

## Discrimination, Detention, and Deportation: Immigration & Refugees

<https://www.acluohio.org/en/news/right-asylum-migration-law>

### Campaign and Advocacy

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Favianna Rodriguez in her outstanding artwork titled, "[Migration is Beautiful](#)" draws butterflies to represent the migration of people across the world. Butterflies, unlike people, can fly over the border, over the border guards, over the fences, and even over Donald Trump's proposed border wall. Although there is a certain beauty in pursuing dreams, educational or career opportunities in their migratory flights, some are seen as ex-patriots and are respected or envied for their brave transition to a new country, whereas some are seen as unwanted migrants, particularly those who enter a country illegally.

*While searching for illegal migrants, government officials often commit illegal practices.*

This is a dichotomy, because both groups aim to migrate for a better future, a better life, yet one group is considered distinguished or professional and the other alien. **The illegal, the aliens, the undocumented are tags people put on those who contribute to the mosaic of society, and strengthen the fabric of America.** Those who migrate with all these labels attached deserve societal support and should be treated with dignity, yet they are often greeted in a dehumanizing manner, and their fate, unfortunately, may be decided the moment they enter the country they emigrated to. Ironically, these practices oppose the very words we have mounted on the Statute of Liberty. Emma Lazarus poem represents how we once felt about migrants:

*Mother of Exiles [ ] cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

There has to be a breaking point, a moment when the privileged carriers of citizenship say, welcome! to disenfranchised asylum seekers and migrants. We have the opportunity, right now, to show respect for human rights by encouraging our lawmakers to protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), to stand against the Presidents proposed Muslim Ban, which arbitrarily prohibits the arrivals of residents from certain countries based on their faith, and to end the detention of asylum seekers including newborns and children.

There is a lot to be taken care of, but the first step, as always, is to raise awareness. Therefore, I am inviting you to learn more on detention of asylum seekers from the law professor and a forerunner of the Immigration & Human Rights Clinic at the Akron University School of Law **Professor Elizabeth Knowles**:

**What is the fate of persons lodging their application for asylum? What are the baby jails? How does look the legal way to asylum and what happens when asylum is granted or denied? follow our website next week for another entry on the right to asylum.**

*DISCLAIMER The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ACLU.*

*\* Prof. Elizabeth Knowles is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Akron School of Law which she joined in 2016. At Akron Law, she supervises the Immigration & Human Rights Law Clinic and teaches asylum law. Before coming to Akron, she served as the Executive Director of the American Bar Associations Immigration Justice Project (IJP). She is a member of the California State Bar, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the American Constitution Society (more information about prof. Knowles can be accessed over here: <https://goo.gl/NZ1vJB>).*

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