

# Human Migration

Policy Possibilities for Public Discussion



Edited by

Ieva Notturmo

Fellow of the Interactivity Foundation

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# Human Migration

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# Introduction

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# Introduction

## What Is IF?

*The aim of* the Interactivity Foundation (IF) is to improve public policy by encouraging citizens to participate in thoughtful discussions about their public policy concerns and the different conceptual policy possibilities for addressing them.

## Why The Need?

*Public policy discussions* too often focus upon the specific actions that governments might take to address a problem rather than the broader conceptual possibilities that might inspire them. This is unfortunate since the wise choice of a public policy requires exploration of a wide range of conceptual possibilities including the different concerns, questions, beliefs, values, goals, and interests that might motivate them.

## What Are IF Reports?

*IF supports discussion* projects that are designed to generate, explore, develop, articulate, and test contrasting conceptual possibilities for public policy in selected areas of concern. We believe that our discussion projects and the conceptual possibilities that we develop as a result can help citizens explore an area of concern civilly and thoughtfully. We present these possibilities in IF discussion reports. And we support public discussions of the possibilities and reports that we develop.

*The people who* develop these reports are your fellow citizens working in two separate groups. Members of one group work professionally in jobs directly related to the area of concern. Members of the other group are interested citizens. Both groups meet monthly for over a year of confidential “sanctuary” discussions to generate, explore, develop, and select the policy possibilities that they think are the most useful for their fellow citizens to discuss. They then meet together as a joint-panel toward the end of the project to merge their ideas into a final report.

*Just like a* congressman’s staff, or a military general’s staff, these groups carefully craft and prepare the different policy possibilities with the hope that you will, through such discussions, gain greater insight into the area of concern.

*IF does not* advocate or recommend any of the public policy possibilities in our reports. There are, on the contrary, possibilities in our reports that none of the participants who prepared the document supported yet still felt needed to be included as part of the public discussion.

We hope that the conceptually contrasting policy possibilities in our citizen staff work reports will stimulate thoughtful discussions by providing a conceptual springboard for citizens who wish to explore the different policy possibilities for addressing an area of concern and the different possible ends that we might want to achieve as a society.

# Introduction

*The possibilities in* our report are intended to be internally consistent but conceptually different from one another. The possible implementations and likely effects of the possibilities presented in our reports are illustrative and are not intended to be absolute, complete, or without exceptions. We hope that they will provide insight into the many different policy possibilities that we have to choose among to address an area of public policy concern, as well as the many different and often unintended effects that each of those possibilities might have.

	Typical Policy Reports	IF Citizen Staff-Work Reports
<i>Why they are prepared</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide recommendations for solving specific problems</li> <li>• Influence decision makers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve public policy choices by exploring conceptually different policy possibilities</li> <li>• Provide a springboard for exploratory discussions</li> </ul>
<i>What they are supposed to do</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze problems</li> <li>• Provide recommendations (often from one perspective) to policy makers for solving specific problems</li> <li>• Provide the best solutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze areas of concerns instead of problems</li> <li>• Describe fundamentally different conceptual policy possibilities for citizens to discuss at their leisure</li> <li>• Describe possible implementations and possible consequences of those possibilities</li> <li>• Encourage exploration of contrasting possibilities and not consensus building</li> <li>• Do not make any recommendations</li> </ul>
<i>Who prepares them</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experts and representatives of interest groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two panels: one consisting of experts, the other of interested citizens</li> </ul>
<i>How they are prepared</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decisions made by compromise or consensus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In “sanctuary” where panelists are free to speak openly</li> <li>• By developing conceptually contrasting possibilities</li> <li>• Decisions made through convergence while preserving contrasts</li> </ul>

# Introduction

## What's This Report?

*This report describes* six contrasting policy possibilities that two panels developed to address five concerns they thought would be the most useful for public discussion about human migration. It also describes their ideas about how each possibility might be implemented, and the effects it might have upon individuals, groups, institutions, and society at large.

