A Cycle of Vulnerability:
Single Mothers at the US-Mexico Border
June 2022
Contributors

This study was designed and implemented collaboratively by the Mexican Migration Field Research Program at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and the Al Otro Lado Border Rights Project, with support from the Tijuana-based NGO Espacio Migrante.

- **Research design**: Abigail Andrews (UCSD) and Nicole Ramos (Al Otro Lado)
- **Logistical support**: Matías Perez Mendoza (Al Otro Lado), Adriana López Acle Delgado (UCSD), Paulina Olvera Cañez (Espacio Migrante), Sarah Soto (Espacio Migrante), Katerine Girón (Espacio Migrante), Maddie Harrison (Al Otro Lado)
- **Analysis and writeup**: Alelí Andres, Brianna Angulo, Stephanie Gomez, Sandy Rodriguez, and Selena Sanchez (UCSD)
- **Final draft**: Abigail Andrews and Aleida López (UCSD)
Executive Summary

This report sheds light on the vulnerabilities that single mothers face when seeking US asylum at the US-Mexico border. It considers how, under conditions of threat, single mothers develop protective decision-making strategies that can backfire by leaving them isolated and unable to move. We draw from a dataset of 326 surveys and interviews of Spanish-speaking asylum seekers conducted by the Mexican Migration Field Research Program between January-March of 2022, of whom 216 (66%) arrived at the border with underage children. Of these parents, 96 (44%) were mothers who were single, divorced, separated, widowed, or otherwise traveling alone with their children. Given the significant population of single mothers at the border, we focus our report on the vulnerabilities they face, particularly their lack of access to work, resources, information, and ultimately, asylum. We include de facto single mothers (those traveling without other adults), since they face very similar circumstances.

We find that as single mothers wait for an opportunity to obtain US asylum, they often get caught in a cycle of vulnerability. This cycle begins when single mothers arrive at the border and experience mistreatment and violence. Given this environment, single mothers become scared of going outside and react by staying indoors or immobilized, in order to protect the safety and well-being of their children. In turn, single mothers’ fear of going outside limits their ability to access essential resources and information for their family’s safety and stability. Ultimately, this cycle undermines the well-being of single mothers and their underage children, especially given the lack of protection and support that most asylum seekers receive at the border.

Key Findings

Among single mothers and de facto single mothers surveyed at the US-Mexico border:

- 98% left home fleeing violence, and 96% were afraid to return to their place of origin.
- 62% had experienced threats, extortion or physical assaults while at the border.
- 68% had no source of income at all.
- 84% had no support with childcare.
- If not granted US asylum, 33% said they would stay at the border, while 5% would try to cross the US border unauthorized, 4% hoped to go to Canada, 1% would return to their place of origin, and 53% said they did not know.
- 33% of single mothers would rather wait at the border with their children, while 47% do not have a trajectory beyond asylum.
- 55% had no help with food or shelter last month.
- 68% of their children had received no education at all since arriving at the border, despite having been there between several months and over a year.
Introduction

Regina, a 24-year-old Honduran single mother, arrived in Tijuana in October 2021. She had fled Honduras with her daughter after receiving death threats from a gang for seeking justice for her family members’ murders. In transit from Honduras to the US-Mexico border, Regina suffered multiple forms of abuse by Mexican authorities, including rape, extortion, and theft. When she arrived in Tijuana, Regina found shelter at a church. She had remained there until we spoke on WhatsApp in February 2022. While the conditions were not ideal, Regina decided to stay at the church to protect her daughter from the insecurity and risks that migrant single mothers and children faced in Tijuana. She spent most of her days inside, where she received some food and clothing donations, though support was infrequent.

Reflecting on the conditions she was living in at the time, Regina shared, “Many single mothers who are here [in] Mexico are suffering with our children and enduring the cold - days without eating - and well, it does not seem fair that our children and we have to flee our country and that in another place [the US] where we are looking for something better, they deny us the opportunity to be there, too.”

Regina’s story highlights the struggles that single mothers confront while awaiting an opportunity to seek US asylum and shows how they attempt to safeguard their children by remaining confined to conditions that leave them without adequate food, support for their families, or information to guide their decision-making.

