



## News & Opinions

[Documentary, Inocente, about 15-year old homeless, undocumented immigrant gets Oscar nod](#) (Colorlines, Jan 2013).

[US spends more on immigration enforcement than on FBI, DEA, Secret Service & all other federal criminal law enforcement agencies combined](#) (Migration Policy Institute, Jan 7, 2013). A new MPI report shows that the U.S. spends more on federal immigration enforcement than on all other principal federal criminal law enforcement agencies combined, with the nearly \$18 billion spent in FY2012, approximately 24% higher than collective spending for the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Secret Service, U.S. Marshals Service and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

[White House will seek citizenship path in one fast push](#) (New York Times, Jan 13, 2012).

[After Immigration Arrests, Online Outcry and Release](#) (New York Times, Jan 12, 2013). Immigration agents arrested the mother and brother of a prominent activist, Ms. Andiola, during a raid at her home in Arizona late Thursday. After being seized, they could have been sent back to Mexico in a matter of hours, but the Obama administration officials quickly moved to undo the arrest, given the robust response from advocates.

[Muslim foster parents sought](#) (The Dallas Morning News, Dec 30, 2012). A lack of Muslim foster parent in North Texas means local Muslim children are almost always placed with families of other faiths, putting them in an unfamiliar cultural and religious environment and making a difficult process even harder.

[United to Keep Our Families Together](#) (by Wendy Cervantes, First Focus blog). NOTE: This blog is also featured on [MomsRising.org](#) as part of its immigration [blog carnival](#) featuring 40 contributions from diverse authors.

[Oakland issues ID cards to undocumented](#) (Frontera Norte Sur News Report, Jan 8, 2013). City councilors recently gave the go-ahead to the issuance of city identification cards to undocumented residents beginning in 2013.

[Risking their lives to reach the US](#) (Aljazeera – 25 min video and article, Dec 29, 2012). An unprecedented number of children from Central America are braving a harrowing journey to cross the border.

[DHS Deports Record Number of People in 2012](#) (New America Media, Dec 21, 2012). US Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Friday announced that the agency had deported 409,849 individuals in 2012.

[Advocates demand action for deportation of parents](#) (VOXXI.com, Dec 18, 2012).

[A quarter of deportations are of parents of US citizens](#) (ABC Univision, Dec 16, 2012).

[Largest Grassroots Immigrant Rights Organization Launch campaign for Comprehensive Immigration Reform in 2013](#) (Press Release, FIRM, Dec 13, 2012). Nearly 100 families joined leaders of the largest grassroots immigrant rights organizations in launching the “Keeping Families Together” campaign today to call for comprehensive immigration reform.

[Undocumented Immigrants Would Get Government Benefits Under California Bill](#) (Los Angeles Times, Dec 13, 2012). This bill, AB35, sponsored by Member Hernandez, would enable certain immigrants to obtain state identification cards and receive unemployment benefits and state-administered medical services.

[A Much-Needed Spotlight on Families Ripped Apart by Deportations](#) (Immigration Impacts, Dec 12, 2012). On December 12, dozens of children delivered thousands of letters, calling upon lawmakers to stop the deportation of mothers and fathers. The event was part of "[A Wish for the Holidays](#)."

[Etats-Unis/Mexique: la frontier familial](#) (FRENCH – translation "USA/Mexico: Families on the Border, French TV, Oct 2012). Short 2 minute video in French regarding problems facing immigrant parents in detention in Arizona

### **Information on DACA/DREAM Act**

[DACA FAQ](#) (USCIS, Jan 18, 2013). Updated FAQ clarifies that individuals approved for DACA are considered by DHS to be in the country with lawful presence – this announcement should pave the way for DACA individuals to obtain their driver's license.

[New Federal Guidance Makes Clear That States Should Let the DREAMers Drive](#) (ACLU blog, Jan 2013).

[DACA applications and approvals](#) (USCIS, Jan 18, 2013). The numbers show that 150,000 individuals have been approved.

Own the Dream ([www.weownthedream.org](http://www.weownthedream.org)) is a collaboration between a number of major immigration advocacy organizations, including **United We Dream**, to provide legal support and assistance to DACA-eligible DREAMers.

[On Illegal Immigrants' Driver's Licenses, North Carolina Reverses Course](#) (Charlotte Observer, Jan 14, 2013). After first indicating it would grant driver's licenses to young illegal immigrants who receive deferrals from deportation, the state now says it won't allow them to drive until the agency is legally required to do so.

[We are DACA](#) (Candidate for Philly DoGooder Video Award, Phillyinfocus.com, 6 minutes)

### **Resources for Direct Service Providers**

[Post-Release Services: Family Preservation Services for Immigrant Children Released From Federal Custody: Frequently Asked Questions – FAQs](#) (Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services, 2012).

[Buscando a Parientes Biologicos/Searching for Birth Relatives](#) (Child Welfare Information Gateway, Sept 2012 ). Provides guidance to adopted persons and birth families on the search process.

