



WELCOMING
WEEK 2022



PennState Law

Center for Immigrants'
Rights Clinic



State College
Area School District



REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

When: September 13 at 5:30 pm

**Where: State College Area High School Center
for Equity and Global Leadership (CEGL) Hub**

REGISTER TODAY!

WHERE WE BELONG



Legal Disclaimer

The materials presented are for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of legal advice.



Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic (CIRC)



Who We Are:

- CIRC is a nationally recognized in-house clinic focused on immigration and directed by its founder Professor Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia
- CIRC provides law students with hands-on clinical training in immigration law through three pillars: community outreach and education, pro bono legal support, and policy work.



Introduction to Immigration Law and Policy



Defining Terms



- **Noncitizen**
 - Any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.
- **Refugee**
 - Any person who is located outside their home country and unable or unwilling to return due to persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.



What is Parole?

- A tool that allows certain noncitizens to physically enter or temporarily remain in the United States while applying for admission, even though they have not yet been formally admitted.
- Parole is for a limited period.
- **Parolees:**
 - Persons who have been granted parole.



Source: Catholic Legal Immigration Network: Guide to Client Documentation and Benefits for Afghan Parolees



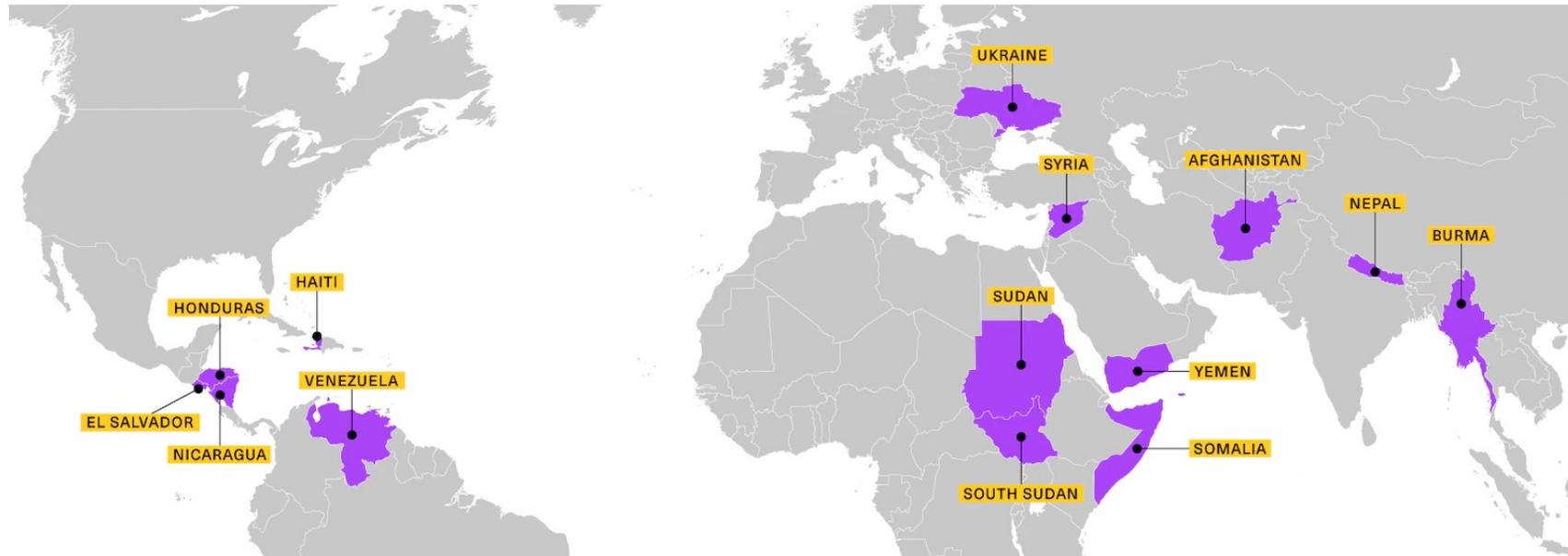
What is Asylum?