Often, people in the US view migrants arriving at the US-Mexico border as driven by economic opportunities. Yet, this generalization fails to consider the conditions of violence that migrants flee and the family and gender dynamics of this population. It is important to note that Regina’s experience as a single mother seeking US asylum is not uncommon. Approximately 66% of our respondents arrived at the border with underage child(ren). Of these, 44% were single mothers or de facto single mothers, traveling alone with their children. Among single mothers we met, 40% were Mexican citizens.

This report explores the unique vulnerabilities undermining the basic wellbeing of this population. We analyze single mothers’ access to jobs and resources, as well as their (limited) options should they not get US asylum. We argue that single mothers get caught in a cycle of vulnerability at the border, which includes the following elements: 1) single mothers and their children face violence and insecurity at the border, 2) they react by employing protective strategies and decision-making, especially staying immobilized or indoors, and 3) their fear of going outside inadvertently limits their ability to access essential resources and information for their family’s safety and stability. Relatedly, we contend that single mothers are especially risk-averse, even among migrant parents. While other parents and migrants also act to protect their children, we found that they were not as restricted as single mothers since they could divide responsibilities or rely on other adults for childcare.

We begin by discussing how the widespread violence in border cities makes mothers afraid for their own and their children’s safety. Approximately 62% of single mothers we interviewed endured some form of mistreatment while at the border, including verbal threats, theft or extortion, and physical assault. All knew someone who had experienced these things. Single mothers’ experiences and witnessing of mistreatment left them terrified. In turn, the sense of omnipresent risk made single mothers feel scared of leaving their children alone, making it difficult for them to find work. Among these mothers, 68%
had no source income at all, compared to 40% of single migrants without children. In addition to having less access to work, 84% of single mothers had zero support with childcare. Access to childcare was critical in determining whether single mothers sought jobs.

We then elaborate on how single mothers act in risk-averse ways as they consider whether to attempt to pursue (and wait for) US asylum or seek out alternatives. Nearly half of single mothers we interviewed said they were unsure where to go if they did not get US asylum, and about one-third noted that they would continue living in their current border city. Given the risks associated with crossing the border, only 5% of single mothers said they would consider entering the US unauthorized. Without the protection they hoped to obtain from US asylum, single mothers had limited alternatives.

In the final section, we reflect on how single mothers get caught in a state of limbo while they await a chance to seek US asylum. By isolating themselves, we argue, mothers inadvertently limit their ability to access basic food and supplies, educational opportunities for their children, and information about asylum laws in Mexico and the US. We conclude by discussing the implications of this cycle of vulnerability and offering recommendations on how to support this group at the border.

Methodology

This report draws on a dataset of 326 one-on-one 30-60-minute WhatsApp surveys followed by brief qualitative interviews of roughly 20 to 30 minutes, conducted by the Mexican Migration Field Research Program at UCSD in 2022 (in partnership with Al Otro Lado and Espacio Migrante). Interviewees were selected from a list of tens of thousands of asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border who had signed up on an online form to receive services from the legal services provider Al Otro Lado. We selected from this list at random and then called everyone whose name appeared. When participants answered, we offered them an opportunity to participate in a 30–60-minute phone interview over WhatsApp. As a stipend, we offered US$15 worth of phone call credits to their cell phones.

In the service of anonymity, each participant was assigned a pseudonym. Demographic and background (i.e., quantitative) information was captured for contextual purposes via the survey, followed by open-ended follow-up questions. Here, we focus on the content of the qualitative interviews. Specifically, we identified 76 single mothers among the respondents. We used other migrant parents and single migrants as a reference point for understanding the unique struggles of single mothers.

To understand the experiences of single mothers at the border, our team devised two main coding categories: vulnerabilities and protective decision-making. Vulnerabilities included inhumane conditions, access to employment, basic needs, childcare, education, healthcare, and legal aid. Protective decision-making centered on asylum seekers’ everyday actions and activities as well as their decisions to remain in their respective border towns or cross the border undocumented, and their choices about seeking alternatives to US asylum. In addition to coding the qualitative data, our team also analyzed survey questions related to mistreatment at the border, access to employment or paid activities, asylum seekers’ plans if not granted US asylum, and their access to basic resources and legal aid.
How Violence and Insecurity Shape Single Mothers’ Experiences

At the US-Mexico border, migrants face widespread violence, contributing to single mothers’ concerns for their children’s safety and well-being. To begin with, many asylum seekers, including single mothers, fled their countries of origin due to violence. Instead of finding protection in Mexico, many asylum seekers endure more violence en route and when they arrive at the US border. These conditions are especially harmful to single mother asylum seekers, as they are their children’s sole guardians and providers. To avoid further suffering at the border, most single mothers we interviewed avoided going outside. In this way, single mothers attempted to avoid more risk, insecurity, and mistreatment.

