community-based empowerment. Beyond understanding the ESOL classroom as examining and providing a dress rehearsal for high-stakes situations in the world, the new units attempt to

create opportunities to cultivate political agency among migrants and refugees, and to open a space for difficult discussions such as the possibility of family separation due to detainment or deportation. These new tactics grow out of the project's effort to put professional and participatory research to work in empowering migrants to take control of their situations and to thrive in their new home.

This year, the team has presented the KYR/ESOL Tool Kit at the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education's annual conference and the Society for Community Research and Action's biennial conference. Developed units are published on the Migration and Human Rights Project's website, along with a letter that provides instructors with information regarding the structure and content of the Tool Kit ([www.bc.edu/humanrights/resources](http://www.bc.edu/humanrights/resources)).

**Featured Photo:** *East Boston, Photo by James Hill*





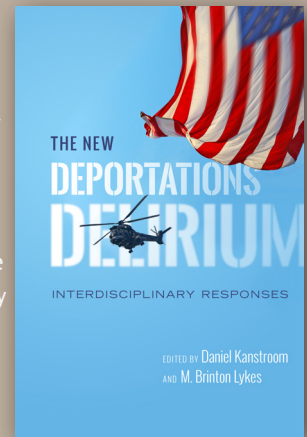
## Spotlight on

### *New Interdisciplinary Book on Deportation out this November*

Center Associate Directors Dan Kanstroom and Brinton Lykes have co-edited a new book out this November entitled *The New Deportations Delirium: Interdisciplinary Responses*. The edited volume, with authors from a variety of disciplines, will explore the overall phenomenon of deportation as a central tenet of immigration policy in the US, particularly since 1996 changes to immigration laws, and the harshness of the system's effects.

The book describes consequences for millions of people who have been "sentenced home," many for life in a country they do not know and whose language they do not speak, and questions whether such austere measures are an appropriate response for the offenses committed. The book also contextualizes the issue by high-

lighting circumstances people have escaped from and lived through simply to get to the US, and probes effects not only on the deportee, but on family members and others often devastated by the deportation. It argues for a holistic response to these realities facing not only these migrants, but the wider US society as well.



## Spotlight on

### *The MHRP Welcomes New Human Rights Fellow*

The MHRP welcomes a new Human Rights Fellow, Aimee Mayer-Salins, who joins us from the US Department of Justice (DOJ). At the DOJ, she worked as a Judicial Law Clerk at the Board of Immigration Appeals in the Executive Office for Immigration Review. Prior to that, Aimee worked on behalf of immigrant rights at American University Washington College of Law's Immigrant Justice Clinic. There she represented immigrant clients before US Citizenship and Immigration Services and in immigration court. She received her Juris Doctor degree from American University and is fluent in Spanish.

Aimee will continue the excellent work of departing Human Rights Fellow Jessica Chicco, who gave nearly five years of commendable service to the MHRP on behalf of immigrant rights. As such, Aimee will spearhead the legal work of the MHRP's Post-Deportation Human Rights Project, as well as assist Associate Director M. Brinton Lykes with community-based work with immigrant groups in the greater Boston area and in Guatemala. Welcome, Aimee!



# Report from the Migration and Human Rights Project in Zacualpa, Guatemala

By Jose Daniel Chich Gonzales, Luisa  
Martina Hernández Simaj and Megan  
Thomas

In 2014 and 2015 we continued to work in the rural communities of El Tablón and Arriquín with groups of women whose family members had migrated. We worked with them on the topics of migration and migrant rights as well as on women's rights and self-esteem. The women have received sewing and handicrafts classes. In Zacualpa, we continue to work with students from the Instituto Fe y Alegría, and have formed a group of young people whose father and/or mother have migrated. We have conducted several workshops on group integration and emotional expression and social behavior. The group has also participated in different project activities, such as the commemoration of International Migrants Day and others.