- **Asylum**
 - A form of protection provided to persons who meet the legal requirements of a refugee but are located at the U.S. border, at a port of entry, or within the U.S. territory.
- **Asylee**
 - A person who has been granted asylum.
 - Cannot be removed or returned to their country of nationality or their last country of residence where they faced persecution.
 - Authorized to work and eligible to apply for a green card after one year as an asylee.



Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

Established by the U.S. Congress to protect certain non-citizens in the United States because of ongoing armed conflict, natural disasters, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions in their home countries- 15 countries are designated.





The U.S. Response to Afghanistan and Ukraine

1. Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) Afghan Nationals
2. Operation Enduring Welcome (*Forthcoming)
3. Uniting for Ukraine



Operation Allies Welcome (OAW)

- OAW aims to support vulnerable Afghans, including those who have worked with the U.S. government in Afghanistan, to resettle safely in the U.S.
- 76,000 Afghans have been paroled into the United States.
- Eligible to apply for employment authorization.
- OAW **will officially end on October 1st** by the U.S. government and will be replaced by other efforts to help Afghans.
 - Operation Enduring Welcome



Source: [Operation Allies Welcome \(@AlliesWelcome\) / Twitter](#)

Sources: [DHS](#); <https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/afghanistan/2022/09/01/us-ending-operation-allies-welcome-shift-to-new-afghan-refugee-help/>



Uniting for Ukraine



- UFU provides Ukrainians and their immediate family members, who are outside the U.S., a pathway to enter and remain in the United States for **a two-year period of parole.**
- UFU requires a sponsor in the United States who will sponsor them for two years.
- Applicants must have resided in Ukraine prior to the Russian invasion, and be displaced.
- Eligible to apply for employment authorization.



Afghan Adjustment Act



- Many Afghans were brought into the U.S. on parole, which has no direct pathway to a green card.
- The Act would create a direct pathway and allow Afghan parolees to apply for a green card after one or two years.



Disparities in the U.S. Response to Afghanistan and Ukraine

	Afghanistan	Ukraine
TPS Designated	March 16, 2022	March 3, 2022
Parole Application Fees	\$575	\$0
In-person Interview	Required	Not Required
Numbers of Approval	270	79,000

Source: [Welcome US](#); [The Hill](#); [USCIS](#)



Welcoming Our Community

- You are welcome here!
- Resources:
 - Center for Immigrants Rights Clinic at Penn State Law
 - State College Police Department
 - State College Borough: Community Resources for Serving Immigrant Residents
 - State College Food Bank
 - Centre Safe (Formerly County Women's Resource Center)'s Civil Legal Representation Project



PennState Law

Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic

Thank You!



Allayn Beck, Executive Director, State College Food Bank



As Executive Director of the State College Food Bank, Allayn Beck is dedicated to its vision that one day, no one will go hungry in Centre County. Allayn began her work at the Food Bank in 2017 as the Business Manager, took the leadership role as Executive Director in 2020, and has helped the organization expand services and programs to reach thousands of individuals in Centre County who struggle with food insecurity. Guided by her passion for helping others, Allayn works diligently alongside her staff and volunteers to provide neighbors-in-need and community partner agencies with nutritious foods such as fresh produce, meat and dairy items, and shelf-stable groceries. Because community collaboration is essential to its success, Allayn has created and fostered many strategic relationships for the Food Bank with local grocery stores, other United Way partner agencies, the State College Area School District, and others.



STATE COLLEGE FOOD BANK

Address:

1321 South Atherton Street
State College, PA 16801

Website:

SCFoodBank.org

Phone:

814.234.2310

Email:

Info@SCFoodBank.org



One day, no one will go hungry in Centre County.



**Jody Lantz, Executive Director, Thrive
International Programs**

Jody Lantz has worked as the executive director at Thrive International Programs and its predecessor organization in Williamsport, PA since 2011 organizing programs for diverse community members, teaching English as a Second Language and providing immigration legal services as a DOJ Accredited Representative. Prior to that she taught English as a Second Language at various college and community programs and worked as a medical and refugee resettlement social worker. She has a BSW degree from Eastern University and an M.A. TESOL degree from Biola University.