[Parientes Como Proveedores de Cuidado y el Sistema de Bienestar de Menores/Kinship Caregivers and the Child Welfare System](#) (Child Welfare Information Gateway, Sept 2012, 18 pages).

[Providing Background Information to Adoptive Parents](#) (Child Welfare Information Gateway, Sept 2012). Outlines child welfare professionals' legal responsibilities to provide background information to adoptive families about their prospective child or youth.

[Latino Families are a Valuable Resource for Waiting Children](#) (Adoptalk, North American Council on Adoptable Children, Summer 2012, P6-7). Article discusses recruiting and retaining Latino families in care.

A Parent's Guide to Raising Healthy, Happy Children (Texas Dept. of State Health Services. Texans Care for Children, 2012) – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

## **News from Department of Homeland Security**

[Memo re Interim Policy Guidance on U-Visa Derivatives](#) (CLINIC News, Jan 2013). The new policy allows a V-visa derivative to maintain status for the full four years, even if it extends beyond his/her 21st birthday. In addition, USCIS is working on changes to regulations for those who age-out while the U-visa petition is pending.

[Feds will ease visa policy for some immigrants](#) (Houston Chronicle, Jan 2, 2012). Legalization process will be shortened for those married to U.S. citizens and allow many undocumented to stay in the US until their waiver is approved. Under a new rule, which USCIS unveiled a year ago and recently announced, the policy will go into effect March 4. The result is that a months-long process would be trimmed down to a few weeks.

[Provisional Unlawful Presence Waivers of Inadmissibility for Certain Immediate Relatives – Final Rule](#) (Dept of Homeland Security, Federal Register Volume 78, No 2, Jan 3, 2013). Fact sheet on new rule for “stateside waiver.”

[DHS Publishes New Provisional Waiver to Help Some Families Stay Together](#) (Immigration Impact, Jan 2, 2013).

[Online Case Tools](#) (USCIS Bulletin, Jan 10, 2013). USCIS new options for customers to obtain information and check on the status of their application electronically. Their office has also expanded its call center hours - My Case Status and e-Request, to provide these more flexible options. [My Case Status](#) now allows individuals to view the current status of applications they submit, no matter which USCIS form they used. My Case Status now lets them track, through their [Secure Mail Initiative](#) (SMI), the mailing and delivery of USCIS-produced cards and documents. SMI permits customers to use our website to access the U.S. Postal Service tracking numbers of their documents. [e-Request](#) now allows customers to inquire electronically about applications and petitions they submit to USCIS.

[Public Advocate](#) (DHS – ICE). The role of the ICE public advocate is to build relationships with community and help resolve problems or concerns. The ICE Community Helpline at 1-888-351-4024 is available M-F, 8-5 EST.

## **Ban on Adoptions of Russian Children by US citizens**

[Russian official reassures US adoptive parents](#) (Associated Press, Jan 17, 2013). Russia’s ombudsman for children’s rights sought to reassure American would-be adoptive parents that they will be allowed to take their children back to the US. But some Americans with court rulings in their favor say they’re still in legal limbo.

[Thousands march to protest Russia’s adoption ban](#) (Associated Press, Jan 13, 2013).

[Russia’s Adoption Ban Plays Politics with Most Vulnerable](#) (New York Times, Dec 29, 2012).

[Adoptive parents reflect on Russia’s adoption ban](#) (Journal and Courier/IN, Dec 30, 2012).

[Center for Adoption Policy Responds to Russian Adoption Crisis](#) (Contact: Dr Diane B Kunz, [dianekunz8@gmail.com](mailto:dianekunz8@gmail.com), Dec 24, 2012). Russian legislators have voted for a ban on international adoption from Russia to the United States. Their dismal choice of retaliating against unparented children in orphanages is an obvious tragedy.

## **Policy & Legislation**

[Senate Passes Adoption Legislation Before Holiday Break](#) (HuffPost, Dec 20, 2012). In Dec 2012, the Senate passed two legislation - the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act and a resolution supporting the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month. First introduced in June of this year by Senator Mary Landrieu, D-La., Co-Chair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, together with Senators John Kerry, D-Mass., Dick Lugar, at the time, R-Ind., and James Inhofe, R-Okla., the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 will for the first time standardize the accreditation process for all adoption service providers (ASPs) operating in the United States.

[An Overview of Policy Issues Facing Immigrant Families in the Foster Care System](#) [Presentation Slides].

Lincroft, Yali for First Focus Campaign for Children. Foster Family Based Treatment Association Public Policy Institute (2012, Crystal City, Va.)

[House GOP Lets Violence Against Women Act Passed by Senate Die Without a Vote](#) (Huffington Post, Jan 2, 2012).

Despite a late-stage intervention by Vice President Biden, House Republican leaders failed to advance the Senate's 2012 reauthorization of VAWA, an embattled battle that would have extended domestic violence protections to 30 million LGBT individuals, undocumented immigrants, and Native American women.