We want to emphasize that this report does not promote the adoption of any of these policy possibilities. It instead describes the policy possibilities that the panelists thought would be most useful for public discussion, along with the concerns, values, interests, and beliefs that inspire them.

*The panelists developed* other policy possibilities, some of which you can find at the end of this report and on the IF's website ([www.interactivityfoundation.org](http://www.interactivityfoundation.org)), but they selected these as the most useful for public discussion. We hope that you will find them interesting, that you will understand them in the way that we intend them to be understood, that they will cause you to think about other conceptual policy possibilities pertaining to human migration, and that you will discuss them with fellow citizens. We fully expect that different people will have different concerns, beliefs, goals, values, and interests about human migration. But we hope that each person who considers the possibilities in this report will come to better understand what he or she thinks about human migration, and that this in turn will eventually lead to more thoughtful policy decisions.

## How To Use It?

*We recommend discussing* the report in small groups (6-8 people) for three or four discussion sessions, with a facilitator to guide the discussion. We recommend devoting at least one hour to discuss each possibility. Feel free to contribute your own ideas to the discussion, and to further explore and develop the ideas that we present here.

**As you consider the possibilities in this report and discuss them with others, you may wish to ask yourselves some of the following questions:**

- ▶ What are the values that motivate this particular possibility?
- ▶ Why might someone hold these values?
- ▶ Why might someone be opposed to them?
- ▶ What actions might we take to implement this possibility were we to adopt it?
- ▶ What effects might those actions have upon individuals, groups, institutions, and society at large?
- ▶ How might they affect you personally?
- ▶ Who would be likely to benefit from the adoption of this possibility?
- ▶ What other approaches are available for pursuing the values and goals that inspired this possibility?
- ▶ How effective would this possibility be in achieving its desired ends if we were to adopt it?
- ▶ What would you do to strengthen this possibility?

# Introduction

## Why is Human Migration An Area of Concern?

*The history of* the United States is a story of human migration. It encompasses, among other events, the migration of Native Americans, the story of the Pilgrims, colonization, the slave trade, immigrants, industrialization, urbanization, suburbanization, seasonal laborers, and globalization.

*Recent developments in* communication, manufacturing, information technology, and transportation have made human migration easier, more affordable, and more frequent. Americans are on the move more today than ever before. Voluntary migration is more frequent than involuntary migration, but economic, environmental, and other policies influence its patterns. Regardless of where we live, human migration affects us on personal, communal, and national levels. It strikes at the core of what it means to be an American and it raises a large number of public policy questions and concerns about the effects that it might have upon individuals, groups, institutions, and society at large.

*Immigration is an* important aspect of human migration. The United States has had various immigration policies throughout its history, and its symbols range from the Statue of Liberty to the fence at the Mexico border. Immigration has been an important part of our politics and political campaigns, at least in part because immigrants create, form, and continue to shape this country's social, cultural, and economic fabric. Immigration, however, is just one part of this area of concern, and discussions about immigration policy seldom see immigration in the broader context of human migration.

*This situation raises* difficult questions about human migration and the public policies that we may adopt toward it.

- ▶ What could human migration mean?
- ▶ What are the drivers of human migration?
- ▶ What societal goals and public policies might pertain to human migration?
- ▶ What are the different dimensions of human migration in addition to political, cultural, and economic ones?
- ▶ How might human migration and the conflicts that arise from it affect the ability of democracy to achieve its goals?
- ▶ What concerns might people have about human migration?
- ▶ How might our public policies address these concerns?

*These and other* questions reflect broad concerns about human migration that are fundamental to our future social, cultural, economic, political, religious, and ethnic development. Our panelists explored these questions and many others during the course of our project.

*The panelists explored* human migration, developed policy possibilities, and explored their possible implementations and effects from many different perspectives, ranging from the personal, through the societal, to the international.

