

# CWS Lancaster

## ***Understanding the Value and Needs of Our Newest Neighbors***

Valentina Ross

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# All families deserve safety & dignity

CWS is committed to showing welcome to refugees, immigrants, asylum-seekers and other uprooted people within the United States





CWS in South Central PA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFki6eYbxcY&t=111s>



***100,000,000 displaced people  
worldwide***

***27,000,000 refugees***

UNHCR, 2022

# Refugees

...are people who flee their country because of a well-founded fear of persecution, based on their

- **Race**
- **Religion**
- **Nationality**
- **Political opinion or**
- **Membership in a particular social group**

and who are unable or unwilling to return home.

- *Defined at the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees*



# Durable solutions after displacement

There are three viable solutions:

- 1. Voluntary repatriation**
- 2. Local Integration**
- 3. Resettlement to a third country**



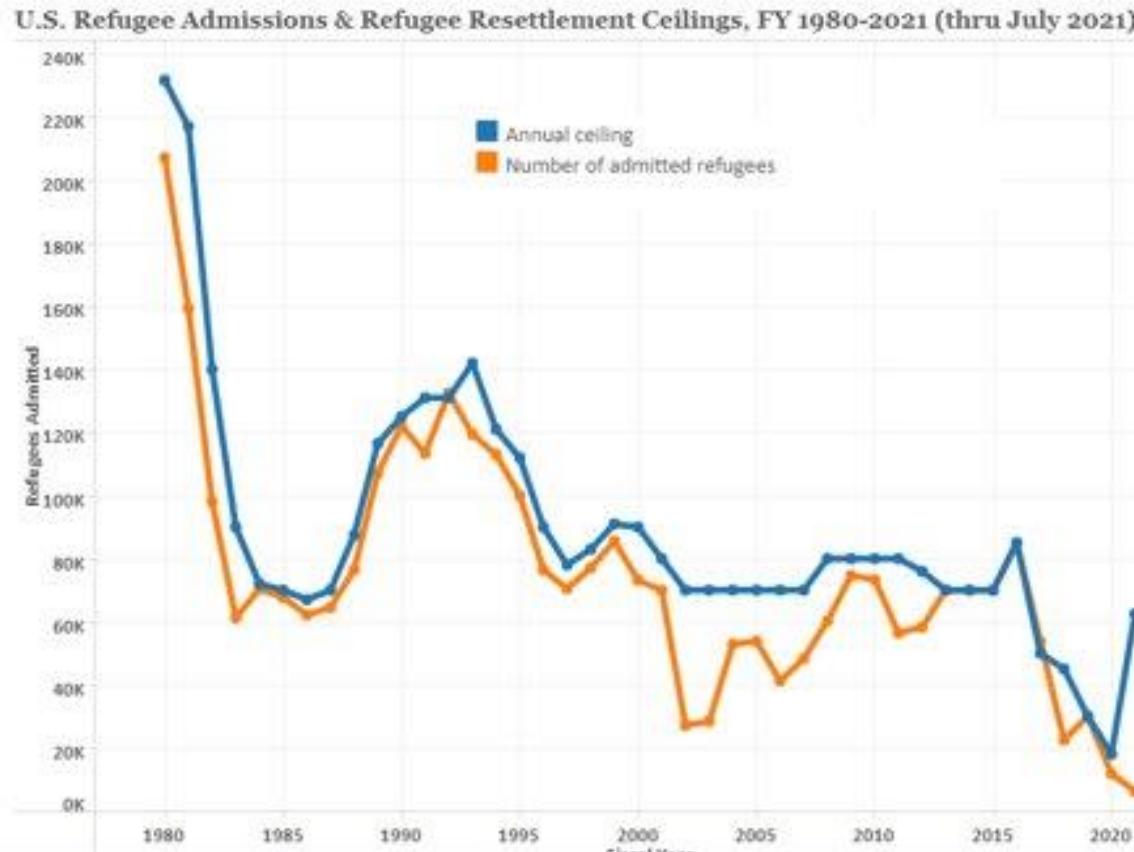
**There are many reasons why it might be too difficult or too dangerous for people to stay in their home countries**

- **Afghan and Ukrainian parolees**
- **Asylum-seekers** are people who are seeking protection from dangers in their home country but whose claim for refugee status has not been processed yet
- **Migrants and Immigrants** cross international borders for a variety of reasons and may be in various documented or undocumented statuses and/or mixed status families
- **Internally-displaced people** have fled their homes in search of safety but have not crossed a border
- A **stateless** person is someone who does not have citizenship – the legal bond between a government and an individual – in any country