In our quantitative data, 62% of single mothers experienced physical, verbal, or economic abuse at the US-Mexico border. Pilar, a 23-year-old single mother, shed light on how single mothers were vulnerable to inhumane conditions. Pilar left her home in Guerrero, Mexico after she witnessed children being shot at by a cartel. As a result, Pilar decided to bring her two young daughters to the US border to seek US asylum. When she arrived, she fell victim to fraud when a woman promised her a safe passage into the US and took all of her savings. Since then, she had lived in a tent on the street among other asylum seekers. In one incident, a man broke into her tent and attempted to rape her. She described:

Here in my little tent, a man attempted to come inside by force and sexually assault me, and I screamed and some people who were sleeping around me came and helped me. The man ran away; he was from another country. Before that, I did not understand what it was like to – what the situation was there, but they told me that there have been other instances of abuse before, they abused children and everything.

After that incident, other migrants explained to Pilar that sexual assault was rampant at the border. Pilar became increasingly scared that her children would be assaulted or abused. She explained that her fear led her to feel panic about leaving her daughters alone:

It hurts a lot because the children are the ones who pay the consequences, you know? I’ve been in a situation where I’ve had to leave quickly because they are after me...And I’ve feared for my girls, because they, because I’ve seen children killed by gunshots, and I start to think, how are the children at fault for something like that? What fault does a child have in being raped, abused, when they just dream about innocent things...and it hurts me for my daughters because I can endure. Even when I feel tired, even when I feel sick, I have to wake up every day...and I would do anything except leave my daughters, even if they offered me all the money in the world. I wouldn’t want to leave my daughter and even less in this cruel country. I don’t even know what happened [inaudible] to tell you the truth...everything that we’ve gone through, everything that it takes us to seek asylum, everything that it’s taken me...sexual abuse, even if you don’t want to...That’s the cruelest, hardest part.

Now, for Pilar, the most important thing was to be present with her daughters, in order to shield them from more abuse.
Like Pilar, Chelo, a 40-year-old single mother who fled gangs in Honduras, feared for her 14-year-old daughter’s safety. One day back in Honduras, she learned that two motorcycles from a gang had gone to her (then) 12-year-old daughter’s school to kidnap her, sell her, and prostitute her. Unable to find help and afraid to stay in Honduras, Chelo decided to take her daughter and flee. Now, in Tijuana, she felt deeply sad. Without proper documents, she was discriminated against. The unsafe environment kept Chelo and her daughter trapped inside. Chelo explained:

She [my daughter] is very affected, very badly because my daughter is stressed, my daughter is stressed in the sense that she is gaining a lot of weight. She wasn’t like this, my daughter only lived - inside watching TV - things like that - Things like that, nothing. She doesn’t have the life of other children who go and play, go to school. My daughter doesn’t have any of that. My girl is just inside, protected from the world, that’s how life is, everything is closed.

Out of fear, Chelo did not let her daughter go out or attend school, robbing her of the childhood Chelo imagined. Chelo was always worried that her daughter would be harassed. As a result, her daughter’s health suffered, making her lose confidence, gain weight, and give up the possibility of a life outside of their tiny rented room.

After enduring violence, women like Pilar and Chelo hoped to shield their children. However, this wish entailed always staying by their children’s sides, avoiding work, or remaining trapped indoors or at shelters. Almost universally, women refused to send their children to school (even though immigrant children have the right to attend school in Mexico), because they were too afraid the children might be exposed to violence. The result was a negative feedback loop.

Obstacles in Accessing Employment and Childcare

Afraid to leave their children alone or in the care of strangers, single mothers at the border could rarely find work or leave to find donations and handouts. In turn, they had few ways to earn money or access resources, even though they were the sole breadwinners for their families.

Among single mothers, 68% had no form of income. In order to work, women needed childcare. Yet, 84% of single mothers had no source of childcare they could trust.