In the summer of 2014, M. Brinton Lykes and Jessica Chicco, together with students Kevin Ferreira and Gabriela Távara Vasquez, of Boston College, visited the Zacualpa project and carried out several activities. Kevin provided support to the team on specific casework and assistance in organizing and conducting workshops with young people, sons and daughters of migrants from Fe y Alegría. He also travelled with Sister Ana María to Ixcán, on the border with northern Quiché, to learn about the Pastoral's work with migrants. Gabriela assisted Luisa Hernandez, along with women from El Tablón and Arriquín, in developing a plan for psychosocial support and helped Luisa in the systematization of this work. Jessica Chicco resolved legal questions the team had about some of their cases.

During the visit, the team from Boston College facilitated a workshop on *Migration Policy in the United States and Psychosocial Assistance for Transnational Families*, with the participation of religious and secular leaders, lawyers, educators, students and people close to the project, all from Quiché. Since President Obama had recently referred to the issue of unaccompanied child migration, the facilitators touched on this topic during the workshop and provided information and analysis of the situation. The participants discussed what they had heard and seen in the communication media and in their work on Unaccompanied Child Migration, revealing that the coyotes are misleading the families, most of whom

migrate unaware of the dangers they are exposing themselves to. In order to provide needed information, the facilitators explained who can be deported, the number and location of detention centers, the number of deportations, who is deported and types of deportation, including deportation at the border. The discussion also included some of the legal proceedings in immigration courts and the rights of undocumented migrants in the United States.

The objective of this workshop was to promote and strengthen the engagement of other parishes in Quiché, as well as of lawyers and concerned individuals, in supporting migrants and their families. This is a component of one of the project areas, which is to promote the establishment and strengthening of the Human Mobility Commission of the Dioceses of Quiché. Since the Zacualpa team is knowledgeable about and has the most experience in providing support to migrants and their families, we wish to support the process of the Commission as much as possible.

During their stay, Brinton and Jessica also conducted a similar workshop, in Guatemala City, for national and international organizations that work on migration and unaccompanied child migration. The workshop has held in the offices of the Guatemalan Episcopal Conference and was facilitated by the Human Mobility Commission of the Archdiocese.

**Featured Photo:** Woman from El Tablón women's meeting

# Accompanying Women in Zacualpa, Guatemala

By Gabriela Távora Vásquez

In the summer of 2014 I travelled to Zacualpa, a town in the Quiché region of Guatemala, to work on the Human Rights and Migration Project. During my three weeks in Zacualpa, my main task was to assist and work with Luisa Hernández, who facilitated two groups of women in villages near Zacualpa. These groups had been established in order to provide a space for the personal development and capacity building of women whose relatives had migrated to the United States. I accompanied Luisa to meetings in the villages of El Tablón and Arriquín, travelling twice to each of them. During these visits I met and chatted with the women, who told me

about their basket-weaving and sewing projects. They also told me about the challenges and difficulties they face in their daily lives and how these were at least partly related to the migration of their loved ones. These joint visits allowed Luisa and me to reflect together about the objectives of the groups, their current situation and possible future steps.

As a result of these reflections, Luisa and I designed a participatory evaluation template that Luisa could use with the women in the coming months. I have kept in contact with Luisa through Skype and email since my return to

Boston. In this way, she has been able to tell me about her work with the women and we have been able to continue to reflect on the process. My work in Guatemala with Luisa and the women has taught me more about how migration changes the local dynamics of the home towns of the migrants. In the absence of their spouses and sons, the indigenous women are left to face new challenges and difficulties, but also find opportunities and new avenues to move forward and begin their own development processes.

## Words of Appreciation

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Congregation of Franciscan Sisters of San Antonio, represented by Sister Ana María Álvarez López, who coordinated the Human Rights and Migration Project for five years in the mission in Zacualpa. Sister Ana María was known for her camaraderie, kindness and leadership in the promotion of social justice, especially for those most in need.

Sister Clara Agustín García, Franciscan Sister of San Antonio, assumed the coordination of the Human Rights and Migration Project in January 2015. May The Supreme Being grant her peace, wisdom, discernment and joy in this mission.



