What does a deeper story of immigration look like
• one that replaces common false narratives?

You are invited to a workshop that is for all who are open to an ever deepening understanding of current problems with immigration and immigration law in the United States. We’ll discuss the foundations of the current crisis by looking at the ways migration is rooted in bigger systems—economic dynamics, histories of intervention, and the turn in U.S. politics towards strict border enforcement and exclusionary immigration policies over the past three decades. Miranda will open with a discussion of borders, nation-states, and territorial border enforcement—looking at how comparatively recent all of these practices are in human societies. After that discussion of “big ideas,” we’ll briefly cover some “myths and facts” about issues like border enforcement and violence, the kinds of public services that immigrants do or do not qualify for, the relationship between immigration and crime, and the debates economists have about immigration’s impact on the economy.

Our conversation will cover how exclusion of certain people through immigration law is intimately tied to the history of racism in the United States. The current backlash is, at its core, a fearful response by a vocal minority to the perceived threat of changing demographics towards a non-majority white country. Just like past moments in U.S. history, new immigrant communities are faced with nativism and harsh economic exploitation, even as their arrival responds to specific demographic and economic needs within the country.

This workshop is designed to help us step out of a nation-centered viewpoint on immigration and towards a global viewpoint of migration as a complex and multidirectional process, as well as giving us some “talking points” to counter commonly held misconceptions.

Participants will have an opportunity to raise questions and give input about future workshop topics.

Miranda Cady Hallett (PhD 2009, Cornell University), an anthropologist who studies law and human rights, with a research focus on El Salvador and Salvadoran migration. Dr. Hallett is on the faculty at the University of Dayton.

Registration required by August 3
Email: ImmigrationDayton@gmail.com
or call 859-358-8152
Workshops Available for Immigrants Who Want to Vote in the 2020 Election

If you are an immigrant, are you eligible to vote in the November 2020 election? Do you know how to register to vote? If you have registered to vote, is there any chance that your name has been removed from the eligible voter list? Do you know how to vote early, or vote absentee? Do you know where and when to go to vote?

The Miami Valley Immigrant Coalition and LEAD has joined a statewide effort to ensure as many people as possible, including immigrants, vote in November.

Workshops are available specifically for immigrants and immigrant groups. The Dayton voting rights and voter protection coalition will hold a workshop on request to work with individuals or groups to check registrations, help people register, offer advice about absentee ballots, educate on issues, and provide training on how to get out the vote. The coalition is especially interested in ensuring that immigrant citizens are included in voting. Many issues that affect immigrants are at stake. For more information, contact the coalition through one of its leaders, Alice Diebel at diebelalice@gmail.com.

Support Sanctuary

The Coalition has welcomed the generous offer of the Lower Miami Church of the Brethren to be a sanctuary congregation for an immigrant or immigrant family fearing deportation. Assistance will be needed in support of this small congregation when it actually welcomes someone into its space. Individuals, congregations, and other organizations will need to step up to contribute supplies, financial support and persons who are willing to take shifts at the church to accompany our immigrant friends 24 hours/day. If you would like to contribute goods or money and, most of all, offer to give time, please contact Jan Futrell at peacepathsteps@gmail.com.

We Invite Your Help

The Coalition is growing and building capacity! Additional creative, technical and logistical help is needed in the following areas:

- Translation and Interpretation – for meetings, programs and the newsletter so that everyone’s voice is heard
- Logo – we need a graphic for the website and outreach materials
- Website support – we started a website but could use another 1-2 people to help keep it updated
- Newsletter layout – help formatting the newsletter articles so they are easy to read and accessible
- Data – help to maintain the LEAD database of contacts and use of Action Network.

If you would like to help please send an email to: ImmigrationDayton@gmail.com

Get a Yard Sign to Put in Your Yard

Yard signs are a way to create space in your neighborhood and show support for immigrants! Signs are $15/each and come with a metal yard stake. We will arrange pick up of signs after the order comes in. Place your order by August 3 via email at: ImmigrationDayton@gmail.com

Neither of the South nor of the North.

Photo by Glenna Jennings

Help protect immigrants from the violation of their human rights.
MAKE A DONATION
Current donations to the Miami Valley Immigration Coalition are targeted to providing emergency Covid-19 relief for immigrants. Go to the Coalition at www.mvicdayton.org
Cross Over Community Development (COCD), is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that was created to support immigrants, asylees, and refugees. Our main goal is to remove barriers that prevent these members of Miami Valley communities from accessing resources and opportunities by building bridges to self-sufficiency.

One way we remove these barriers is to teach these immigrants English to improve their oral communication proficiency, including language skills needed to carry out their intended profession or occupation or to perform the job related tasks. This opportunity is available free of charge for any immigrant or refugee, regardless of nationality. Most of our current ESL students are from the Congo and Rwanda.

During this period of COVID-19 pandemic, our English as a Second Language (ESL) program has transitioned to Virtual classes and attracted many students. We currently have 50 students enrolled in beginner to advanced levels ESL classes.

Unfortunately, there are many students who could not enroll due to COCD’s limited resources. Those include technology devices and culturally competent teachers to meet the learning needs of our Adult immigrant students. The support of our Miami Valley Community is needed to secure supplies, technology, teachers, and other resources necessary to fulfill the instructional requirements of our Virtual ESL program. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly weighed more heavily on immigrants than native-born Americans in many ways. Due to their lack of English skills, many immigrants were the first to be laid off from their jobs as factories needed to keep a few but more competent employees. While the government offered unemployment assistance, many of them did not know how to file for these benefits. When their children tried to assist in the application process mistakes resulted in losing benefits altogether. It is sad that some of them didn’t receive the Stimulus Checks that almost every American citizen and legal resident received. Even though they are here legally, asylum seekers carry an even greater burden during the COVID-19 pandemic. Immigration processes have slowed down. While their cases are still pending, asylum seekers are neither eligible for public benefits nor is the community aware that this group exists without supports whatsoever. COCD is appealing to the community in the Miami Valley to support our efforts to address these issues by:

1. Making a monthly donation of $50 or more to help pay culturally competent teachers and the work of COCD
2. Offering our cleaning crew jobs. We can provide move out cleaning, fogging disinfectant, mist disinfectant, and deep cleaning
3. Volunteering to help immigrants fill out job applications.
4. Assisting with the process of signing up for unemployment and other benefits
5. We need committed volunteers to tutor/teach our Adult English learners and support the work of COCD. For more on volunteer opportunities please visit: https://crossovercd.org/make-a-difference/

COCD is in desperate need of philanthropic donations and services to retain a permanent teaching staff to assist with training volunteers, scheduling, and teaching ESL students. If you are willing to provide a donation, know of any philanthropists with a vested interest, or know of grant opportunities, please contact COCD at: https://info@crossovercd.org.

News from a Coalition partner

**Cross Over Community Development - Catherine Bitwayiki, COCD Director**

As a coalition, the Miami Valley Immigration Coalition is committed to promoting comprehensive, humane immigration reform and working with and on behalf of those who are affected by unjust laws and policies.

These are the values we choose to reflect in our work:

- Dignity of the person
- Unity of the family
- Richness in diversity
- Fairness of treatment
- Freedom in the pursuit of purpose
- Democratic process

Please join us in this transforming, solidarity-building effort.