



CARING FOR LGBTQ REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS, PART 3



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



Presbyterian Mission
**Presbyterian
Disaster Assistance**



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Today's Trainers

Susan Krehbiel, she/her

Associate for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*

Alex McNeill, he/him

Executive Director, *More Light Presbyterians*

Jennicet Gutiérrez, she/her

Founder and Community Organizer,
Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement

Rev. Elizabeth Smith, she/her

Development and Communications Coordinator,
Casa Mariposa Detention Visitation Program



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What we will cover today:

- Re-Cap of Parts 1 & 2
- Lift up community-based projects led by people organizing within their communities
- Look at successful programs supporting people in detention
- Support for people in our local communities, and how to identify community-based projects



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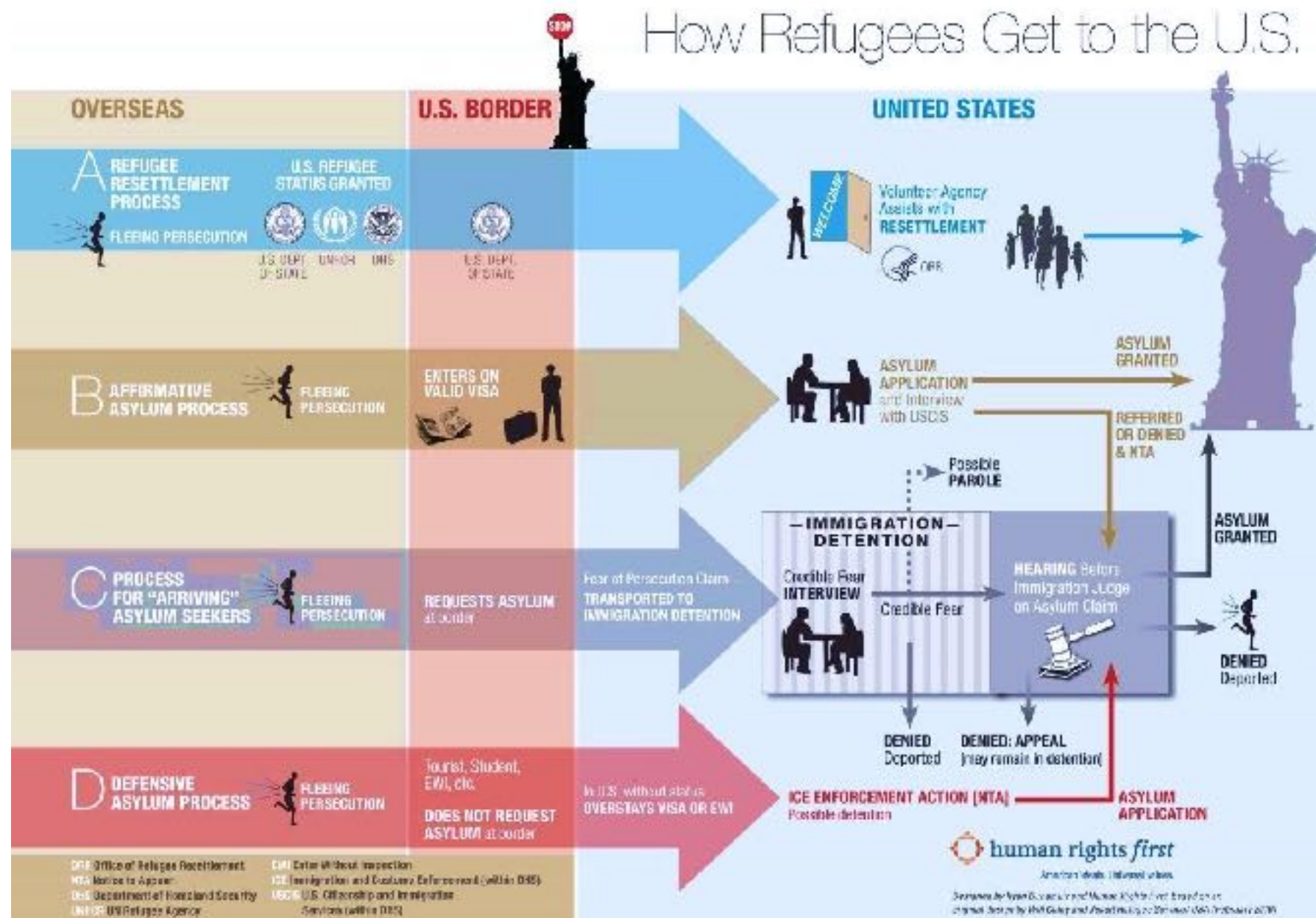
Re-Cap of Parts 1 & 2



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How do Refugees Get to the U.S.?



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Detention in numbers

- 40,000+ people on any given day
- 400,000 a year
- Held in a network of 210 local, federal, and for-profit immigration detention facilities across the US.
- Civil detention system
- Break away from good immigrant/ bad immigrant narrative
- Even if criminal charges, serve time twice



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Genesis 21:14-19



So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.