# The Panelists' Exploration of Human Migration

## *DRIVERS*

- ▶ better quality of life
- ▶ culture
- ▶ ease of movement
- ▶ better educational institutions
- ▶ restlessness
- ▶ climate
- ▶ property taxes
- ▶ modernization in an agricultural sector
- ▶ technology
- ▶ transportation
- ▶ survival
- ▶ adoption of children
- ▶ pursuit of happiness
- ▶ urbanization
- ▶ suburbanization
- ▶ chance
- ▶ national and local policies

## *VALUES*

- ▶ freedom to move
- ▶ self-determination
- ▶ quality of life
- ▶ mobility
- ▶ responsibility
- ▶ moral obligation
- ▶ opportunities
- ▶ rule of law
- ▶ patriotic solidarity
- ▶ human rights
- ▶ family
- ▶ risk
- ▶ generosity
- ▶ upward mobility
- ▶ tolerance
- ▶ individualism
- ▶ entrepreneurship
- ▶ openness

## *INTERESTS*

- ▶ personal security
- ▶ to keep open spaces
- ▶ population control
- ▶ community
- ▶ to facilitate assimilation
- ▶ to preserve racial and religious cultural identity
- ▶ to acquire or keep a certain lifestyle
- ▶ greater social freedom
- ▶ social benefits
- ▶ to reunite with family members
- ▶ to promote democracy
- ▶ to be able to move
- ▶ to have a good job



# The Panelists' Exploration of Human Migration

## *GOALS*

- ▶ gaining prosperity
- ▶ achieving social justice
- ▶ promoting regional development
- ▶ preserving American values
- ▶ empowering citizens
- ▶ escaping prosecution
- ▶ reducing crime
- ▶ finding tolerant communities
- ▶ gaining personal and financial security
- ▶ ensuring privacy
- ▶ gaining prosperity
- ▶ starting all over again
- ▶ securing privacy
- ▶ freedom

## *CONCERNS*

- ▶ whether and to what extent human migration is in our national and international interests
- ▶ how misallocation of labor limits our economic growth
- ▶ how real estate policies affect human migration
- ▶ how technology might transform migration
- ▶ the impact of immigration on individuals, groups, and society
- ▶ the role of government in relocating people, especially through eminent domain
- ▶ the effect that human migration might have on our natural environment

## The Panelists' Exploration of Human Migration

*These concerns and policy* possibilities do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or preferences of our panelists. They are, however, the concerns and possibilities that our panelists thought would be most useful for a broad exploration of contrasting approaches to human migration.

*The panelists explored a variety of concerns about the future of human migration before selecting the following as the most useful for public discussion:*

- ▶ Concerns about governance: Who should make decisions pertaining to migration and when?
- ▶ Concerns about the size, scope, length, and emerging trends of domestic, cross-border, international, and virtual human migration
- ▶ Concerns about the effects of human migration on local populations, cultures, and the environments—including the meaning and degree of assimilation, security, and the quality of education
- ▶ Concerns about the human migration as it relates to the economy—including jobs, the distribution of wealth, competition, and winners and losers
- ▶ Concerns about our moral responsibility, especially as it relates to human rights and international migration

## The Panelists' Exploration of Human Migration

*The panelists intentionally* did not define 'human migration'. They instead thought of it broadly as relocation from one place to another, leaving the distance and time spent in the relocation open for discussion. The possibilities in this report, unless otherwise specified, may thus apply equally to domestic, international, and cross-border migrations.



## Put Security First

This possibility would regulate human migration to ensure our security against domestic, international, and cross-border threats.

*This possibility recognizes* that human migration may bring with it many benefits, but it is primarily concerned with ensuring the security of local communities. It assumes that a community has the moral and legal rights to protect itself from real and perceived threats.