For instance, Severina, a 24-year-old single mother of two little boys, left her home in Chiapas, Mexico fleeing threats and fear of physical harm after suing her step-grandfather for sexually abusing her. She faced emotional obstacles as well as obstacles to accessing employment and childcare. When asked about work, Severina remarked, “For example, I do have the possibility of finding work and finding a place, but because I came alone with my children, there isn’t that level of trust or security for me to leave my children with just anyone.” This quote captures the experience that most single mother respondents faced when seeking employment.

However, even after securing a job and childcare, single mothers still faced more obstacles. Ivette, a 20-year-old single mother of a five-month-old boy, left home due to sexual abuse and had lived in Tijuana a year while requesting asylum. Her child’s father was not present, and she faced harassment and threats from the father’s current partner. Ivette did have employment and childcare. However, she lived in constant fear about her safety and her baby’s safety. Ivette described her fears:
Well, that something like that may happen to me, like not having money, my baby getting sick. And, well, how am I going to [get by]? I also worry that, that when I go out, well, that when I go out or when I go to pick up my baby, that something might happen to me. Because there is a lot of theft here, they kidnapped children, I’ve heard many things, and I feel like, “Oh my God, [I hope] nothing happens to me.” And [that’s because] I leave work a bit late.

As a survivor of sexual abuse, and having heard endless rumors about the violence in Tijuana, Ivette felt she was waiting for the day it would happen to her. Since she had to stay late at work, she worried about moving around the city in the dark. In short, she traded having a job for living in constant fear.

Protecting Children: How Single Mothers Make Decisions about Migration

Relatedly, single mothers had extremely limited options when making decisions about where and whether to move. Once they got to the border, many found themselves veritably “stuck in place.”

For instance, Leilani was staying in a shelter in Reynosa (adjacent to McAllen, Texas) at the time of our interview. She was unwilling to risk any kind of migration other than waiting her turn. Leilani left her home country, Honduras, in May 2021 and arrived in Reynosa in July 2021. During her transit through Mexico, the Zetas cartel kidnapped Leilani and her son. Fortunately, they managed to escape, and found refuge at a shelter in Reynosa. At the time of our interview, Leilani had been at the border almost nine months, faced ongoing cartel threats and a generalized context of violence in Reynosa, and had little hope of entry into the United States. Yet she insisted she would neither go back to Honduras nor consider crossing the US border unauthorized. She explained:

“We are not crossing like that [unauthorized]. There are many people who get desperate, fall, and decide that it’s better to cross [the border], but there are many people who die trying, others that drown, others that are kidnapped, others that return, and I wouldn’t want to return. That’s why I’m here in the shelter, fighting to be given permission to enter, to be able to show the US authorities that we are good people and that we also want an opportunity for our children...And then for us, single mothers, it’s more difficult for us to be here and raise our children.

If in Reynosa life was difficult (indeed, Leilani had already endured kidnapping!), in Leilani’s understanding, the US border threatened death, drowning, and abduction. Instead, she insisted that she would wait for the US to see the value of her case (an unlikely outcome, if the current 7% asylum rates for Hondurans are any indications).

In short, not only did single mothers avoid moving about within border cities, they also avoided moving among cities, back home, or across the US-Mexico border. When we asked such women what they would do if they were denied US asylum, 53% said they did not know – an indication of their sheer lack of options. Another 33% said they’d stay in place at the border, with only 5% considering crossing illegally into the United States. Only one said she would go “home.”

In other words, to avoid danger, most single mothers believed it was best to sit tight, stay in place, and hope for asylum. As Leilani knew, crossing the border undocumented would impede their asylum case, so they kept on waiting and hoping.

Occasionally, when they had family who could support them, single mothers moved, defying the trend of immobilization. Alba, also a single mother, lived in a shelter in Ciudad
Juarez before relocating to Tijuana, from where we interviewed her. In the shelter, Alba and her children faced constant fights, threats of abuse, and lack of privacy. Then, family members called her from Tijuana, and she decided to relocate to live with them. It was easier to wait for asylum among other supportive adults.