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Community-Based Projects



Familia Trans Queer Liberation Movement (Familia: TQLM)



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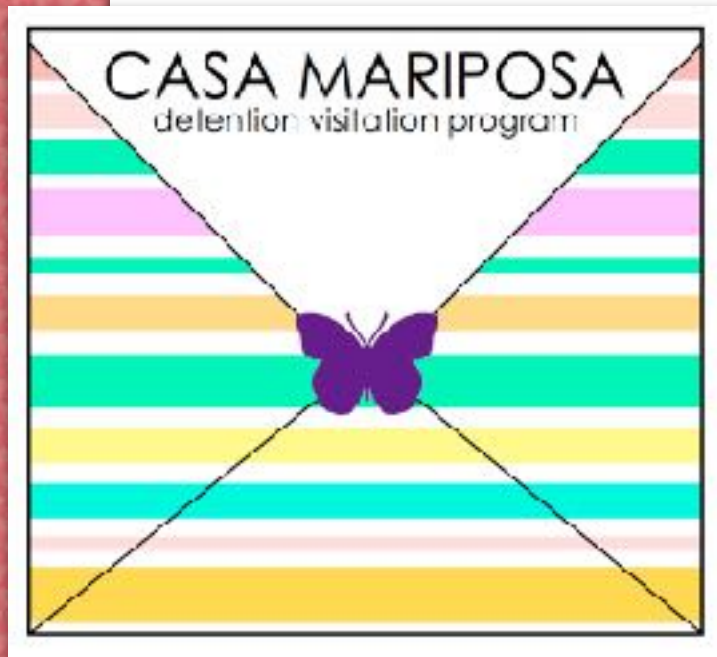
Familia: TQLM



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Community-Based Projects



Casa Mariposa Detention Visitation Program



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Casa Mariposa Detention Visitation Program: Background



- Began with individuals writing to folks in detention in Eloy and Florence, AZ
- Focus shifted slightly with the question, "Where are the women?"
- By 2014, special permission was granted to visit individuals in Eloy Detention Center once a week on Fridays
- Visitation schedule eventually expanded to Wednesday and Friday mornings.
- Each of those days, 5 visitors can visit five individuals each
- 50 folks a week can receive visits (1,500 individuals are detained daily)



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Breaking the Isolation



- Isolation is the name of the game.
- Letters and visits assure individuals that they are not forgotten, and most importantly, that someone cares about them.
- Funds help us send books, money for phone calls and other commissary items.
- We work with community partners to get as many of these resources to as many folks as possible.
- Post-detention support can offer a needed boost and/or help reunite individuals with their support system.



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Growth & Opportunity



- Small program, but growing network of partners, including faith communities
- Consistent leadership needed
- Those previously visited/detained began to take interest in giving back to the program
- How do we take our cues from those directly impacted by detention?



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Navigating Growing Pains



- Moving beyond white savior complex
- Language matters!
- Honesty and humility important
- Lifting up stories not heard



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Moved to Act?



- Great--look for those already organizing!
- Pay attention to who's making decisions, and how they're made
- How are you being asked to show up?



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More Information

- CMDVP Program Coordinator, Rocio Calderon:
cmvisitation@gmail.com
- Support CMDVP:
 - donorbox.org/cmvisitation
 - Venmo: @CasaMariposa-VisitationProgram
- Freedom For Immigrants (formerly CIVIC)
- IMM Print - a platform for immigrants' stories



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PDA Resources



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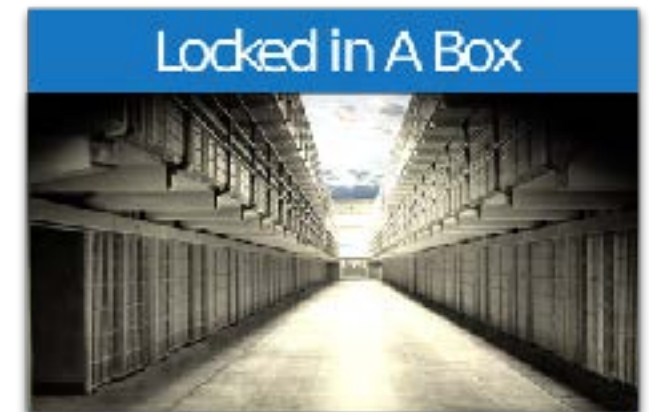
June 20: World Refugee Day

PDA Resources: pcusa.org/refugee

Locked in A Box

An award winning 24-minute documentary film about the U.S. Immigration detention system as seen through the experiences of individuals held in immigration detention and those who visit them

pcusa.org/StoryProductions



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How to connect to PDA



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- Find resources at:
pcusa.org/refugee/
- Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/PDACARES/
- Sign up for our new PDA Blog
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/pda-blog/>
- Email us at: pda@pcusa.org



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QUESTIONS?



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