

1. Where in policy or practice are there opportunities for the voices of displaced children to be heard and to influence decisions which affect them as individuals or as groups of children?

- **Department of Homeland Security:**
 - **Establish metrics that provide opportunities for children's story to be heard and not just seen as a number. These could be used to influence approach to solving crisis- both in home country and in the U.S.**
 - **Reason for coming- fear, threats**
 - **Create transparency in regards to treatment of immigrants**
- **Office of Refugee and Resettlement:**
 - **Establish metrics**
 - **used to articulate the story of the children**
 - **Standard of communication between DHS and other federal departments.**
 - **Establish responsibility as advocates**
- **Treat this situation as a humanitarian issue.**
 - **Shifting treatment towards seeing them as children first**
 - **Since 2002, Homeland Security Act removed jurisdiction over immigrant children from U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) and granted it to ORR- expertise in child refugees.**
 - **Unable to protect rights- conflict of interest being a guardian and law enforcement officer and prosecutor.**
- **Create policies that reflect the concept that children should be protected**
 - **Standard Legal Representation for all minors**
 - **Be able to overcome barriers in the system**
- **Distinction of child vs. immigrant**
- **Creating opportunities for parents to be involved**
 - **Acknowledging the importance that parents play in the life of child.**
 - **DREAMER Movement**
- **Increasing consciousness and knowledge of the reality of immigrants.**
- **The assets of immigration**
 - **What these children can bring to the U.S?**
 - **Economy**

2. What are the barriers to the voices of displaced children being heard in decisions that affect them?

- **Lack of understanding**
 - **Seeing immigrants as criminals**
 - **Americans believing we should be helping our own people**
- **Lack of legitimacy**
 - **Seeing immigrants as unknowledgeable or criminals- takes away the legitimacy of their claims**
- **Lack of Metrics and Measurements**
 - **Not using the data that is already available to influence reforms to update past policies**
 - **There is no established approach to collecting data on immigrants coming in.**
 - **Data is not disseminated to the public- continue to have outdated views on immigration.**
- **Social Service agencies- set to put out fire**
 - **Are in a reactive mentality instead of a proactive**
 - **Limited resources- are used to deal with immediate issues and not prevention strategies.**
- **Voting Power**
 - **Minorities are disproportionately uninvolved in the voting system**
- **Cultural Differences**
 - **Lack of understanding regarding how the system works**
 - **Language,**

3. Based on your experiences, how important is it to children displaced across borders and to those in host communities to tell and hear their stories and views? Why?

- **Don't judge a book by its cover**
 - **Shifting from an outdated view of immigration**
 - **Understanding the people in your community**
- **Example: DREAMERS coming out of the shadows**
 - **Increase in empathy from other movements**
 - **Increase in support from community**
 - **Increase of awareness in the public and policy sectors**
- **Example: Trump Supporters**
 - **Higher number of trump supporters in areas of low immigrant population.**
 - **Lack of understanding or connection leads to believing false narrative of immigrants**
 - **Poor understanding of US and world history, educational system which "erases" the history of people of color**
- **The power of listening and speaking**
 - **Listening: Validate concerns of host communities and immigrants**
 - **Speaking: Providing communities and immigrants with a context of information to alleviate concerns.**

4. If you could identify one critical question that future research should investigate to address challenges to prioritizing the voice of displaced children in decision-making, what would that be, and why?

- **What happens when displaced/ unaccompanied children are given opportunities to flourish?**
 - **Example: What happened after DACA?**
 - **Looking at states who offer in state tuition, State Aid, drivers permits.**
 - **Highlight the positive aspect of immigration in the US**