

CONTEXT

FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

- 46.2 million people are foreign-born (13.9% of the US population)
- 4.46 million live in the state of New York (22.7%)
- ≈70,000 live in Erie County (7.4%)
- ≈30,000 live in Buffalo (10.8%)

NEW ARRIVALS IN NEW YORK STATE

The following people arrived in New York or applied to change their immigration status in the most recently available year (2022):

- 1,399 refugees
- 7,410 asylees
- 111,310 "green card" holders
- ≈4,229,240 people on temporary visas

A **refugee** is a person outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

An **asylee** is a person who meets the definition of refugee and is already present in the United States or is seeking admission at a port of entry.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations are represented in this community deliberative forum:

- Asian Mental Health Counseling
- Buffalo Immigrant Leadership Team
- Buffalo String Works
- Catholic Charities of Buffalo
- International Institute of Buffalo
- Jewish Family Services of WNY
- Journey's End Refugee Services
- Justice for Migrant Families
- Karen Society of Buffalo
- New York Immigration Coalition
- Partnership for the Public Good
- RAHAMA
- St. Joseph's University Parish
- Stitch Buffalo
- WEDI Buffalo

The organizers extend special appreciation to **Justice for Migrant Families** and **Journey's End Refugee Services** for their support in putting together this event.

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TO REVIEW THE DATA CITED
IN THIS PAMPHLET PLEASE VISIT:
[TINYURL.COM/PJYJCXCXCY](https://tinyurl.com/pjyjcxcy)

A COMMUNITY DELIBERATIVE FORUM ON

WELCOMING NEW ARRIVALS TO WESTERN NEW YORK



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024

AT THE JACOBS SCHOOL

ACTIVE LEARNING ROOM 1220

955 MAIN ST, BUFFALO, NY 14203

4:30PM REGISTRATION

5:00PM WELCOME

5:10PM CONVERSATION

6:15PM RESOURCE PANEL Q&A

7:00PM DINNER

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!

PHI-PPE@BUFFALO.EDU

 **University at Buffalo**
Philosophy, Politics and Economics
College of Arts and Sciences

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INCLUSION

New arrivals have taken many paths to arrive to the US. Here are some of the main reasons people have for seeking to join a new community:

- Work
- School
- Family reunification
- Safety

In addition to those who decide to leave their home, some tragically face coercion (e.g. victims of human trafficking) and some are too young to decide for themselves.

Inclusion is about more than formal admission (i.e. the legal permission to travel to the US or to stay here once one arrives). Inclusion can involve acceptance, belonging, equality, rights, freedom, resources, responsibility, relationships, community, and can mean different things to different people.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONVERSATION

What does inclusion mean to you? For example, can you think of a time when you felt included in a group or in a space? What made it feel that way?

CHALLENGES

Everyone is different. But certain challenges are shared by many new arrivals.

- Language barriers
- Access to education
- Finding a new job
- Accessing health care
- Maintaining legal status
- Finding a home
- Navigating bureaucracy (e.g. DMV)
- Distance from loved ones
- Healing from trauma
- Finding a place of worship
- Securing food
- Adapting to a new culture
- Making new friends
- Feeling empowered to participate

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONVERSATION

What do new arrivals need to feel included? What are the most important challenges faced by new arrivals such as immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees? What kinds of services do you think they most need?

SUPPORT

Many individuals and organizations in Buffalo and Western New York are already working to support new arrivals in different ways.

Examples of services:

- Refugee resettlement
- Legal services
- Employment assistance
- Youth and adult education
- Health care
- Shelter and other housing support
- Community events
- Advocacy

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONVERSATION

What can we do to make Buffalo and Western New York more inclusive? What is the most important thing you or your organization can do to support new arrivals to your community?