

Seeking Asylum During the Coronavirus Pandemic

October 14, 2020

Panelists

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CLINIC



Credit: PAUL RATJE/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Background

- Under the current Administration, there have been many changes to the asylum process
- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing challenges and created new ones
- Vulnerable populations at **HIGH RISK**



Border

ICE Detention Facilities

Immigration Courts

Kino Border Initiative

Tracey Horan

Associate Director, Education & Advocacy

Families Waiting Long-Term



- Education
- Work permits, availability
- Housing
- Returning to danger

Vulnerable Families, Individuals being Returned



- Title 42 Expulsions
- Facing threats, extortion
- Health concerns
- Pregnant women



One migrant leader's story



SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 21

11:00 am Pacific Time

saveasylum.org/upcomingaction

Children Seeking Asylum

#SaveAsylum March

A march in Ambos Nogales with migrant children awaiting protection

Join children and their families seeking asylum Wed, Oct 21, 11AM PST/2PM EST

Comment on proposed anti-asylum rule

<https://bit.ly/33WsVgR>

Impact on Unaccompanied Children

- President's Partial Border Closure Order (March 20th, 2020)
- CDC Order (March 20th, 2020)
- Suspension of the processing of certain persons, ***including unaccompanied children***
- The order cites Title 42 of the U.S. Code



Impact on Unaccompanied Children (cont.)

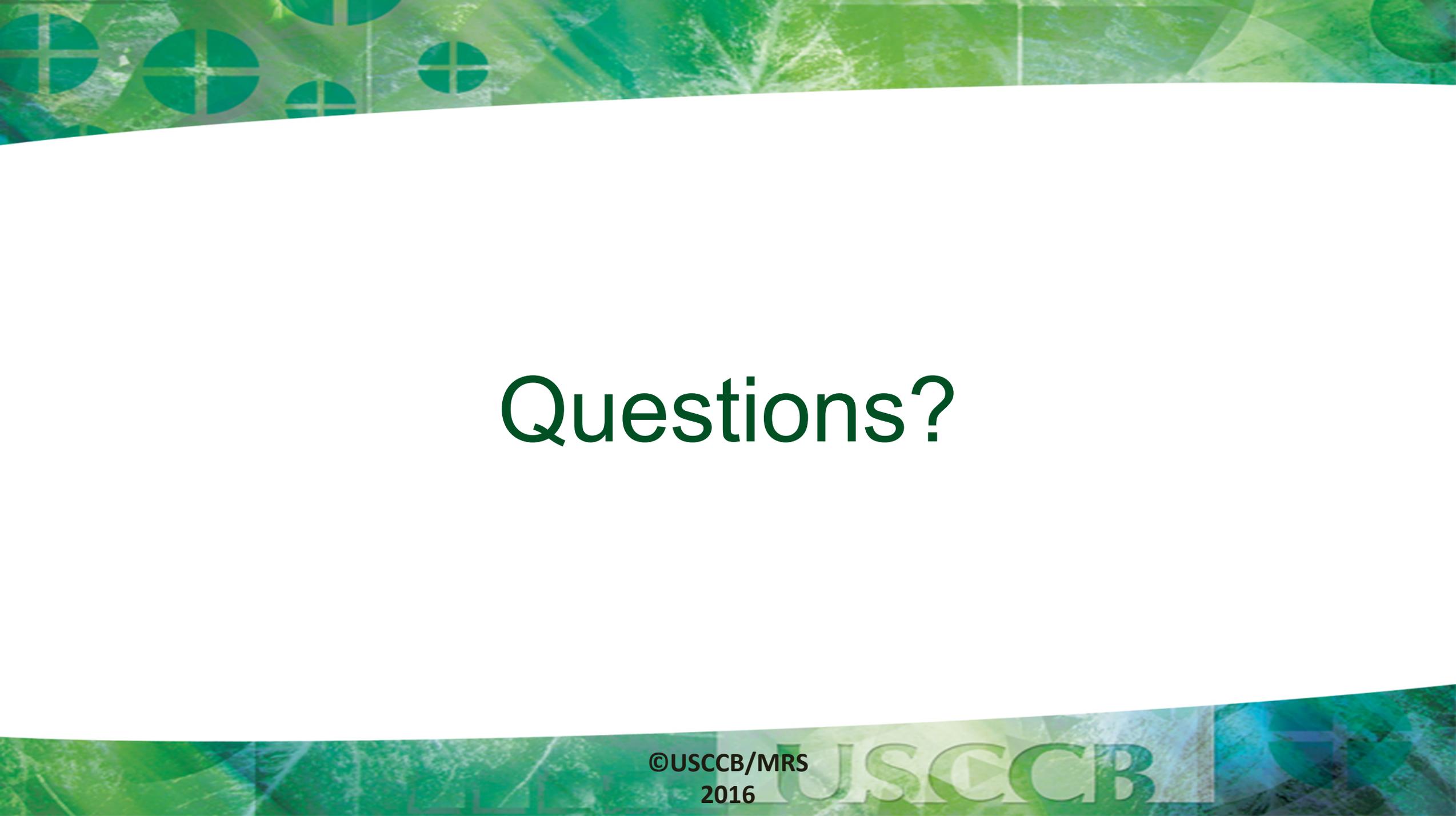
- Most UCs are not being processed but instead are being “expelled” due to recent regulations and administrative orders
 - Violation of Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA)
- Nearly 9,000 children have been forcibly expelled and denied protection
- “Hoteling” of children

What Does This Mean for Children?

- Record Low Numbers of Children in ORR Custody
 - Significant decline in the number of children in ORR custody
- Disregard for Existing Legal Protections
 - Administration argues it does not have to comply with the TVPRA
 - Has given conflicting information to Congress about existing screening of UCs
 - Child protection concerns remain paramount

Advocacy

- Join asylum seekers on Wednesday, October 21st 11AM PST/2PM EST
- [Comment](#) on proposed asylum regulations
- Override border closures; resume allowing children to access protection
- Ensure robust funding for legal and social services



Questions?