**Featured Photo:** Sr. Ana María (right) and an MHRP staff member in Zacualpa



# The Human Rights of the Migrant in Zacualpa, Guatemala

By Kevin Ferreira

Last summer, I traveled to Zacualpa to work with the local team of the CHRIJ's Human Rights and Migration. As a former immigrant rights organizer in the northeastern United States and an activist-researcher who works with migrant populations in the greater Boston area, it was important for me to have an opportunity to engage with sending communities and examine how organizing and rights work is conceived from their perspectives. It offered an opportunity to engage my identities and privileges as a US-born son of immigrants who works alongside migrant communities but has not experienced "being a migrant." Going to Zacualpa also offered a possibility to familiarize myself with a part of the lives of people with whom I worked as well as gaining deeper insight about migration as a global, human rights issue rather than exclusively a US educational, labor or moral issue. As a researcher interested in human rights issues, intersectionality theory, and theories about deconstructing privilege, the work in Guatemala offered me an opportunity to engage myself, work with others and develop knowledge and skills to continue action and research with migrant communities in the United States. I am grateful to the CHRIJ for supporting this summer experience through one of its grants.

My work was, in part, aimed at gaining greater understanding of how youth in the southern Quiché department see

their "life projects." My time in Guatemala overlapped with significant media coverage of the "humanitarian crisis" of unaccompanied minors crossing the US-Mexico border. Media coverage both in the US and in Guatemala and throughout Central America was a regular part of daily headlines and nightly television news during my time in Guatemala and thus impacted both national and local conversations on migration. During my stay in Guatemala, I lived at the pastoral center of the Catholic parish of the Holy Spirit in Zacualpa, primarily working with the Franciscan nuns and the office staff. As part of parish services and local collaborations, Sister Ana María was working to develop and facilitate workshops with youth at a local school. The work included a focus on self- and family-esteem and work with students to reflect on their "life projects". We collaboratively designed and facilitated a workshop in which over 200 students participated for four sessions. During this workshop, theater techniques as well as the "Life Poem" technique were used to help the students understand connections between corporal and emotional self-regulation and explore their identities and life goals. Moreover, during my time in Guatemala, the same school approached the Human Rights of the Migrant Office to request that they work with students who had parents that had migrated. This collaboration led to working with school-teachers and administrators to create a

workshop that would explore student's life projects and emotional understandings of their circumstances using small group discussions centered on a River of Life technique. For both workshops extensive group planning and post activity reflection occurred with notes taken that can be drawn on for analysis.

The other area of my work focused on accompanying office personnel in their weekly activities, including a youth group and a group of young adult volunteers. I also actively helped during case visits and helped facilitate staff reflections. A workshop, led by Dr. M. Brinton Lykes and Jessica Chicco, of the Center for Human Rights & International Justice, brought together 35 religious and lay leaders to discuss how migration impacts their communities, discuss psychosocial supports for transnational families as well as hear about policies and advocacy work in the United States. I joined Sister Ana María and another project member for a meeting of Guatemalan and Mexican religious and lay leaders in the northern Quiché community of the Ixcán. The meeting sought to coordinate and discuss strategies to support local communities there and those migrating. Both of these meetings demonstrated the Catholic parishes' interests in enhancing their pastoral care of migrants and their families and in coordinating best practices for this work both in Guatemala and in the US.



**Featured Photo:** An illustration shows the River of Life technique.

Overall, my stay came at a moment in which various networks were being formed, and an analysis of the project as well as its relation to these emerging networks can offer key insights into the contemporary movement building within the Catholic Church to address migration within and out of Guatemala. Through supporting local work in Zacualpa and being a part of regional meetings to address the consequences of migration, I have gained a deeper understanding of those I work with in the United States. Moving forward I will draw on the written reports, ethnographic journal, meeting minutes and other data to gain a deeper understanding of how the office contributes to the way migration issues are addressed in the local community as well as how it positions itself within the larger national contexts, both religiously and nationally, to support migrant work.

## Spotlight on

### Select Invited Addresses

Directors and staff of the Migration and Human Rights Project participated in numerous conferences, panels, presentations, and workshops. Here are just a few:

- MHRP Co-Director Dan Kanstroom spoke on a panel at the University of Virginia School of Law on The Future of Immigration Enforcement in October 2014.
- MHRP Co-Director Dan Kanstroom was the keynote speaker at the Texas A & M University as part of the International Bank of Commerce Speaker Series.
- MHRP Attorney Jessica Chicco presented on motions to reopen at the New England Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association in March 2015.
- MHRP Co-Director M. Brinton Lykes as the invited keynote speaker at the InterAmerican Psychological Association's Regional Conference in San Salvador, El Salvador, where she spoke about the MHRP.
- MHRP Co-Director M. Brinton Lykes was the featured speaker at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition's Thanksgiving Luncheon.