Thrive promotes diversity, equity, and belonging

for people from international cultures in our region

through increased language proficiency and cultural competence,

immigration legal assistance,

and mutually beneficial community connections.

Thrive helps people who

- are citizens
- have green cards
- have temporary status
- have no legal status



TYPES OF IMMIGRATION CASES

Consultations

Permanent Residency

U.S. Citizenship

Petitions for Family Members

Removal of Conditions for Marriage-based Green Cards

Employment Authorization Cards

DACA

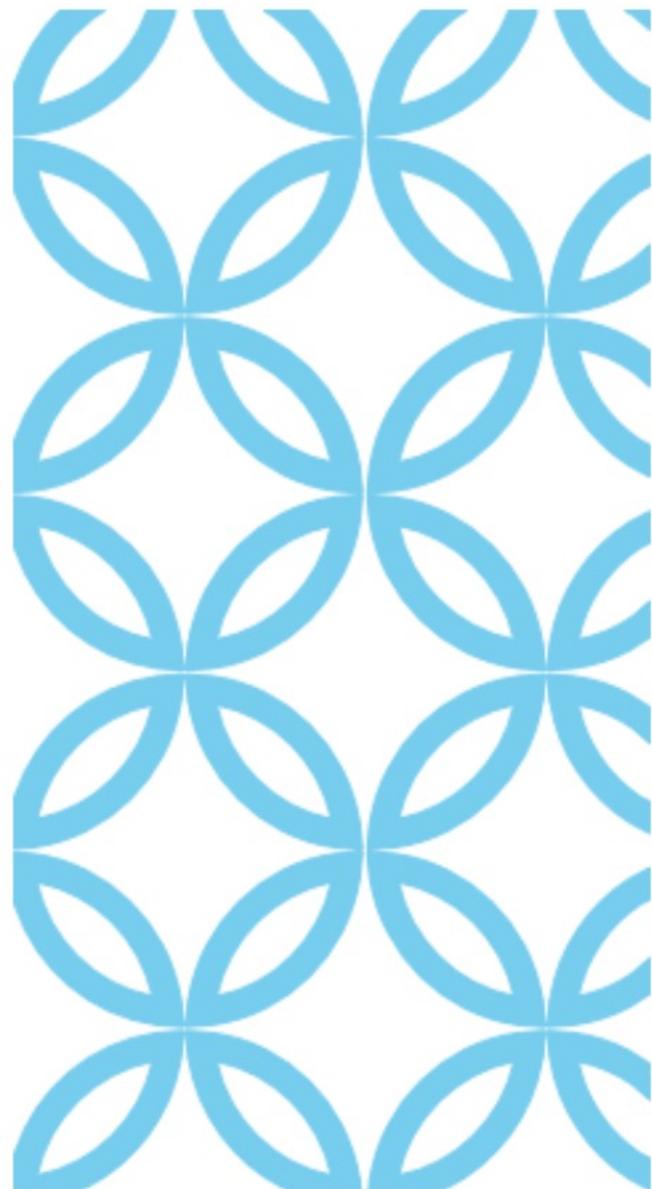
Temporary Protected Status

VAWA

Asylum

Representation at USCIS & asylum Interviews





HOW TO REACH THRIVE

420 Elmira Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

www.thriveip.org

570-478-0081 (call or text)



**Maureen Safko, Senior Planner, Borough of
State College**



Maureen has worked in housing and community development for local government for over 30 years. She is a Senior Planner in the Planning and Zoning Department of the Borough of State College and is a member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of the statewide Pennsylvania Downtown Center. Maureen is very proud to be the granddaughter of her mother's parents, who immigrated to the United States from Poland.