Even the (few) single mothers who considered crossing the border undocumented made what we consider “protective” decisions. For example, Melody, a 38-year-old migrant who left Michoacán, Mexico with her three kids due to cartel violence, shared that her biggest concern was her children’s safety. Melody was afraid to go back to Michoacán. But she was also afraid to stay in Tijuana, where she didn’t know anyone or understand the environment, and could not meet her kids’ basic needs or provide education. Instead, she tried five times to cross the US border undocumented, during which she endured threats and got stranded. The attempts took a toll on both Melody and her children. She recounted:

The truth is, the last time was when we said, “no more,” because we were close to dying, because I was carrying my youngest son, and he was crying. I would tell him that he was a strong person, and he would tell me, “No more,” that he didn’t want to continue on...mm hm, it was very difficult, more than anything I decided [not to continue] because my children don’t deserve to go through all of this, they went through it, but no more.

Ultimately Melody had to decide between trying to give her kids with safety, education, shelter, and food, and exposing them to traumatic and dangerous experiences. After realizing that her children could no longer bear the journey, she decided to stop trying.

The conditions on the Mexican side of the border combined with US enforcement and asylum restrictions to leave such women with very few options. While single mothers did their best to protect and provide for their children, ultimately, most forced to live in unsafe environments with inadequate support while waiting to seek US asylum.

Stuck in Limbo at the Border

In turn, many single mothers found themselves stuck in limbo on the Mexican side of the border. While there, because of fear about the risks they faced in moving around border cities with their children (whom they felt they could not leave alone), they struggled to access basic needs support, information about education or schooling for their children, and legal aid. These resources were critical for their wellbeing and their understanding of US asylum. The longer single mothers waited at the border, the more they found themselves stuck in a state of limbo, where their very efforts to protect their children limited their mobility, social networks, and ability to provide. Over time, such mothers became increasingly isolated, posing negative mental health implications as well.

In our surveys, single mothers reported difficult meeting their basic needs, enrolling their children in school, and finding legal aid. For example, less than half of single mothers had received some type of aid, such as financial assistance, housing/shelter, clothing, or food, from an organization in the past month. Similarly, less than half of single mothers received regular food assistance. Meanwhile, 68% of single mothers said that their children had not received any type of education or schooling while at the border.

Leilani’s story illustrates how single mothers’ (legitimate) fear constrains their social networks and access to resources. As mentioned above, at the time of our interview, Leilani lived in a shelter in Reynosa with her young son. At the shelter, other guests verbally abused Leilani based on her unauthorized status in Mexico. For instance, the people who
ran the shelter referred to her and other female migrants as prostitutes and did not allow migrants to ask for anything, threatening to kick them out of the shelter if they did not accept the squalid conditions. Since arriving in Reynosa, Leilani had received no aid from NGOs or humanitarian organizations, and her son had not gone to school. She was only able to feed herself “sometimes,” perhaps at the shelter.

When asked to describe her experience as a migrant, Leilani highlighted the immobility that these conditions imposed, stating, “You feel like a, like a prisoner, you feel bad.” She saw the conditions eroded her son’s education and well-being, and she longed for escape, even begging our team to help her:

I only ask that they [the US government] give me an opportunity to enter with my son because I need my son to go to school. I need my son to learn, and here we are just like this, we are not doing that. They are not providing those opportunities for our children. My son is very thin because we do not have the right food. He does not have the right clothing to be here, he does not have many things, he lacks many things just like me. And I would just like to be given the opportunity, or I don’t know if you all can help me get out of here. I don’t want to be here anymore, I can’t continue being here because of my kids, because of my family, it’s all the same…I can’t be here anymore, I’ve been here for eight months and, to be honest, I want to leave, I don’t want to be here anymore.

Leilani felt like a prisoner. She had nowhere else to go, so she spent day and night in a shelter that gave her virtually nothing, leaving her son illiterate, malnourished and with inadequate clothing. Her last resort was to beg for help from anyone who would listen. Without any access to information, she did not know what else she could do.

Similarly, Moira, a 38-year-old single mother from Guatemala, faced limitations in accessing resources and information, despite having better access to social ties and a job. Moira arrived in Acuña, Coahuila, in December 2021 with her 13-year-old son in hopes of seeking US asylum. To her dismay, the border was closed when she arrived, but she was fortunate enough to have a friend in the same city who provided housing for her and her son. Moira has also found work at a local food stand through a friend she made at church, though the job was limited to weekends and late-night hours. Moira also had two friends in Acuña who helped her to settle in.

