



Portland State University

From the Selected Works of Aaron Roussell

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Immigration Nation Group Project

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Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/aaron-roussell/30/>



Immigration Nation:

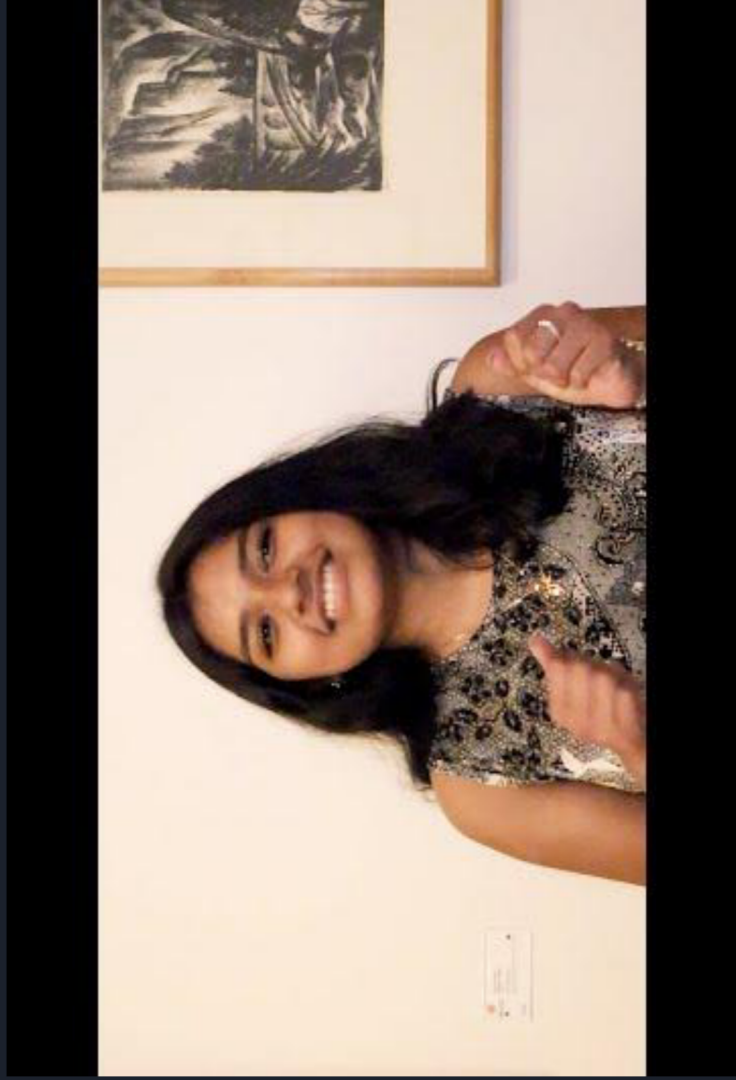
Immigration laws pertaining to the state of Oregon and how these laws influence and affect immigrant community members within the city of Portland, including Portland State University students.

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Community Perspectives:



[In Their Words: Videos of Immigrants & Refugees | Portland.gov](https://portland.gov/in-their-words/videos-of-immigrants-and-refugees)



Laws & Definitions:

- Oregon became the **first** sanctuary state in the Nation in 1987.
- According to [ImmigrationCouncil.Org](#), there is no official definition of sanctuary but rather these are policies set by the state that give them the authority of choice to work with federal authorities to enforce immigration laws. (This is why not all states are sanctuary states and these do not apply to an individual if you cross borders into another state)
- **Sanctuary policies** allow states to strengthen their relationship with local law enforcement and immigration communities. This is with the communicated agreement that immigrants can work with the police to report crime without the fear of retribution or deportation.
- [HB 2015: The Equal Access to Roads Act](#)
Eliminates the requirements to prove U.S. citizenship or legal residency to receive an Oregon driver's license. It provides anti-discrimination and confidentiality provisions that will protect all Oregonians who obtain a standard Class C driver's license.
- New Provisions have been and amended in the **Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS)** as an attempt to reverse the actions of racial profiling against Immigrant individuals who have fled to the State as a sanctuary and safe haven from their foreign countries. Includes **ORS 181A.820** and **ORS 181.850**



Laws & Definitions (cont'd):

- "Prohibits law enforcement agency or public body from denying services, benefits, privileges or opportunities to certain individuals on basis of federal civil immigration actions, inquiring about individual's citizenship status without connection to criminal investigation or providing information about individual in custody to federal immigration authority." ([ORS 181A.820](#))