**But remember, No Single Story!**

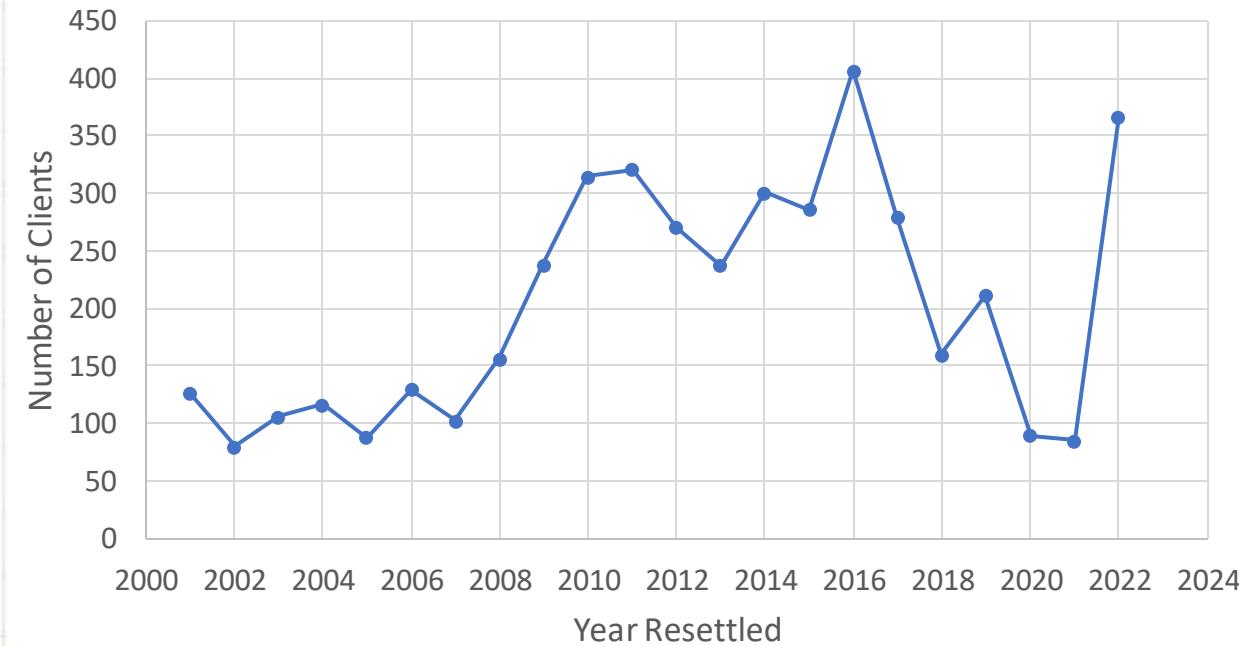


# United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)



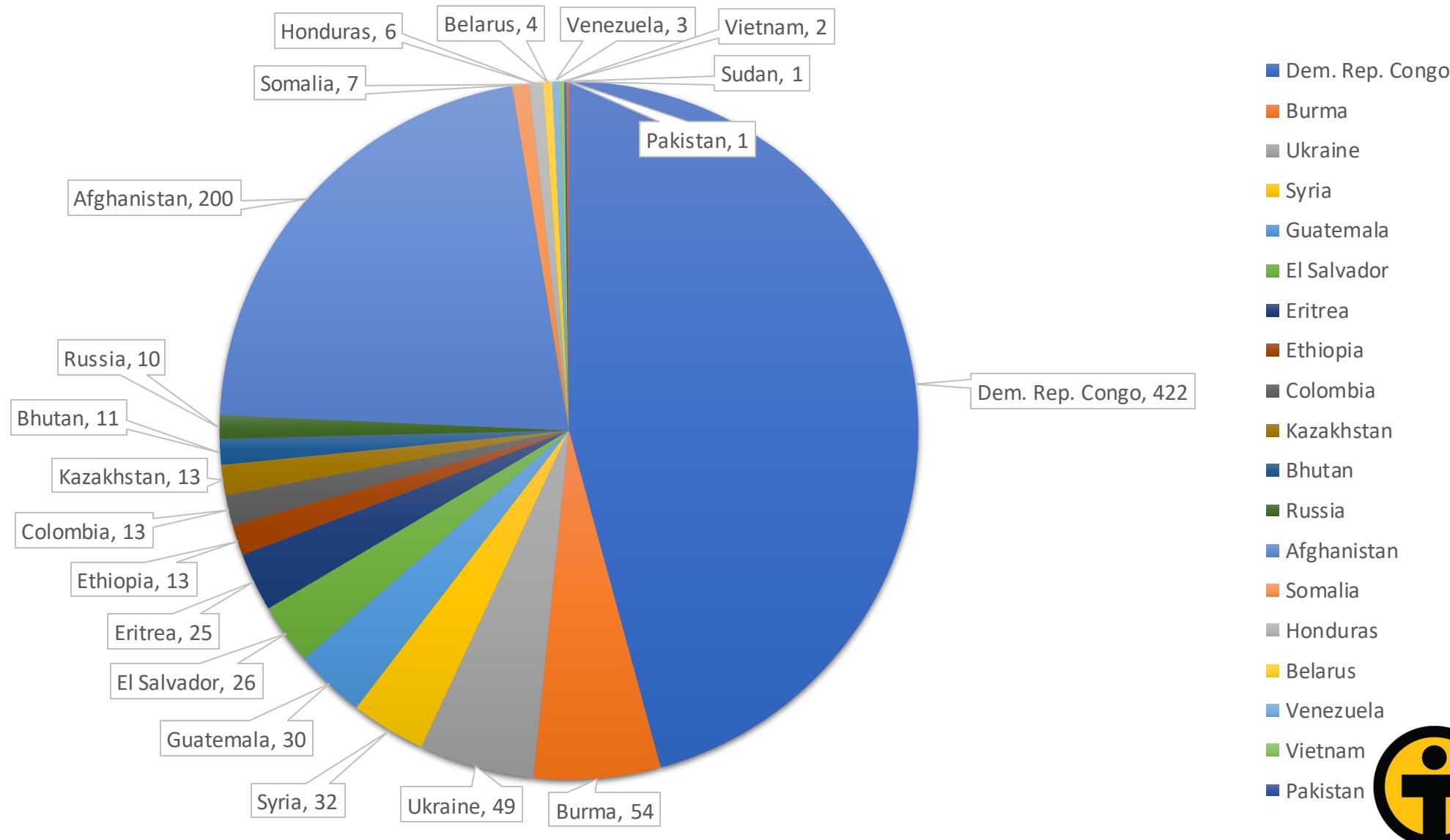
# Local Arrival Numbers

Number of Clients Resettled in Lancaster from 2001-2022



# Refugee Arrivals in Lancaster by Nationality

## 2018-2022



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# CWS Lancaster Programs

Welcome

Integration

Legal Services



# 5+ years of service & support

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## WELCOME

- Resettlement & Matching Grant
- Community Sponsorship
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee services

## INTEGRATION

- Employment Services
- Extended Services
- Home Studies Post Release Services

## LEGAL SERVICES

- Immigration Legal Services
- Immigrant Children's Program

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Refugee & Immigrant Community Organizer
- New Neighbors Speakers Bureau
- Volunteer Opportunities



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# Refugees, immigrants vital to local economy

TOM BALDRIGE AND SAM BRESSI | Special to LNP Sep 23, 2018

In 2014, immigrants contributed

**\$1.3 billion**  
to the Lancaster County GDP

New American Economy

“

**Lancaster is now what it is because these people have come here, and they have brought their skills, their unique cultures, their desire to grow their families in a safe and productive environment. And they have changed Lancaster.**

Valentina Ross, director of Church World Service Lancaster

RESETTLING MAIN STREET

**Refugees bring new strokes to one city's Pennsylvania Dutch image**

	1990	2019	Growth Rate	Population growth
All	419,408	541,044	29%	+121,636
Asian or Pacific Islander, Immigrant	3,431	8,375	144%	+4,944
Asian or Pacific Islander, US-born	1,049	3,477	231%	+2,428
Black, Immigrant	79	2,738	3,366%	+2,659
Black, US-born	8,130	15,571	92%	+7,441
Latinx, Immigrant	1,226	8,768	615%	+7,542
Latinx, US-born	15,015	47,944	219%	+32,929
Native American	431	221	-49%	-210
White, Immigrant	3,574	6,245	75%	+2,671
White, US-born	386,272	437,252	13%	+50,980



ALL ARE  
WELCOME  
HERE

#REFUGEESWELCOME  
#NOREFUGEEBAN

ALL ARE

#refugeeswelcome



What does it mean to move  
from “welcome” to  
