National Capacity Building Project. Technical Assistance of the Survivor of Tortuse Programs

The Asylum Process:
Interdisciplinary Responses to Multifaceted Challenges

April 16, 2023

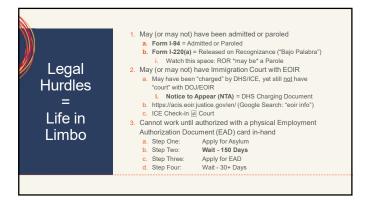


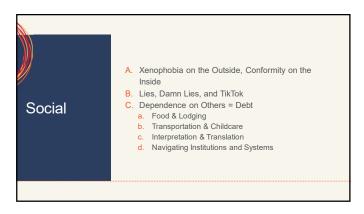
National Capacity Building Project: Technical Assistance of the Survivor of Torture Programs

Challenges in Service
Provision for Asylum Seekers:
Recently Arrived Asylum
Seekers

Jonathan Ryan, JD
Counsel to the Center for Survivors of Torture

NYC Mayor Eric Adams May 23, 2023 "When I speak with my asylum seekers...they state clearly, 'We don't want your free room and board and food and clothing, we want to work. We want to have an opportunity to provide for ourselves.' And right now we are denying that opportunity by refusing to let them work legally. It is creating an underground market where individuals could be exploited, unable to pay into our tax base, working long and difficult and dangerous jobs because they are living in the shadow of the American dream and not out front. It increases the risk that they can be abused. It is one of the major goals we must accomplish."





Health & Behavioral Health	A. Ongoing Trauma a. Recent & Revived Memories b. Survivor's Guilt & Family Separation c. Disorientation & Loss of Agency

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Asylum Seekers in the Affirmative Backlog:
Psychosocial Concerns

Walter Fendrich, LCSW-R Clinical Director Libertas Center for Human Rights





- Family Separation
- Financial Hardship
- · Inadequate Housing/Homelessness
- Transportation Costs & Food Insecurity
- Exploitative Employment
- · Barriers to Healthcare
- Starting a Family & Having Children
- · Lack of Childcare
- · Lack of Benefits/No Pell Grants
- · Loss of Loved-Ones in Home Country

- Fear for family safety in home country & guilt - Complicated Grief – Cannot care for dying loved-ones or mourn loss with family/community. - Constant fear of deportation and returning to danger. Living with a "black cloud over my head". - Denial – Clients building careers & starting families and coping well. PTSD symptoms return when given an interview/hearing date. - "My life is not moving forward". Cannot afford university or move out of state. - Compare and Despair – Client sees other people being granted asylum before them. - Anger – "No one is helping me". Who to trust? - Traumatic Amnesia & Dissociation

Progress in mental health is difficult when crisis is ongoing. Therapy and/or medication Communicate with legal team. Provide clarification. Support the legal process. Client may need information repeatedly. Ask client what brings them comfort. Encourage it. Ask client about their spiritual life. Bear witness to your client's pain.