State College Borough

working for

Equal Housing Opportunity for All



Protected Classes per State College Borough Ordinance

	Federal	Pennsylvania	State College Borough
Sexual Orientation			Yes
Gender Identity			Yes
Marital Status			Yes
Birth of a Child			Yes
Place of Birth			Yes
Source of Income			Yes
Guide Animals		Yes	Yes
Age (40+)		Yes	Yes
Ancestry		Yes	Yes
Pregnancy		Yes	Yes
Race	Yes	Yes	Yes
Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
National Origin	Yes	Yes	Yes
Religion	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sex	Yes	Yes	Yes
Familial Status	Yes	Yes	Yes
Handicap	Yes	Yes	Yes

Rent, Mortgage & Utility Assistance

All people who...

- live in State College Borough
and
- lost income due to COVID-19 Pandemic
may be eligible for help for 6 months or more

Call (814)234-7165

Housing Options Made for Everyone



BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE

HOUSING OPTIONS
MADE FOR EVERYONE

 www.statecollegepa.us/HOME

 (814) 234-7165

 planningdept@statecollegepa.us

Find your home in State College





Alix Crowell, K-12 Family Liaison/ Bilingual Educator, State College Area School District



Alix Crowell holds a Master of Education with a concentration in Montessori, a Pennsylvania Instructional II Early Childhood Certificate, an American Montessori Society Elementary I Certificate, and a K-12 English as a Second Language Certificate. Alix has taught at the elementary level in both public and private schools across the country for the last 23 years. She was an adjunct professor at Xavier University and taught at the college level in the U.S. and abroad. Alix taught First Grade Bilingual classes and Elementary World Language classes (Spanish to English speakers and English to Spanish speakers), and Adult ESL night classes in East Palo Alto, California, where she also spent time as the Community Resource Director / Student Support Manager. Most recently, Alix taught first and second grade at Easterly Parkway Elementary School, a school with one of the largest populations of English Language Learners in our district. During her time there she tutored Spanish speaking children in an after school program, using a bilingual approach to strengthen their skills in the area of reading. Last year, Alix was hired as the K-12 Family Liaison / Bilingual Educator for SCASD and has been working since then to help students and families overcome cultural and linguistic barriers to gain access to much needed resources in our community.

Who am I?



Why was my job created?



What does my job entail?



Who are we?

Student population - 6,818

African American - 2.5%

Hispanic - 3.8%

Multi-Racial - 6.6%

Asian - 8.1%

White - 78.6%

Native American - 0.13%

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander - 0.4%

Economically Disadvantaged - 20.2%

English Language Learner - 3.0%

Special Education - 11.4%

Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP) - 2.8%



Who are our English Language Learners?

Number of active ELLs - 236

Number of ELLs currently being monitored - 107

Number of different languages spoken in homes across the district - 45

Mandarin - 16%

Spanish - 15%

Cantonese - 14%

Arabic - 11%

Russian - 8%

Korean - 6%

39 Other languages - less than 2% each



Cultural Differences in SCASD

Benefits

Learn from and interact with international students and their families

Challenges

Language differences

Individual cultures affect learning and behavior in the classroom

Often need help to “navigate the system” in a new country

Four Distinct ELL Populations with Two More Recent Additions

University Related Students

Russian Baptist Students

Service-Industry Related Students

Adopted Students

Ukrainian Refugees

Afghan Refugees

Why are they here?

University Related Students



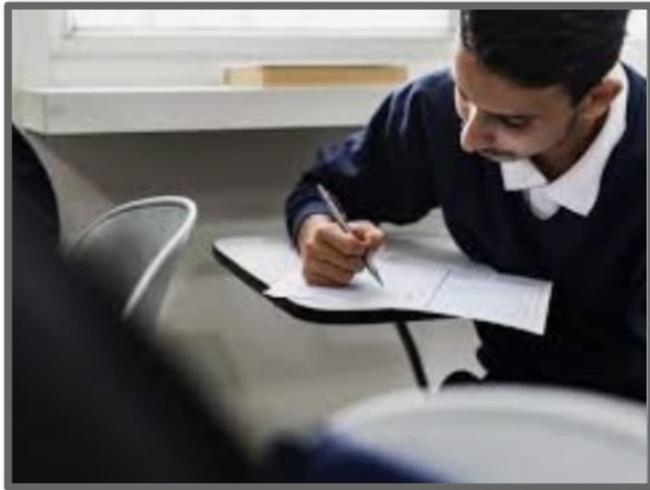
Why are they here?

