



Praying for Restoration: Ending Racism and Other Systemic Injustices

Collaborative Chicagoland Prayer

Dec. 10, 2021
By Intersected Project

What is Intersected Project?

The mission of Intersected Project is to empower actions that promote racially equitable communities, making everyday heroism more accessible. **We envision** an empathetic society that can identify the impact of historical, structural racism and actively eradicate social inequities.

We have four primary values:

- **Empathy.** Our work is rooted in the community and creates shared understanding across social divides.
- **Empowerment.** We seek to empower marginalized voices and elevate their stories and experiences.
- **Truth.** We strive to share stories in the context of credible evidence and data.
- **Creativity.** Our work inspires social change through creative solutions, even in the mundane.

[Our Mission – Intersected \(intersectedproject.org\)](https://intersectedproject.org)

Intersected Articles on Immigration

- [Life chances of Black African refugees in the U.S – Intersected \(intersectedproject.org\)](https://intersectedproject.org/2018/07/10/life-chances-of-black-african-refugees-in-the-u-s/)
- [Acculturation and the generational approaches of Burundian refugees in the U.S. – Intersected \(intersectedproject.org\)](https://intersectedproject.org/2018/07/10/acculturation-and-the-generational-approaches-of-burundian-refugees-in-the-u-s/)
- [Keeping it Real \(ID\) – Intersected \(intersectedproject.org\)](https://intersectedproject.org/2018/07/10/keeping-it-real-id/)
- [Rohingya in Chicago: thriving but still striving – Intersected \(intersectedproject.org\)](https://intersectedproject.org/2018/07/10/rohingya-in-chicago-thriving-but-still-striving/)
- [The ugly truth about colonization and immigration – Intersected \(intersectedproject.org\)](https://intersectedproject.org/2018/07/10/the-ugly-truth-about-colonization-and-immigration/)
- [Reckoning with white-adjacency in Chinese American churches – Intersected \(intersectedproject.org\)](https://intersectedproject.org/2018/07/10/reckoning-with-white-adjacency-in-chinese-american-churches/)

Structure, Agency, and Contingency: a Mini Sociology Lesson

Structure looks at the institutions and systems at play, like housing and the way zip codes divide resources and impact education, the bureaucratic way folks are hired within [white supremacy culture](#), the justice system and prison industrial complex, etc. When we talk about structure in resettlement, it includes the way social services are set up and implemented, what grants are given and to whom, and even how the national budget prioritizes whom, etc.

Agency looks at the individual and how they have capacity to impact their own life, the choices they themselves are able to make. In our work, this can mean the decisions clients about how they use petty cash funds and the ability to choose their own clothes using Chicago's new voucher system. Our clients often come to us because their agency was limited due to persecution in their home country. Some were not able to practice their faith, hold a job due to their sexuality, etc.

When agency is limited, it is often by oppressive structures. It's common among white Americans in particular to talk about "individual responsibility," essentially meaning agency, without recognizing the ways structure impacts agency, however.

Contingency refers to uncontrollable circumstances that affect all of us. This is often a big factor for forced migrants. The Taliban taking over Afghanistan was a contingency that led many of our clients to flee and work with us now, for example. COVID-19 is another contingency impacting life chances.

LGBTQIA+ and Immigration



Not only individuals but systems (structure/agency/contingency). Look at patterns.

One out of four verified claims of sexual abuse in the detention systems regarded a transgender individual. These immigrants were clearly lacking protection, as compared to other immigrants. More details: [LGBTQ Immigrants | National Immigrant Justice Center](#)

NOTE: Detention centers themselves don't protect most immigrants. We know that they are [inhumane and unjust](#). But in terms of gender and sexuality, trans individuals are more [at risk of facing sexual violence](#), whether immigrants or native-born Americans.

Despite being illegal, there's still workforce discrimination. Consider additional factors of religion, race/ethnicity, immigration status (despite proper documents), etc.

[ORR](#)'s system is binary. Name/pronouns per legal documents may not match the individual, often leading to more dysphoria and mislabeling of the person while in this new country.

Resources

- Transparency and human rights: [Transparency and Human Rights Project | National Immigrant Justice Center](#)
- Strengths-based psychology for immigrants and POC. Toolkits available: [IC-RACE – Immigration, Critical Race, And Cultural Equity Lab \(icrace.org\)](#)

Immigration and Illinois - Demographics

Fun immigration facts about Chicagoland (workforce contributions, etc.) But also: 829K/900K non-citizens at risk of deportation in IL are in Chicago:

[profile-foreign-born-population-chicago.pdf \(vera.org\)](#)

More detailed, interesting demographic statistics broken down by county:

[87618538-486c-4d36-a141-3f3413e4d0a4 \(illinois.gov\)](#)

IL has become more foreign-born over the past couple decades. Fertility info here: [State Demographics Data | migrationpolicy.org](#)

Prayer Points

- Demolition of laws criminalizing forced migration. Smooth access to asylum.
- Mental health of forced migrants, esp. those who are POC or have other marginalized identities and face additional barriers in the U.S.
- Human rights, anti-discrimination, ex. in employment.
- Protections and supports for queer immigrants.
- Increased competency re: gender and sexuality at organizations serving forced migrants