

International House NY
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A Dialogue to Understand Violence Against Immigrants
Mexico

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE - DAVIS PEACE PROJECT -

The topic of immigration has become increasingly relevant over the last few years as thousands of people have abandoned their homes fleeing famine, violence and political turmoil. The social implications of this phenomenon have forced “destination” countries to implement harsher immigration laws and consequently **increase pressure on neighboring states**.

Mexico plays a fundamental role in regulating the amount of people that arrive to the American southern boarder. However, the large flux of immigrants has created conditions of potential abuse from different sectors that have observed the vulnerability of these people as they travel through the country. Undocumented individuals are submitted to perils from state authorities, delinquent groups and even hostile communities. As a result, thousands of these people have fallen into the net of human trafficking and forced labor, with little help of being rescued as many consider them undesired groups.

With this project our intention is to create a space where people can dialogue about what immigration implies for Mexico as a community; a place where acts of ongoing aggression are directed towards neighboring Latin American immigrants. We believe that the relevance of this project lies on presenting the truth about Mexico’s stance on the major issues of immigration and reflecting on what changes should be made in the coming years.

We aspire to construct this narrative in a documentary style with the hope that its range will go beyond a regional level and that other communities in Latin America may relate to the issues currently developing in Mexico.

Before coming to New York, I collaborated with a group of filmmakers and advocates that strive to create awareness in the community as to what living conditions and social struggles

immigrants experience on the journey, during their detainment and their deportation. The objective was not only to give a voice to these immigrants but to bring the Mexican population closer to these groups so that they would empathize and understand the context that pushes these travelers to make this journey.

We're teaming up with other organizations that labor to improve the safety and well being of individuals traveling through our country. Such is the case of POZO DE VIDA (ASC <https://www.elpozodevida.org.mx/home>) an organization that develops workshops to prevent immigrants from being abused by human trafficking and/or forced labor. In Mexico, there are two major organizations that lead immigration work: CMDPDH and Sin Fronteras. Both work on specific legal cases of immigrants' human rights violations while migrants are traveling. (<http://cmdpdh.org/> <https://sinfronteras.org.mx/>) Our plan is to interview specific lawyers in these organizations that are presenting cases in defense of Immigrants who are seeking political asylum.

The team would also travel from the Mexican capital, to the important crossing points in the country; places that are known as resting areas or rallying points for undocumented travelers. Its in these areas where we can observe how these groups interact with the authorities and the general population.

In the end, this project is about creating human connection in order to put an end to the violence that's being oriented towards these vulnerable groups. It's about giving a real face to this issue, but also shedding a light on the policies and social attitudes that have isolated and abused these individuals. We want to open up a discussion so that authorities and citizens can reflect on the impact that their actions are having now and will continue for the years to come.