Qualitative section of report for AQAADI

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1 Overview

This section evaluates the general accessibility of legal aid in Montreal using survey responses from 62 lawyers. In their responses, each lawyer reports the frequency with which they represent migrants based on certain traits, such as whether translation services are required or if the relevant migrant is an asylum seeker. To ground our analysis of these responses, we employ three fictional migrant profiles (created for this analysis but based on real scenarios) and determine their qualitative probability of receiving legal aid.

For each fictional migrant, we extract the traits pertaining to their profile, then proceed one by one through the survey data to verify how each lawyer responded to the relevant traits. From a baseline probability of 1.0, we multiply the migrant's likelihood of receiving legal aid from a specific lawyer by 0.5, 1.5, or 0.0 for every trait they possess that the lawyer marked as "occasionally," "often," or "never" representing (table 1). Finally, we convert the probabilities of each migrant-lawyer pair (i.e., the probability of a specific lawyer representing a specific migrant) to qualitative labels using the ranges in table 2.

Multiplicative value	Lawyer response
0.5	"Occasionally"
1.5	"Often"
0.0	"Never"

Table 1: For each migrant, we multiply their likelihood of receiving aid from a specific lawyer based on the lawyer's responses to each trait they possess.

Probability range	Qualitative label
≥ 1.00	Highly likely
$0.50 - 1.00$	Likely
$0.01 - 0.49$	Unlikely
0.00	Highly unlikely

Table 2: Each migrant-lawyer pair is given a qualitative label representing the migrant's likelihood of receiving legal aid from that lawyer.

2 Migrant profiles

2.1 Migrant 1

Our first profile comprises a family of three. The parents, Carlos and Maria, are a young couple aged 29 and 30, respectively. After meeting in their hometown of São Paulo, Brazil, the two married and Maria was pregnant shortly thereafter.

In the hopes of securing a better life for their future child, Carlos and Maria migrated to the United States while her term was still early. Though Maria sold bracelets at the local market and Carlos worked as a farm labourer, their funds proved insufficient once Maria gave birth to a daughter, Daniela, and could no longer work. The family thus decided to move farther north and seek asylum in Canada.

Unfortunately, once in Canada, they had to abandon their initial refugee claim: despite starting their Basis of Claim form, they were unable to properly complete it as neither Carlos nor Maria speak English. Requiring translation services and holding different citizenship than their American-born daughter, the family's situation is complicated. That being said, they remain hopeful that they can reopen their case at the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.

Based on the circumstances detailed above, the family's likelihood of receiving legal aid from each of the 62 responding lawyers is as follows:

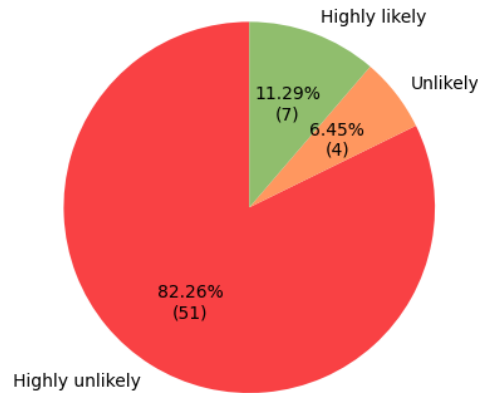AQAADI Lawyers' Likelihood of Providing Legal Aid for Migrant #1

Figure 1

2.2   Migrant 2

Our second migrant is a 32-year old man named Kofi. Though hailing from South African descent, Kofi considers Canada his home: when he was young, his family migrated to Manitoba following his father's admittance with a work visa and he has not returned to South Africa since.

Despite a relatively peaceful childhood, Kofi ran away from home at the age of 17 due to disagreements with his father. From shoplifting at the local mall to physically assaulting someone over a parking spot, Kofi then began committing crimes of increasing severity until he lost his permanent residency. Years later with no job, no prospects, and no money, he now relies on the support of his girlfriend, Talia, with whom he's in a common law relationship. They met in high school and have 5 children together—4 biological, 1 from Talia's previous partner.

At present, Kofi is detained in Immigration Canada waiting to be deported. Though his current deportation has no fixed date, he's already had three deportation attempts that were cancelled following psychological analysis. Nevertheless, he hopes to gain a Temporary Resident Permit followed by an administrative stay and an appeal to the Federal Court.

Considering Kofi's circumstances, such as the need for a criminologist to evaluate whether he's likely to re-offend, he has the following chances of receiving legal aid from the surveyed lawyers:

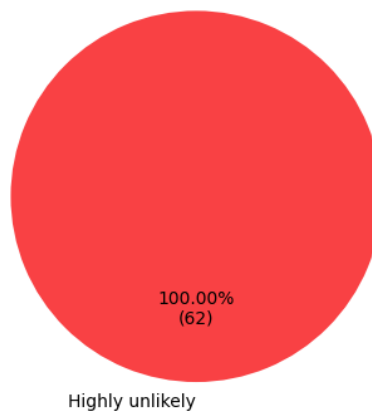AQAADI Lawyers' Likelihood of Providing Legal Aid for Migrant #2

Figure 2

2.3   Migrant 3

Our final migrant is a 43-year old woman named Gloria. Hailing from Manila, Philippines, Gloria's sole purpose for migrating was to serve as a live-in caregiver to a Canadian family. Unfortunately, she was poorly advised by both her first employer and the lawyers she consulted, causing her to miss the two-year window to apply for permanent residency once her work permits expired. As a result, she's been non-status for close to 10 years.

Presently single with no kids, Gloria also requires therapy following years of abuse and control in a past relationship. Not only did her ex-boyfriend steal money from her, but he also funneled funds out of the account she used to send money to her sick mother in the Philippines. Partly because of this, she doesn't want to return to the Philippines as she hopes to continue sending back what little money she can spare to support her family overseas.

To find help, Gloria sought multiple organizations until finally finding a lawyer, but couldn't procure the \$500 they wanted to charge to launch a humanitarian compassionate application. Instead, she started a GoFundMe and amassed the required fee, but by then the lawyer quit and refused to file her application. Her only recourse now is through legal aid.

To get help filing her humanitarian application, Gloria's prospects among the surveyed lawyers are as follows:

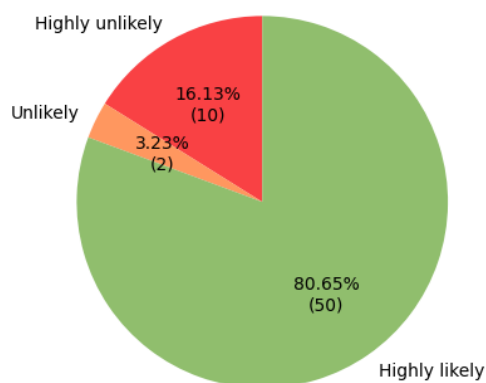AQAADI Lawyers' Likelihood of Providing Legal Aid for Migrant #3

Figure 3

3   Conclusion

Though entirely fictional in their trajectories, the three migrant profiles above represent very plausible life journeys of very real people. And yet, as detailed in the pie charts in this report, most of the responding lawyers are highly unlikely to provide legal aid to those with these profiles (with the exception of the third). In summation, this analysis demonstrates that legal aid in Montreal is generally inaccessible across a range of differing circumstances.