

# Refugee Law and Policy



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A Comparative and International Approach

SIXTH EDITION

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*This book is dedicated to the many teachers from whom  
I've learned that being human means not to turn away from suffering,  
but to embrace it with compassion and an abiding belief in  
transformation and healing.*

*And to my husband, mentor, and co-author, Richard, one of the  
most gentle souls on earth, whose love and faith in me never fails  
to illuminate my path.*

—K.M.

*To my daughter Kyra Elizabeth and in loving memory of her  
younger sister, my daughter Tessa Irene (1998–2024)*

—J.M.

*To Karen for her deep compassion for all beings and  
her tireless quest for justice.*

*And to the refugees and all who seek refuge—  
may they receive protection.*

—R.A.B.

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—L.M.H.



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— K. MUSALO

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I believe that as legal scholars we do have a valuable role to play in articulating and lifting up the experiences of human beings who survive violence, material deprivation, and persecution. At the same time, we learn constantly from the refugees and other displaced people with and for whom we work. Their resilience, resourcefulness, courage, and kindness continue to inspire me and to kindle my own contributions to our common endeavors.

— J. MOORE

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In these troubling times, when so much of this nation's energies are focused on military action, border security and building walls, we are very rapidly losing sight of the humanitarian ideals which came about following the horrific tragedies of World War II. The response of so many countries, particularly our own, is a blight and dangerous harbinger for the future of refugee and humanitarian law. This is a time for all of us who care about the plight of refugees to redouble our efforts to make meaningful change possible. It is for this reason that I give special acknowledgement and gratitude to the millions of immigrants, displaced persons and refugees. Their tireless efforts, courage and fortitude in the face of so much adversity is an inspiration to all of us. Finally, I give thanks to all who work on behalf of refugees to provide them with the protections they deserve.

— R. BOSWELL



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— L. HARRIS



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# Note on American Refugee Law in 2025

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The manuscript for this casebook was completed in mid-January 2025. The landscape for refugee protection in the US changed radically with the inauguration of Donald Trump. The timing was such that the majority of changes under Trump—which are ongoing—could not be incorporated into the text. The authors plan to provide updates in the 2025 Teacher’s Manual, and then to provide annual Supplements beginning in Summer 2026.

