

National Capacity Building Project: Technical Assistance of the  
Survivor of Torture Programs

# The Asylum Process: Interdisciplinary Responses to Multifaceted Challenges

April 16, 2023



The  
CENTER for  
VICTIMS of  
TORTURE



Harvard  
Program  
in Refugee  
Trauma



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TREATMENT  
PROGRAMS

# Advocacy for Asylum Seekers



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# Advocacy for Asylum Seekers

How to Engage

Current Efforts/Topics



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Hang in  
There...

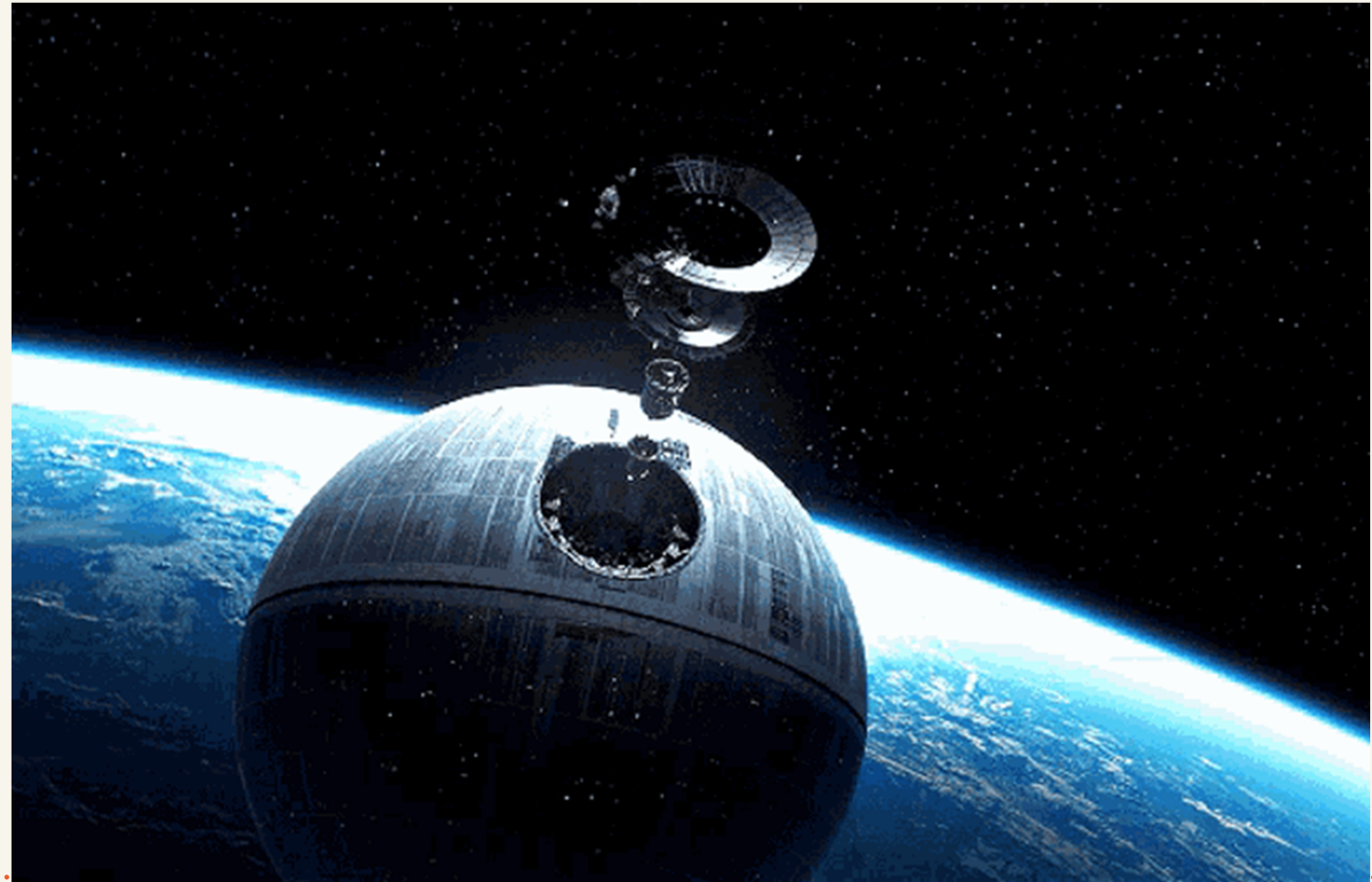
We're Nearly  
Done





Advocacy

The Slow,  
Steady Lack of  
Progress in  
Immigration  
Reform





Advocacy

Current  
Efforts/Topics

## The Big Picture

- Keep in mind that in the world of advocating for changes in immigration reform and improved policies supporting asylum seekers, the preferred solution for many anti-immigration elected officials is to perpetuate the problem.
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Advocacy

Current  
Efforts/Topics

**Current state of affairs:**

- Both the executive branch and many in Congress favor detention and punitive enforcement over humane processing
  - Scenes of chaos at the border – at times manufactured – help drive voter turnout for some candidates
  - Maintaining stress on the border can be more advantageous politically than solving border issues – for some candidates
-



Advocacy

Current  
Efforts/Topics

### Previous litigation of border policies

- MPP – Biden ended the policy, but litigation kept it in place. Now it's gone.
- Title 42 – Biden dragged his feet then finally ended the policy, but litigation kept it in place. Now it's gone.
- New asylum rule – Biden introduced a new asylum rule as Title 42 terminated, but a federal judge blocked its implementation. An appeals court then put the lower court ruling on pause, and the case is now making its way through the courts





## Advocacy

## Current Efforts/Topics

### Advocacy about policies v. advocacy about people

- Yes, it is important to engage in advocacy for or against policies that impact our clients, but don't get disappointed if the legal process keeps bad policies in place for longer than anyone wants, or if any positive change is slow and incremental
  - Focusing advocacy on the specialized services you provide is important, along with emphasizing the strength of your clients, and their success stories
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## Advocacy

## How to Engage

- Get to know your representatives in Congress, and get them to know you
-



## Advocacy

## How to Engage

- What does your program do?
  - Who are your clients?
  - The global refugee crisis and the prevalence of torture
  - The need for increased and sustained funding for rehabilitation
-



# Questions?

Have a question or something you want to discuss more in-depth? Here are some options for you:

- Type your questions in the Q&A, or
- Type your questions in the chat, or
- Raise your hand using the reaction button.

Have a questions after the presentation? Here is the contact information for our presenter:

- Name: Scott Roehm, CVT | Clint Carney, SOTI
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Thank you  
for attending  
this NCB  
virtual  
training!

# The Asylum Process: Interdisciplinary Responses to Multifaceted Challenges

The National Capacity Building Project is a project of the Center for Victims of Torture in partnership with Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs.



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More resources are available at [www.healtorture.org](http://www.healtorture.org).

CVT's National Capacity Building Project received competitive funding through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant #90ZT0214-01-00. The contents of this presentation are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.