*This possibility flows* from concerns that migrants may threaten communities with crime, disease, and terrorism. It also flows from concerns that people who are known to be criminals, mentally ill, and sex offenders in one community can easily relocate and threaten the security of communities where they are not known. It assumes that in such cases, barring their migration can ensure a community's security, and it assumes that government is competent enough to do it. This possibility also recognizes that different communities may perceive threats differently. It thus maintains that we should tailor our approach to specific beliefs.

*This possibility would* also use human migration and migration policy to protect citizens from global threats. It would thus pursue immigration and human migration policies that advance the country's foreign policy goals, while focusing on our strategic, geopolitical, and defense goals. Some of these uses may be military in nature and involve the movement of troops and military personnel, but others may be more diplomatic in nature and promote the migration of people, as well as the migration of values, cultural norms, and ways of life. We might, for example, design our immigration and human migration policies with the goal of creating more security, democracy, and prosperity at home and abroad. We might try to curry favor with friendly countries, add leveraging power to our negotiations, attract people who can help to improve our security, or use them as punitive measures against hostile nations. This possibility recognizes that our foreign policy interests and goals may also affect and limit domestic migration of American citizens.

*This possibility recognizes* that our foreign policy interests and goals are not set in stone and may change over time in light of our changing situation in the world. It also recognizes that our specific policies toward immigration and human migration might naturally change with them. It thus recognizes the need to tighten our migration policy when it is our national security interest or loosen it when it is not.

## Possible Implementations

## Possible Effects of These Actions

### *We Could-*

### *These Actions could-*

Consolidate transportation, hotel, credit card, and telephone records to monitor people who are moving

▶ Invade privacy, but identify people who are potential health, environmental, and political threats

Make it illegal for people with contagious diseases to migrate

▶ Create disease ghettos; lead to socially explosive situations

Allow employers to discriminate in hiring based on criminal and health histories

▶ Create a caste of unemployable people; create chronic unemployment problems in the country

Allow communities to compensate other communities to accept people who have criminal records and health problems

▶ Create a “market for security” and lead to greater security for some communities, while providing a source of revenue for others

Screen all migrants and immigrants entering the country

▶ Increase the costs of migration; may not pay off

Use visa policies as both sticks and carrots when dealing with other countries

▶ Give more flexibility and greater power to advance our foreign policy goals around the world

Give more visas to foster the development of high tech fields useful for national security

▶ Attract strategic talent to strengthen the American military

### For Further Discussion...

- ▶ What does being “secure” mean when it comes to human migration?
- ▶ Do you think that our government can successfully regulate human migration? If so, why so? If not, why not? And if so, is it worth the cost to try?
- ▶ How much freedom of movement are you willing to sacrifice for greater security?
- ▶ What are the differences between using human migration and using human migration policy to achieve our foreign policy goals?
- ▶ Should asylum seekers be selected on the basis of our foreign policy and national security goals? If so, why so? If not, why not?

### Notes:

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## Privilege Human Rights & Humanitarian Needs

This possibility would give first priority to humanitarian crises and human rights violations when deciding whether or not to allow people to migrate. It would also try to anticipate, prepare for, and prevent such crises, violations, and natural disasters—and to ameliorate their consequences.

*This possibility flows* from the belief that we are responsible for one another, and that we have a special responsibility to care about people whose human rights and lives are threatened, regardless of borders. It also flows from a concern that rather than helping the people who have the greatest need or are the most oppressed, we focus on the ones who get the most publicity. It would thus give priority to protecting human rights and fulfilling basic humanitarian needs. It would focus first and foremost on helping people whose human rights and lives are under the greatest risk, regardless of their location around the world.

*This possibility recognizes* that large groups of people sometimes have to move because of humanitarian crises and human rights violations. Such migrations are often unexpected and can be destructive, since a large influx of people into a community can destabilize and undermine the social structures in both their new and old communities. This possibility aims to ease such relocations and make them less disruptive. It would thus try to prevent or manage large social disruptions that can lead to epidemics, wars, and other disasters. It would try to maintain social order during the chaotic times that such disasters bring. And it would, through mutual support, try to help both migrants and their new communities adjust to the new situation.