“belonging?



*“Cultural Humility is a lifelong process of self-reflection and self-critique whereby the individual not only learns about another’s culture but starts with an examination of her/his own beliefs and cultural identities.”*

Tervalon and Murray-Garcia outline the following traits of cultural humility:

- Curiosity and willingness to learn about cultural differences
- Realistic, ongoing self-appraisal
- Flexibility
- Humility and courage
- Interest in another person’s experience
- Sensitivity to existing power imbalances



# Language Access

\*\*Any organization that receives federal funding is required to provide language access to its services.

- Understand who your clients are
- Ensure all staff are trained in accessing available interpretation
- Utilize local and national resources to build a language access plan





# Trauma-Informed Care

Trauma informed care is the practice of recognizing that you do not know who has experienced trauma, so everyone should be treated with this approach. You do not need to know the details of another person's trauma to have this approach.

Important elements to consider in a trauma-informed approach:

- Awareness
- Safety
- Trustworthiness
- Choice
- Collaboration
- Empowerment

# Strengths-Based Approaches

A strengths-based approach is one that focuses on people's resilience instead of their deficits. Strength-based practitioners hold the fundamental assumption that people can improve the quality of their lives.

Your staff and colleagues can do this by:

- Being empowering!
- Recognizing culture as a source of strength
- Building supportive relationships with new neighbors
- Being sensitive to refugee communities' different histories and socio-political contexts
- Partnering with refugee families and communities to identify and solve problems.
- Identifying goals.



# Learn More!

## *New Neighbors Speakers Bureau*



New Neighbors Speakers Bureau:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0aktexPCwM>



# Welcome Home



*We all need their resilience, dreams, and perseverance.*

*Our entire community is enriched by who they are and what they bring to Lancaster.*

Danita Beachey, CWS Lancaster volunteer since 2017



**Thank you for  
being part of our  
welcoming community!**