REFUGEE CRISIS: HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES*

Justice & Democracy Forum Series
UNLV Center for Democratic Culture
William S. Boyd School of Law

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Millions of refugees are fleeing war and persecution, looking for safe haven in other countries, hoping to rebuild their lives in faraway, not always hospitable places. Who will accept them and who will turn them away? The refugee crisis we currently face is hardly unprecedented. With the onset of World War II, countless refugees sought to escape Nazi Germany and to flee occupied territories. Jews from all over Europe desperately looked for an asylum. Many failed to find a country willing to open its doors to Jewish refugees.

After the war, the Allied forces confronted a refugee problem of enormous proportion. The United Nations laid the groundwork for handling similar calamities in the future. In 1948, the U.N. adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which included Article 14, asserting that “Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.” Today’s refugee crisis forces us to clarify our obligations under the United Nations Charter and the commitments spelled out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The conference “Refugee Crisis: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives” is part of the Justice & Democracy Forum Series sponsored by the UNLV Center for Democratic Culture and William S. Boyd School of Law. The conference will take place on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 4:00-7:00 p.m., and it will be held at the ball room of the International Gaming Institute, Stan Fulton Building, University of Nevada Las Vegas. Among the distinguished speakers who will address the challenges confronting the world community are the Hon. Hans Jörg Neumann, Consul General, Federal Republic of Germany; the Hon. Christophe Lemoine, Consul General, France; the Hon. Bernadette Greene, Deputy Consul General, Great Britain; Shelley Berkeley, Former Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives; Dr. Michael Kagan, Co-director, Immigration Clinic, William S. Boyd School of Law; and Dr. Tiffiany Howard, Director, Center for Migration, Demography, and Population Studies, UNLV. A reception will follow the conference proceedings.

Sponsors:
UNLV Center for Democratic Culture • William S. Boyd School of Law • College of Liberal Arts • Department of Sociology • Department of History • Department of Political Science • Generations of the Shoah–Nevada • Holocaust Survivors Group of Southern Nevada • Jewish Nevada. The event is held at the ball room of the International Gaming Institute, Stan Fulton Building.
Conference attendance is free. For more information about the Justice & Democracy Forum series visit http://cdclv.unlv.edu//programs/justice_democracy.html.