Russian Baptist Students



Why are they here?

Service-Industry Related Students



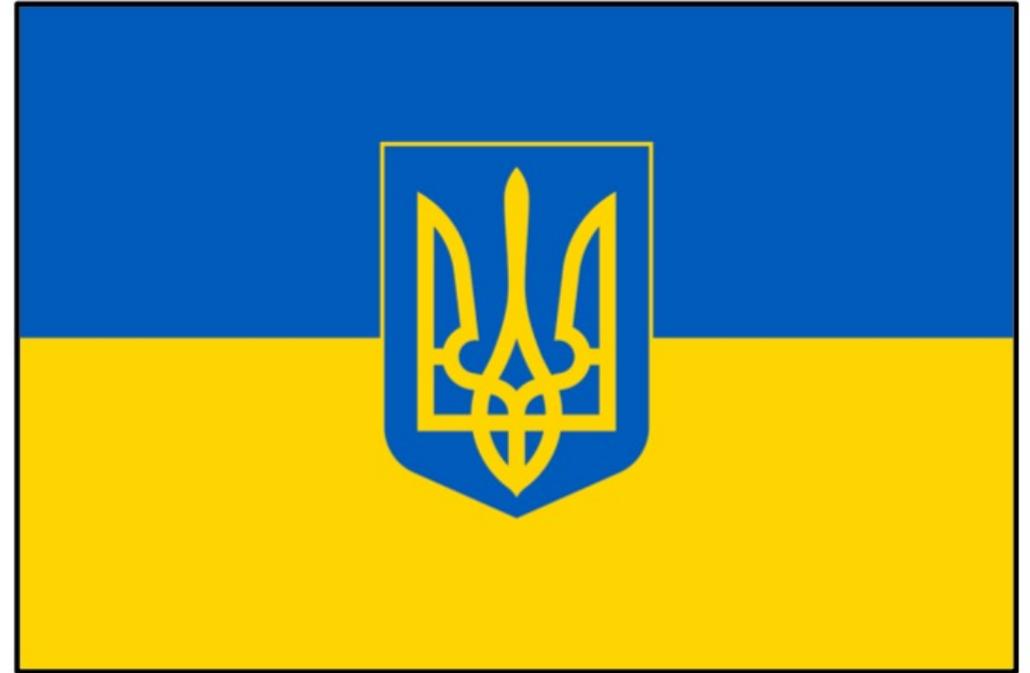
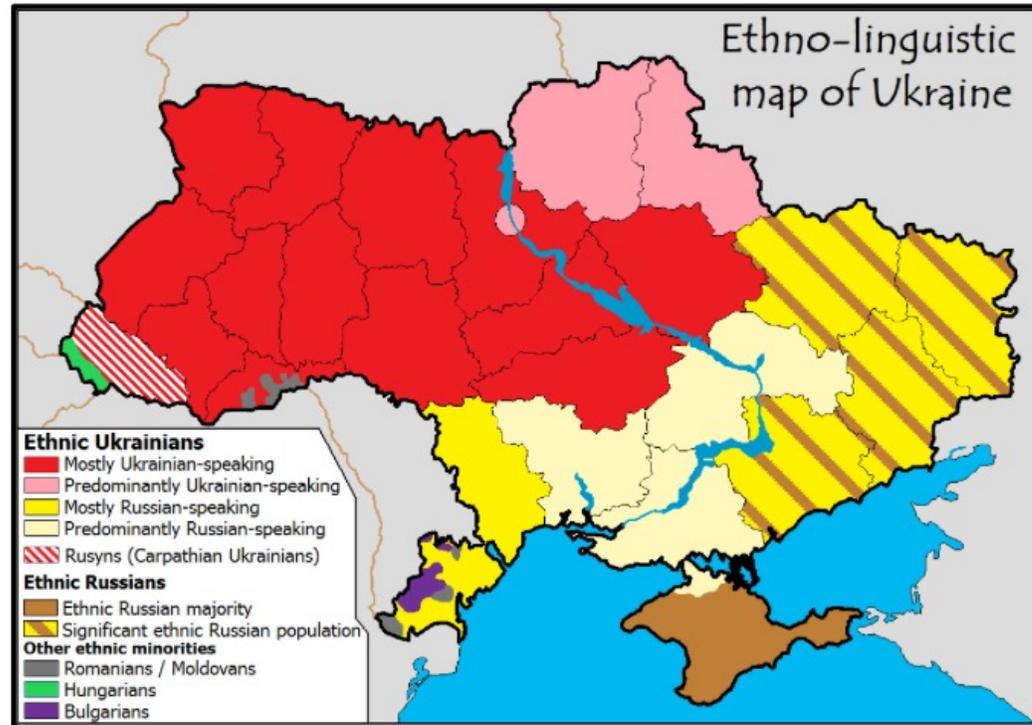
Why are they here?