[Bulletin on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status](#) (Minnesota Department of Human Services, Dec 2012).

[Legal Violence in the Lives of Immigrants: How Immigration Enforcement Affects Families, Schools and Workplaces](#) (Center for American Progress, Dec 2012).

[Request for Information for the 2013 Trafficking in Person Report](#) (Dept of State, Public Notice 8111, Due 1/31/13). The Department of State ("the Department") requests written information to assist in reporting on the degree to which the United States and foreign governments comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons ("minimum standards") that are prescribed by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, (Div. A, Pub. L. 106 386) as amended ("TVPA").

[Social Security: A Key Retirement Income Source for Older Minorities](#) (AARP Public Policy Institute, Nov 2012, 10 pages). One-third of older African Americans and Hispanics who receive Social Security depend on the benefit for more than 90% of their family income. While Social Security keeps many out of poverty, high poverty rates continue among older minority groups. Suggestions from the policy brief includes reforming SSI to increase benefits, relaxing the asset test for eligibility, removing penalization of older people who live with others and restoring benefits for illegal immigrants.

### **Research & Evaluations**

[Data Report on Family Well Being Around the World - The World Family map](#) (Child Trends, Univ of Virginia and Univ of Maryland, Jan 2013) focuses a global spotlight on the roles that family play in promoting social, physical, economic, and psychological well-being for children, adults, and communities.

[Interactive Map Provides County-Level Data on Foreign Born](#) (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, Oct 2012). Interactive map provides information region of origin, English language ability and poverty level.

[Data from immigration courts show new ICE filings seeking deportation order down 25%](#) (Transnational Records Access Clearinghouse). The latest available data from the Immigration Courts show that during December 2012 the government reported 14,898 new ICE filings seeking deportation orders. Such filings are down 25 percent through the first three months of FY 2013 when compared with average monthly filings during FY 2012. December also saw a thousand new prosecutorial discretion (PD) closures of cases before the Immigration Courts, fewer than in any month since last April.

[Domestic Violence as a Basis for Asylum: An Analysis of 206 Case Outcomes in the United States from 1994 to 2012](#) (Hastings Women's Law Journal, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, Winter 2012). The article reviews hundreds of unpublished Board of Immigration Appeals and Immigration Court decisions involving women fleeing persecution at the hands of their husbands and partners. It concludes that, while the granting of asylum to the women in the highly publicized Matter of R-A- and Matter of L-R- cases has opened the doors for others, the absence of binding jurisprudential and regulatory norms is still a major impediment to fair and consistent outcomes.

[The Changing Face of the Unaccompanied Alien Child: A Portrait of Foreign-Born Children in Federal Foster Care and How to Best Meet Their Needs](#) (US Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services, Dec 2012, 30 pages). USCCB/MRS analyzed the demographics, migration experiences and presenting needs of children in ORR custody referred to USCCB/MRS for UAC and URM foster care over a four-year period. USCCB/MRS found that the profile of children entering federal foster care has changed, with children now coming into care with higher incidences of trauma and increasingly complex needs, prompting the need to develop a continuum of care for this population.

[Improving Access: Immigration Relief for Children in Federal Foster Care Before and After the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008](#) (US Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services, Dec 2012, 30 pages). To understand the impact of the TVPRA 2008 on legal outcomes of UAC, USCCB/MRS analyzed quantitative data collected from case file documents at both USCCB/MRS and its UAC foster care programs as well as qualitative data collected via telephone interviews with foster care staff and attorneys at each USCCB/MRS UAC foster care location. Although USCCB/MRS found that a higher number of UAC have obtained legal status in less time post-TVPRA 2008, remaining challenges and key recommendations are included in this paper.

### **Trafficking**

[Directory of Technical Assistance for Anti-Human Trafficking Task Forces and Service Provider](#) (NEW Online Directory, Office of Justice Programs' Office for Victims of Crime and Bureau of Justice Assistance)

[Human Trafficking Reference List](#) (Council on Accreditation). In collaboration with a group of national experts, COA is working to address the issue of human trafficking by educating the public about important practices related to prevention, identification, training and response and by incorporating corresponding information into its Residential Treatment, Foster Care, Volunteer Mentoring, and Administrative and Service Environment standards.

[Human Trafficking Awareness Day: Let's Take a Stand for Domestic Workers](#) (Yes Magazine, 2012). 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, it's time to recognize domestic labor as real work that should be protected.

**DISCLAIMER:** The information in this e-news does not represent the opinion or endorsement of MCWNN. This information is intended to provide general discussion on the topic and should not be used as a substitute for professional advice which takes into consideration specific circumstances of the situation. Those seeking case consultation should seek the services of a competent professional. Much apologizes in advance for any typographical or grammatical errors. If you are interested in sharing information on FYI from MCWNN, please contact co-editors, [Yali Lincroft](#), MBA, First Focus Policy Consultant, and [Lara Bruce](#), MSW, Program Specialist, Butler Institute for Families at the University of Denver.