# Post-Deportation Legal Advocacy

By Jessica Chicco

This year has been marked by significant controversies in the field of immigration enforcement: the administration's response to the rise in numbers of unaccompanied minors apprehended along the southern border last summer, the opening of large detention centers to hold thousands of mothers and young children fleeing Central America, and executive action that would have provided relief to millions of undocumented young people and parents of US citizen children announced last fall but is still held up in the courts. Numerous new reports have commented on these topics and documented the effects of our disproportionately harsh deportation system. All the while, deportations have continued apace—though the latest numbers indicate a slight decrease from the record numbers in the recent past.

We have also continued in our tradition of supporting attorneys in their post-deportation work. We have fielded calls and emails from dozens of attorneys working on post-deportation cases. We are hearing about these types of cases with much more frequency than just a few years ago, which suggests that more and more, the legal community is pursuing post-deportation remedies for their clients. We have also developed two new tools with the goal of increasing resources available to attorneys on post-deportation legal issues. Last summer, we issued a new practice advisory on visa ineligibility based on past false claims to US citizenship. The advisory provides a full analysis of this



**Featured Photo:** *Jessica Chicco, CHRIJ supervising attorney/human rights fellow (2010-2015)*

ground of ineligibility which has been subject to significant developments in recent years both as a result of case law and agency guidance, as well as various arguments that should be explored by attorneys seeking to overcome this ground. More recently, we issued a “Roadmap to Assessing a Post-Deportation Case”—a visual flowchart designed to assist attorneys in navigating the complexities of post-deportation cases and ensuring that all potential avenues of relief are considered.

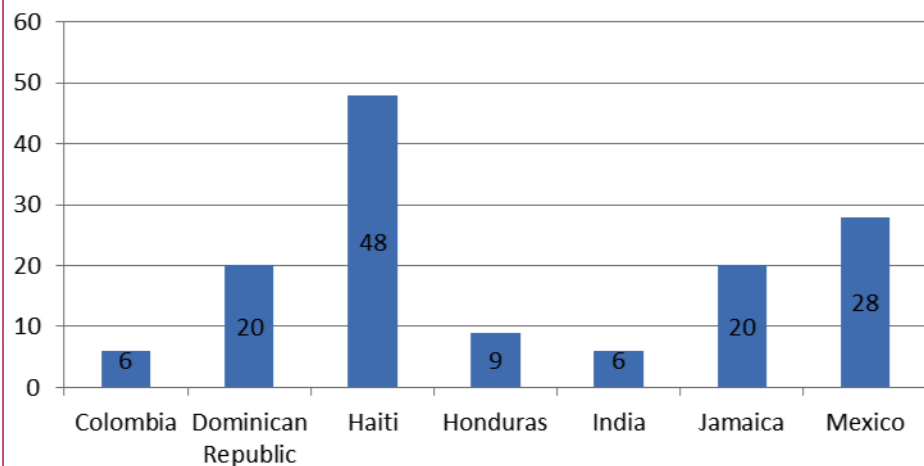
In an effort to increase the number of deported individuals who we screen for relief, we also partnered with Alternative

Chance (or Chans Alternativ in Haitian Creole)—an organization in Port-au-Prince that works with deported individuals, and especially those with criminal convictions. We have provided legal screenings to more than 45 men and women who have sought reintegration assistance through Alternative Chance, reviewing their individual circumstances and providing them with basic information regarding the possibility of challenging their removal orders, and eligibility for family-based visas or temporary visas to visit family members still in the US. These screenings were part of the more than 200 intakes conducted with deported individuals.