Adopted Students



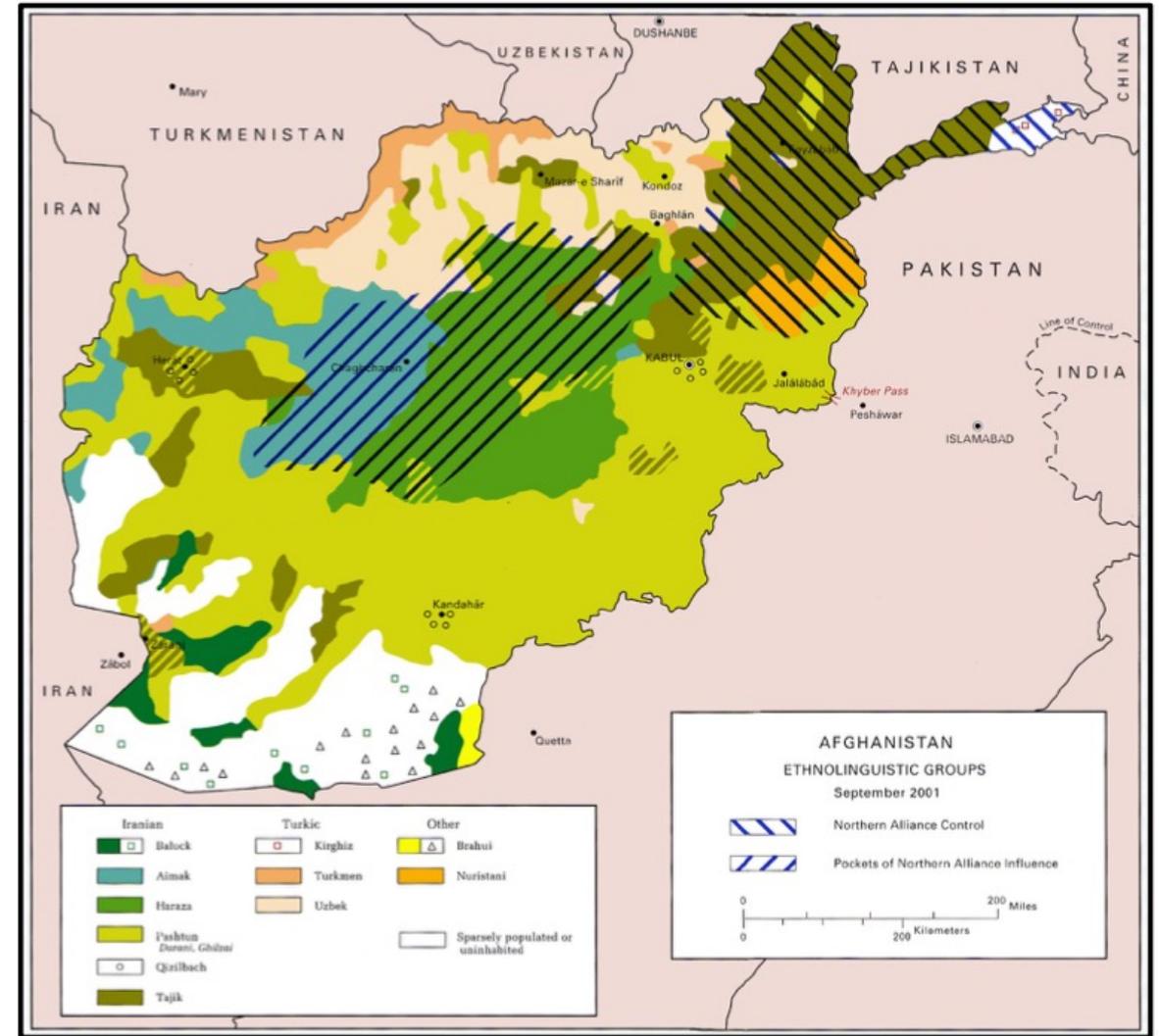
Why are they here?

