

Migrants must cross deserts, rivers or mountains often paying a coyote to guide them to the US



# Applying for Asylum: US/Mexico Border May 2019

### Why are people fleeing?

- Discrimination
- Extreme poverty
- Gang violence
- Abuse
- Corrupt Governments

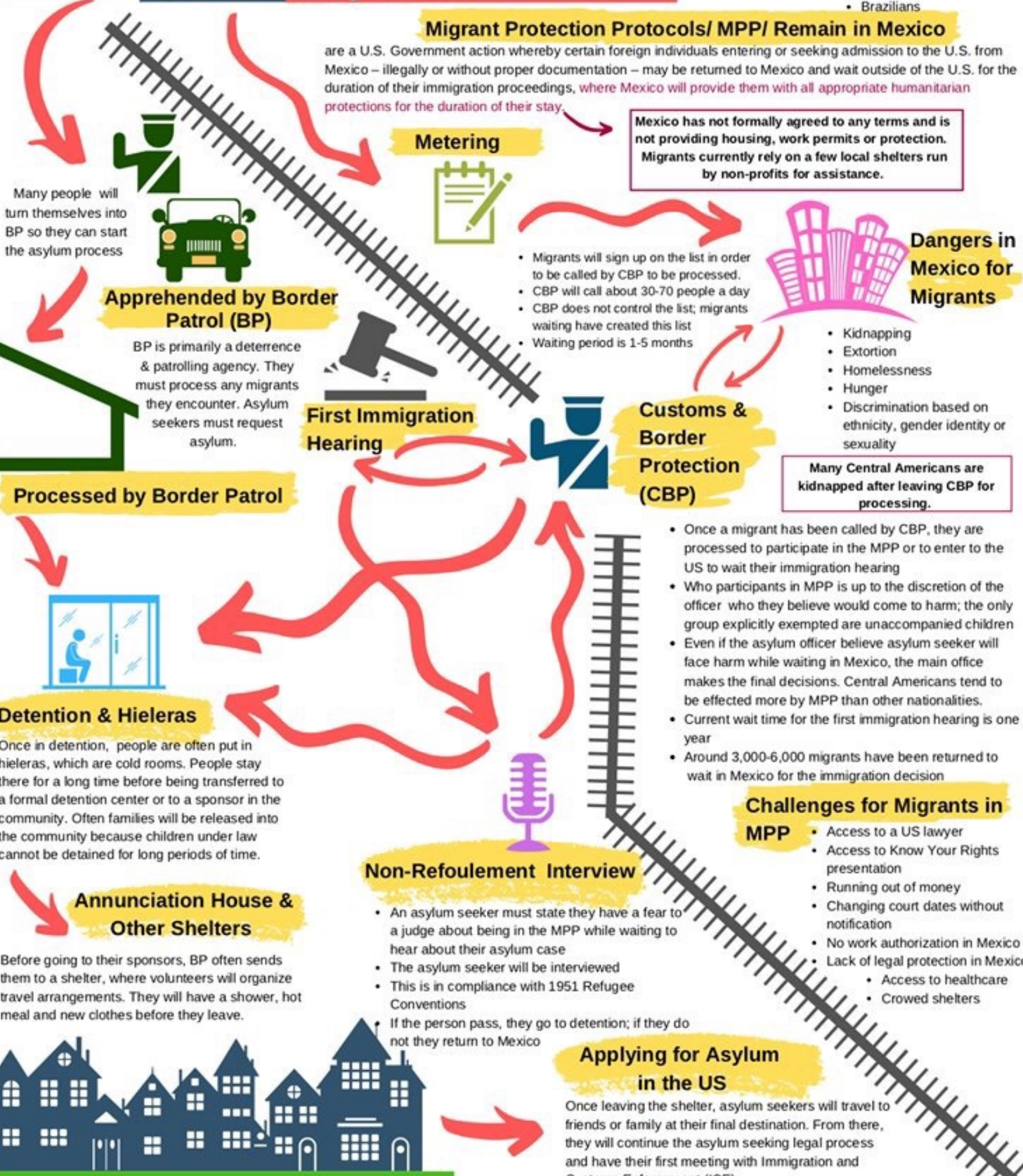
### Who is coming ?

- Central Americans
- LGBT+
- Families
- Pregnant Women
- Children
- Cubans
- Brazilians

## Migrant Protection Protocols/ MPP/ Remain in Mexico

are a U.S. Government action whereby certain foreign individuals entering or seeking admission to the U.S. from Mexico – illegally or without proper documentation – may be returned to Mexico and wait outside of the U.S. for the duration of their immigration proceedings, where Mexico will provide them with all appropriate humanitarian protections for the duration of their stay.

Mexico has not formally agreed to any terms and is not providing housing, work permits or protection. Migrants currently rely on a few local shelters run by non-profits for assistance.



Many people will turn themselves into BP so they can start the asylum process

### Apprehended by Border Patrol (BP)

BP is primarily a deterrence & patrolling agency. They must process any migrants they encounter. Asylum seekers must request asylum.

### Metering



- Migrants will sign up on the list in order to be called by CBP to be processed.
- CBP will call about 30-70 people a day
- CBP does not control the list; migrants waiting have created this list
- Waiting period is 1-5 months



### Dangers in Mexico for Migrants

- Kidnapping
- Extortion
- Homelessness
- Hunger
- Discrimination based on ethnicity, gender identity or sexuality

Many Central Americans are kidnapped after leaving CBP for processing.

### Processed by Border Patrol



### Detention & Hieleras

Once in detention, people are often put in hieleras, which are cold rooms. People stay there for a long time before being transferred to a formal detention center or to a sponsor in the community. Often families will be released into the community because children under law cannot be detained for long periods of time.

### First Immigration Hearing



### Customs & Border Protection (CBP)

- Once a migrant has been called by CBP, they are processed to participate in the MPP or to enter to the US to wait their immigration hearing
- Who participants in MPP is up to the discretion of the officer who they believe would come to harm; the only group explicitly exempted are unaccompanied children
- Even if the asylum officer believe asylum seeker will face harm while waiting in Mexico, the main office makes the final decisions. Central Americans tend to be effected more by MPP than other nationalities.
- Current wait time for the first immigration hearing is one year
- Around 3,000-6,000 migrants have been returned to wait in Mexico for the immigration decision

### Challenges for Migrants in MPP

- Access to a US lawyer
- Access to Know Your Rights presentation
- Running out of money
- Changing court dates without notification
- No work authorization in Mexico
- Lack of legal protection in Mexico
  - Access to healthcare
  - Crowded shelters

### Annunciation House & Other Shelters

Before going to their sponsors, BP often sends them to a shelter, where volunteers will organize travel arrangements. They will have a shower, hot meal and new clothes before they leave.

### Non-Refoulement Interview

- An asylum seeker must state they have a fear to a judge about being in the MPP while waiting to hear about their asylum case
- The asylum seeker will be interviewed
- This is in compliance with 1951 Refugee Conventions
- If the person pass, they go to detention; if they do not they return to Mexico

### Applying for Asylum in the US

Once leaving the shelter, asylum seekers will travel to friends or family at their final destination. From there, they will continue the asylum seeking legal process and have their first meeting with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