*This possibility would* increase and redirect foreign aid for human migration and immigration, because Americans are almost always better off than people in other countries when it comes to human rights and humanitarian needs.

*This possibility could* either encourage or discourage human migration depending on the circumstances. It could, for example, encourage migration if and where a receiving community is prepared to welcome people seeking refuge. But it could also discourage migration if and where a receiving community is not ready to welcome outsiders. And it would, whenever possible, try to anticipate and prevent man-made disasters so that people would not have to move. It maintains that we can manage migration more easily if we are prepared for it. It would thus encourage government, business, and society to be proactive.

## Possible Implementations

## Possible Effects of These Actions

### *We could-*

### *These actions could-*

Create tax incentives and educational loan forgiveness programs for people to move to certain areas	▶ Lead doctors and other professionals to move to poorer areas so they can meet local humanitarian needs
Increase funds for preparedness and prevention	▶ Result in fewer people who would have to move after natural disasters
Develop an international army or police force to protect migrants whose human rights are violated	▶ Make migrations more secure; lead to disagreements about who is in charge of the force, who serves and who pays for it
Give decision-making power regarding human migration to the United Nations	▶ Force the United States to concede to the decisions of the United Nations
Develop criteria to order or rank human rights violations	▶ Lead to friction about who is right and according to what criteria
Forbid people from living in disaster-prone areas	▶ Lead to fewer freedoms or save lives in the long run
Remove subsidies for living in disaster-prone areas	▶ Help people decide to move to safer areas

### For Further Discussion...

- ▶ What are the differences between human rights and humanitarian needs?
- ▶ Do you believe that all people are entitled to the same human rights? Why or why not?
- ▶ How should we define which human rights violations are the most grievous? And why?
- ▶ How should we deal with tensions between human rights and international relations?
- ▶ Should we let in all people who are living in poverty, or just those whose poverty is a consequence of human rights violations? And why?
- ▶ What kinds of tensions might exist between human rights violations and international relations?

### Notes:

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## Promote Assimilation Into Local Communities

This possibility would encourage migrants to adopt the social, cultural, and political norms of their receiving communities.

*This possibility flows* from a belief that migrants are often reluctant to assimilate into the communities to which they migrate. It also flows from three different concerns. First, that migrants assimilation is often superficial. Second, that their reluctance or inability to embrace the norms of the communities to which they migrate can weaken the social cohesion, identity, and solidarity of those communities. Third, that a failure on the part of migrants to assimilate to the cultures of their receiving communities has contributed significantly to conflicts around the world.

*This possibility would* regulate human migration to preserve the cultural unity and heritage of our nation and local communities. It would also foster policies that encourage migrants to assimilate to the norms of the communities to which they migrate. These norms may vary by location, but it is important for migrants to adapt to them, because it eases the transition by bringing their behavior in line with those of their new neighbors.

*This possibility emphasizes* the idea that we should take into account the overall number of people migrating from one place to any given community when making public policy decisions about human migration and immigration. For while a single migrant may have no choice but to assimilate, a large number of people migrating from the same country have a greater support system and thus have fewer incentives to assimilate.



*This possibility is* not necessarily opposed to migrants preserving their own cultural identity and norms. Some communities may perceive themselves as culturally diverse and tolerant of others. Their members may believe that cultural homogeneity leads to intolerance and discrimination. They may think that fear and prejudice too often lead to xenophobia. And they may maintain that the current flow of migrants and immigrants is not as diverse as it should be. Members of such communities may think that exposing themselves to people from different places and cultures will broaden and change their perspectives. They may also think that it will improve mutual understanding, enrich their lives, and make them more accepting of each other. And they may think that a greater openness and understanding of different cultures will diminish conflicts and make our own society less confrontational and prone to violence. Such communities would thus promote the acceptance of different cultures and aim at reducing bias toward migrants.