Ukrainian Refugees



Why are they here?

Afghan Refugees



What do you need to know?



What do I do to create a sense of belonging in families displaced from their home countries?

We Belong Here



How can you contact me?

Alix Croswell

K-12 Family Liaison / Bilingual Educator

State College Area School District

240 Villa Crest Drive

State College, PA 16801

abc18@scasd.org

Office: (814) 231-1011 ext. 8156

Cell: (919) 961-7354

Fax: (814) 466-6070





Naomi Altman, Community Volunteer with ROAR and Congregation Brit Shalom



Naomi Altman is Professor Emeritus of Statistics and Bioinformatics, working at Cornell from 1987 to 2001 and PSU from 2001 through 2019. Prior to earning her Ph.d., she had a number of jobs including teaching mathematics to teacher trainees in Nigeria, computer programming for the Canadian weather bureau and analyzing medical data. Since retirement, she has been traveling in her camper, and recently became a grandmother. Motivated by concern for the millions displaced by natural disasters, poverty and war, she has been working with Afghan families in State College since February 2022.

300 Cups of Tea

Assisting Afghan Resettlement in the State College Area

Naomi Altman

Professor Emerita, PSU

ROAR volunteer

Member Congregation Brit Shalom

How did Afghans end up in State College?

Penn State graduate students

Penn State visiting researchers

Sponsorship by faith communities (9 churches + synagogue)

Several nuclear families, but also some family groups, single individuals who may have families who hope to follow.

What am I doing with Afghans?

Helping locate affordable housing.

Finding furnishings and other household goods.

Connecting adults with ESL services.

Providing transportation to appointments.

Co-ordinating other volunteers.

Assisting with employment searches.

Listening, befriending.

What I've Learned

No matter how late you are, there is always time for a cup of tea (Afghan).

There isn't always time for a cup of tea (American).

You don't have to have a language in common to make a friend.

Community support is important for successful resettlement.

ROAR

Resettlement, Outreach, Advocacy, Resources

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------|--|
| 2016 | Syrian Refugee Crisis | Grassroots group from Interfaith Community created volunteer email list
starting talks with Church World Service
raised some funds |
| 2021 | Afghan Refugee Crisis | Used the email list to create ROAR
resumed talks with Church World Service
first Afghan parolee family arrives (PSU) |
| 2022 | | First Afghan parolee family moves to State College
Other PSU families arrive |

Faith Community Sponsorships - 2022

- CWS informs ROAR that “Community Sponsors” must be taxable entities
- ROAR volunteers form 2 “consortia” of 3 congregations each as “Community Sponsors”
- Bethany subcontractors from LIRS
arranges 4 individual congregation sponsorships

Afghans helping each other

From the first, Afghans in the community have assisted with welcoming, translation, transportation and other forms of communication.

What can you do?

Sponsor a family with a congregation or organization.

Affordable housing.

Job opportunities.

ESL language partners.

Friendship.



**WELCOMING
WEEK 2022**



REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

When: September 13 at 5:30 pm

**Where: State College Area High School Center
for Equity and Global Leadership (CEGL) Hub**

REGISTER TODAY!

WHERE WE BELONG