

## Causes of Immigration on Our Southern Border

This week we discuss:

- Suketu Mehta on Fear of Immigrants. Prof. Suketu Mehta, author of *This is Our Land*, argues the West is being destroyed not by immigrants, but the fear of immigrants. <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/amanpour-and-company/video/suketu-mehta-on-fear-of-immigrants/>
- “The Genesis of Exodus” by PC(USA) OGA. Often, the rhetoric in the United States frames the arrival of Central American migrants as a story that begins at the U.S./Mexico border. This film dives into a much deeper and more complicated journey that begins in the homes, schools, and streets of Central American towns. <https://vimeo.com/222008830>
- “Underlying Causes of Our Immigration Crisis” by Elise Packard. Our immigration crisis is caused by a number of factors driving people to leave central America and by US forces resisting immigration. <https://fpcsantafe.org/wp-content/uploads/Underlying-Causes-of-Immigration-Crisis.pdf>

### ***Goal for Class***

The goal of this class is to better understand the circumstances, lives, and motivations of those who seek to immigrate to America from central America.

### ***Questions for Discussion***

- How does the presence of immigrants benefit our community? our state? our country?
- What examples of discrimination against immigrants in our community are you aware of?
- How can we, as a church, be more welcoming to immigrants in Santa Fe?

### ***Additional Resources***

- “Central America’s Turbulent Northern Triangle.” Article published on [www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org) on . A surge of migrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have pushed governments to reexamine relevant policies. <https://www.cfr.org/background/central-americas-turbulent-northern-triangle#chapter-title-0-2>

- **NPR articles and short videos on immigration.** A number of articles and short (3-4 minute) videos on various topics related to U.S. immigration on our southern border. Published in 2019. <https://www.npr.org/series/710243964/migration-at-the-southern-border>
- **“At the US-Mexico border, asylum chaos, and coronavirus fear.”** Article published on [thenewhumanitarian.org](http://thenewhumanitarian.org) June 22, 2020. Asylum seekers are caught in limbo with the U.S. response to the virus and a spiraling outbreak in Mexico, with those in overcrowded shelters particularly vulnerable. <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2020/06/22/US-Mexico-border-asylum-chaos-coronavirus-fear>
- **“The U.S. Immigration Debate.”** CFR backgrounder article published June 23, 2020. Comprehensive immigration reform has eluded Congress for years, effectively moving controversial decisions into the executive and judicial branches of government. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-immigration-debate-0>
- **“Immigration Nation”** on Netflix. (6 one-hour episodes) With unprecedented access to ICE operations, as well as moving portraits of immigrants, this documentary takes a deep look at U.S. immigration today. (6 one-hour episodes)

### ***Action Items***

Following are organizations that aid immigrants that our church supports. Check them out to see what they do and how you might be able to contribute to their efforts.

- **Somos Un Pueblo Unido**—A statewide community-based and immigrant-led organization that promotes worker and racial justice. <https://www.somosunpueblounido.org/somos-un-pueblo-unido.html>
- **Santa Fe Dreamers Project**—Provides free legal services to immigrants and refugees. <http://www.santafedreamersproject.org/>
- **No More Deaths**—A humanitarian aid organization that seeks to end death and suffering in the US-Mexico borderlands. <https://nomoredeaths.org/en/>