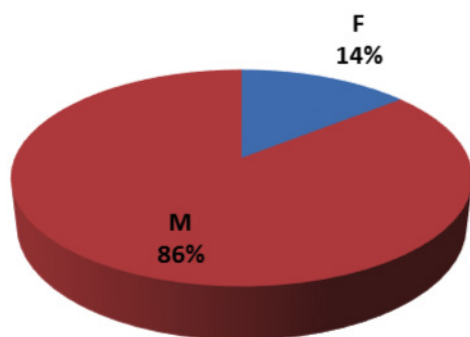
Here is a snapshot of deported individuals to whom we provided information during the 2014-2015 fiscal year:

### Top 6 Nationalities



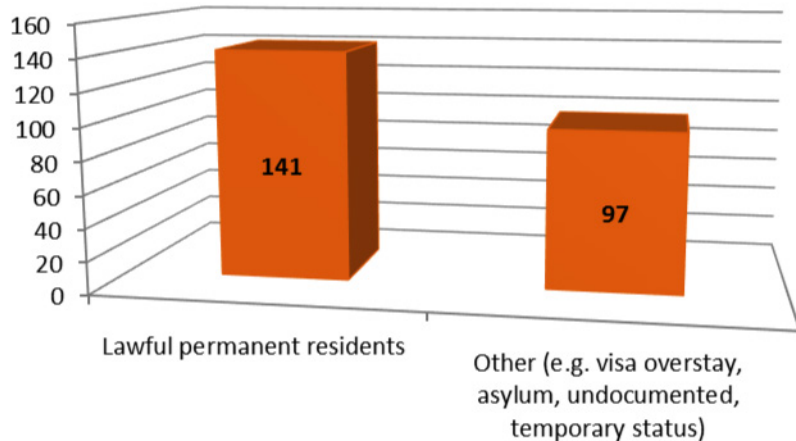
We spoke with deportees from 60 different countries. The greatest number of calls came from individuals deported to Haiti, Mexico, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic.

### Gender



The majority of deported persons who contacted us (86%) were men.

### Status Prior to Removal



Of the 238 individuals to whom we provided information, more than half were former “lawful permanent residents” (or green card holders). Many had lived in the US since childhood. The remainder were often in a variety of different statuses, including individuals who had been granted asylum or refugee status, individuals who had been granted some type of temporary status, individuals who had entered the US lawfully but stayed longer than authorized, and individuals who had entered the country illegally.



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Center for  
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**MIGRATION & HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT**

140 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

STOKES HALL N410

CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467 USA

### *Thank You!*

A special thank you to **Timothy Ayotte** who served as a Legal Fellow during the 2014-2015 academic year. We wish him well in his next endeavors! Thank you also to **Timothy Karcz**, Assistant Director of the Center for Human Rights and International Justice for all of his work with the project!

A special thanks also to the many students who worked with us this year! **Marlise Armstrong** (Northeastern University School of Law, Class of 2016); **Lin Liang** (Boston College Law School LLM Program, Class of 2015); **Bara'a Moussa** (Boston College Law School LLM Program, Class of 2015); **Malgorzata Mrozek** (Boston College Law School, Class of 2017); and **Zahava Stern** (Northeastern University School of Law, Class of 2015) worked with the legal team of the Post-Deportation Human Rights Project. **Sriya Bhattacharyya** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, doctoral student); **Emilia Bianco Galindez** (School of Social Work, doctoral student); **Kevin Ferreira** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, doctoral student); **Jessica Franco** (Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences, Class of 2015); **Shaun Glaze** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, doctoral student); **Tesia Mancosky** (Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences, Class of 2015); **Rocío Sánchez Ares** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, doctoral student); **Emily Sosrodjojo** (Lynch School of Education, Class of 2017); **Gabriela Távara Vasquez** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, doctoral student); **Amie Wells** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, MA counseling student) worked with the participatory action research teams. **Gloria McGillen** (Lynch School of Education, MA counseling student) and **Peter LaMear** (Harvard Graduate School of Education graduate, Curriculum and Instruction) worked on the KYR Tool Kit.

### *We welcome your interest and support in every form.*

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- Consular Processing/NIV Waivers, or
- Post-Conviction Relief.

***Bring a post-removal case to us for discussion***

Contact us directly with the details at the numbers, email or website on the inside front cover.