- Sanctuary policies take many forms & generally fall into the following categories :



- I. Law Enforcement is required to explain to individuals committed or detained their right to refuse their disclosure of nationality, citizenship or immigration status as well as the consequences associated with refusal to disclose.
- II. Prohibits the use of public resources to assist federal immigration enforcement. (AKA ICE and local police do not work together)
- III. Requires any public body that receives communication or request for assistance from federal immigration authority to report this request to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.
- IV. Requires the Department of Justice to establish a mechanism to receive reports of certain violations.
- V. Prohibits public body, law enforcement agency or officer from entering into specific agreement related to federal immigration enforcement.
- VI. Allows any person to bring action toward law enforcement or public body from providing information to federal immigration authorities, using agency resources to enforce immigration laws or failure to comply with other requirements.



Laws & Definitions (cont'd):

- [ORS 181.150:](#)
- “A statute that limits the ways in which local law enforcement agents can investigate or inquire about a person’s immigration status. **Under ORS 181.850, state and local police are not allowed to enforce federal immigration law if a person is not involved in criminal activity.** Police may contact ICE if they have detained a person suspected of committing a crime or if a person is the subject of a federal warrant for a criminal violation of immigration laws.”

- I. State and local police cannot require a person whom they encounter to “show their papers” to prove their immigration status.
- II. State and local police cannot participate in 287 (g) or other programs that “deputize” local law officers to detect or apprehend people with immigration violations.
- III. CAN Arrest an individual who has a warrant out from ICE.
- IV. CAN Share information with ICE about foreign-born arrestees after booking, although Oregon law does not require it.
- V. CAN Request information from ICE about an individual’s immigration status after booking, although Oregon law does not require it.



Day-to-Day Legal Aspects & How They Affect Immigrants & Refugees:

One legal aspect of Oregon is its liberal stance on immigrants getting driver's licenses. Oregon allows undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license through the **Equal Access to Road Act** that:

- Allows undocumented immigrants to drive
- Allows undocumented immigrants to work
- Allows undocumented immigrants proof of I.D. which can further help them in other legality processes i.e., U.S. Citizenship
- Allows undocumented immigrants to obtain other government and state/public assistance. I.e., housing & food assistance, emergency relief assistance

Last but certainly not least, Oregon is very welcoming to refugees and offers multiple programs in assisting them in future opportunities and helps them transition into a new life.

- Helps refugees find a place to live as well as utility assistance. I.e., Resettlement Agencies
- Helps refugees with medical/healthcare assistance. I.e., Resettlement Agencies
- Helps refugees with cash assistance. I.e., TANF^[1]
- Helps refugees with food assistance. I.e., SNAP^[2]

Note:

^[1] Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program

^[2] Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



How Has PSU Been Involved?

PSU has a number of services that are essential to helping people understand their rights.

Some of these services include:

- **Free CONFIDENTIAL** immigration counseling through PSU Legal services
- The PSU Student Legal Services immigration clinic offers their services through appointments
- The **[PSU DREAMERS RESOURCES](#)** website also offers dozens of links to services outside of the university that are accessible and in the city of Portland



Educating the Students & Faculty of PSU

& Ways PSU Can Help Contribute:

- [Student Legal Services | Portland State University](#) ; **Free** [confidential](#) immigration consulting
- [PSU Student Legal Services Immigration Clinic](#)
- [Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services](#)
- [Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees \(SOAR\) Legal Services](#)
- [Immigration Counseling and Advocacy Program \(ICAP\)](#)
- [Immigration Counseling Service \(ICS\)](#)
- [Immigration Law Help](#)
- [Oregon Immigration Resource](#)
- [Financial Aid for Undocumented and DACA Students | Office of Student Access and Completion](#)



Recent Local News Regarding Refugees:

- June 2021, the Legislature passed SB 778, approved the creation of the new office to advocate for and connect people to statewide immigrant and refugee programs and organizations helping to reduce social, economic, and health disparities.
- March 4th, Gov. Kate Brown appointed Toc Soneoulay-Gillespie as director of the newly established Governor's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement.
- March 9th 2022, Medical Teams International, a Salem based non-profit relief group, sends team, medical supplies to aid Ukrainian refugees.
- Along with ground support, the group shipped 26 pallets of medical supplies, including sutures, surgical kits and medical drapes, to health centers in Ukraine.