Even in these comparatively “good” conditions, Moira faced many financial constraints. A smuggler who was supposed to help her cross the border scammed her out of $4,000 US dollars. Like Leilani, Moira had not received any kind of resources from organizations or any type of food assistance. She was also unable to enroll her son in school because, despite her right to do so, she did not know how to begin the process. When discussing these limitations, Moira noted that she felt sad being far from her family in Guatemala, especially her mom and her 16-year-old daughter, whom she left behind. She reflected:

Well, the truth is, I feel, I mean, I feel sad. One, because I’m far away from my family, another because I feel like I’m powerless for not being able to, I mean, give my son something better, give him the opportunity to be in a better place, right, and feel free to do what he wants. Not with the fear that he might, that he might go out and that I won’t be there and that something might happen. I mean, I feel an impotence, sadness y many things that, that come to my mind, really.

In this quote, Moira captured the widespread feeling of impotence and isolation triggered by single mom’s fear. Like Leilani, she felt like a prisoner at the border, wishing
her children could be in a better place and be “free,” including from fear. Instead, she was stuck in a state of limbo.

Isla’s story contrasts with Moira and Leilani’s experiences in some ways, while continuing to underscore how lack of resources and information impact migrant single mothers along the border. In 2017, Isla migrated to Tijuana from Colombia. Then, her ex-mother-in-law kidnapped her daughter. Isla had to fight the Mexican and Colombian government to get her daughter back. After that, she was motivated to start a non-profit in Tijuana called the Association of Colombians in Baja California. Her inspiration, she said, was to help others like her get more information. She was motivated, she explained, by the “lack of information that brings up feelings of fear, fear and anguish...that brings [migrants] down and makes [them] so vulnerable.” Without information, Isla insisted, migrants could not adequately advocate for themselves and their families. Isla offers a glimmer of hope that perhaps, if women organize, they might begin to build a way out of this cycle of limbo, fear, isolation, and deprivation.

**Conclusion**

This report traced how fear for their children leads migrant single mothers at US-Mexico border to isolate themselves and remain immobilized in hopes of protecting their kids. However, we found, such protective practices led to profound vulnerabilities, leaving such mothers isolated from social contact, public resources including donations, educational institutions, and information about asylum.

This cycle begins when single mothers arrive at the border and experience or witness mistreatment and violence. Such mothers get scared of going outside and further isolate themselves and their children as a protective mechanism, often limiting their access to jobs because of a lack of childcare. They also employ protective decision-making while considering alternatives to awaiting US asylum, with most single mothers deciding to wait at the border rather than attempting to cross to the US unauthorized. Ultimately, single mothers’ fear of going outside limits their ability to access critical resources and information for their families.

It is important to note that single mothers become caught in this cycle of vulnerability because of the lack of protection and support for asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border. Navigating hostile conditions becomes even harder as sole providers and protectors for underage children. To remedy such isolation and deprivation, greater efforts need to be taken to ensure that single mothers at the border are protected from violence and insecurity and given asylum in either the US or Mexico.

**Recommendations**

Based on our findings, we have a series of recommendations on how NGOs and government agencies could better support single mothers and their children at the US-Mexico border.

**NGOs**

- Single mothers often feel a sense of isolation; therefore, we recommend that NGOs support single mothers by helping them build strong social networks through support groups. These support groups could provide a sense of community, allowing single mothers to talk about their experiences and share resources.

- Support with childcare is critical for single mothers, specifically with people they can trust. We recommend that NGOs offer single mothers free childcare with
trusted and trained individuals so the mothers can feel more secure in finding jobs and providing food and safe shelter for their families.

- We also recommend that NGOs provide information about sources of work and aid, to which single mothers may not otherwise have access (e.g., food handouts, employment opportunities, legal aid, information about their children’s education, etc.).

- Single mothers would also benefit from additional support with accessing basic needs, such as food. We recommend that NGOs develop a program where groceries or food donations are delivered directly to single mothers, particularly because single mothers are often scared of leaving their homes.

**Mexican Government**

- As reported earlier, 40% of single mothers we interviewed were Mexican citizens, with a right to government assistance and protection. It is critical that the Mexican government honor that right, enabling mothers fleeing gang violence to access food aid, healthcare, unemployment support, medical care, and so on.

**US Government**

- In recent years, the United States opened a process to welcome up to 100,000 Ukrainian citizens fleeing Russia’s aggression. This is a streamlined process to protect people from the violence they are fleeing in their home country. We recommend a similar streamlined process for single mothers and all asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border who have been subjected to violence in their places of origin (including almost all of the people we met).