

# FEAR OF RETURN

ATTORNEYS FOR REFUGEES | ABOGADOS PARA REFUGIADOS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Whitney Love

Email: [whitney@fearofreturn.org](mailto:whitney@fearofreturn.org)

## **Brownsville Native Forms Non-Profit in Tijuana to Secure Attorneys for Refugees**

**SAN DIEGO, CA - Dec 23, 2020** — California grassroots activists created a new non-profit organization called Fear of Return (FoR) as a response to the immigration policies of the last four years under the Trump Administration. FoR was founded during the turmoil of the COVID crisis to help solve the refugee crisis. FoR's mission is to secure individual refugees' legal representation, and spread awareness of their unique stories of resilience and survival.

“Under current United States law, refugees do not have a right to legal counsel,” said FoR's President, Brownsville Native Attorney, and UCLA Community Scholar, Pedro Chavez. “Therefore, refugees as young as three years old are forced to navigate the most complex area of US law without even a basic understanding of the English language. Disadvantaged, and up against very experienced ICE attorneys, refugee children and families are being sent back to extremely dangerous conditions in their home countries. Attorney represented refugees are three times more likely to be granted asylum in the United States. With the stakes so high, and the system so unfair, it's crucial that we make sure that every refugee has proper legal representation on their court date.”

FoR's main objectives are to:

- **Secure legal representation for asylum seekers:** either *pro bono* (free) representation, or, if free representation cannot be found, through an individualized funding campaign to raise enough money to pay a private attorney.
- **Interview refugees and share their stories** to safely show the general public what the immigrant crisis looks like from the point of view of a refugee, and, in gathering their stories, reduce the leg work an attorney performs during a case evaluation - thus justifying a reduction in representation cost.
- **Launch individualized refugee fundraising campaigns** to raise awareness of the ongoing effects of the immigrant crisis, and to further pay for a refugees legal defense.

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FoR collaborates with volunteers at the major migrant shelters across the US-Mexico border, and with remote volunteers via teleconferencing, to record compelling refugee stories. Then, volunteer publicists launch unique individualized social media-based fundraising campaigns that both spread awareness of the current migrant crisis, and help raise the necessary funds for a refugees legal defense.

To donate or register as a volunteer, publicist, attorney, intern, or partner organization, visit [fearofreturn.org](http://fearofreturn.org).

Contact Fear of Return at [info@fearofreturn.org](mailto:info@fearofreturn.org) with questions on how to get involved.

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**Fear of Return** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to find or provide legal aid to immigrants, refugees, and asylees. Fear of Return is a tax-exempt charity under the IRS code section 501(c)(3). Tax ID #85-2237431.