

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

# The Asylum Process: Interdisciplinary Responses to Multifaceted Challenges

April 16, 2023

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## Advocacy for Asylum Seekers

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

## Advocacy for Asylum Seekers

How to Engage  
Current Efforts/Topics

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Hang in There...  
We're Nearly Done



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Advocacy  
The Slow, Steady Lack of Progress in Immigration Reform



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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

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**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

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**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

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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

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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.



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

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