## Possible Implementations

## Possible Effects of These Actions

### *We could-*

### *These actions could-*

Require all new migrants to an area to attend ‘new members’ meetings to learn the norms and mores of the community

▶ Create a common, shared experience for all newcomers, helping them to assimilate

Exclude or ban certain groups of people from settling in certain communities

▶ Strengthen cohesion among like groups; cause conflicts among unlike groups

Base immigration quotas on the current ethnic makeup of the U.S.—make immigration ‘look like America’

▶ Drastically cut Latin and Asian immigration and increase African and European immigration

Favor younger rather than older immigrants for their greater likelihood to assimilate into local communities

▶ Shift the demographic composition in the country to favor younger immigrants

Build up intercultural institutions, e.g., local community centers, schools, parks and recreation services

▶ Create open public spaces for people to mingle, interact, and meet other members of their communities

Limit the overall number of people who are allowed to immigrate

▶ Lead to a fewer unassimilated individuals

Create cross-cultural groups that work at solving common problems

▶ Promote creativity in problem solving and increase understanding among different groups within communities

### For Further Discussion...

- ▶ Do you believe that most communities have their own special identities? If so, what do you think determines the identity of a community and why?
- ▶ What do you think constitutes assimilation to a local community? And why?
- ▶ What might it mean for U.S. citizens who migrate domestically to assimilate to their new communities? And why?
- ▶ How much assimilation is enough? And why?
- ▶ How long does it take to assimilate? And how long are we willing to wait for migrants to assimilate?

### Notes:

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## Put the Economy First

This possibility would facilitate human migration to improve the economy.

*This possibility flows* from three different concerns about the economy that relate to human migration. First, people do not always live where their labor, skills, and talents are most needed. Second, many jobs go unfilled in certain industries because it is difficult and expensive for people to move. Third, migrant workers are often willing to work for less pay than established members of a community, and may thus displace them either by taking their jobs or by lowering their income. It recognizes that migrants often move to new communities to find higher-paying jobs and better working conditions. It maintains that the economic growth and development of our citizens and our nation as a whole should be our primary goal in developing public policy pertaining to human migration. And it holds that government can help human migration improve the economy by providing potential workers with more information about our labor needs, and by facilitating the relocation of workers to where we need them the most.

*There are many* economic interests that are relevant to human migration, such as the development of the economy as a whole, the development of effective labor markets, and the protection of local labor. This possibility would try to balance them in a way that improves our economy. It recognizes that migrants can spur innovation, create new jobs, and develop our national wealth. It also maintains that competition is good for economic growth.



*It would thus* facilitate the movement of migrants to places where their labor, skills, and talents are best suited and best able to contribute to both their own personal economic growth and development and the economic growth and development of our country.

*This possibility recognizes* that human migration can be a boon to communities with labor needs that their own members either cannot or will not fulfill. But it also recognizes that migrants to a new community are often ready, able, and willing to do jobs for less money, less job security, and fewer benefits than the community's established members. And it recognizes that workers often want and need to stay in their jobs. This possibility would thus try to reduce migrant competition for jobs that the established members of a community are ready, willing and able to do as an expression of moral solidarity with those workers. It would thus facilitate immigration and domestic migration to fill unfilled jobs, give people greater economic security, and improve our individual and national economic welfare.

## Possible Implementations

## Possible Effects of These Actions

### *We could-*

### *These actions could-*

Change immigration laws to ease short-term migration for work	▶ Increase production or lower wages
Expand tax deductions for various job-related relocations	▶ Reduce the costs of moving, making the labor force more flexible
Maintain a database with information on labor markets in different regions	▶ Provide a transparent labor market; be ineffective if it is not an online service
Invest in industries that have a shortage of workers and encourage people to be career-minded—as opposed to job-minded	▶ Lead to greater inefficiency due to government direction of labor flows; make it impossible for people to have a career
Provide incentives—such as moving costs, training, or better renting options—for people to move where the jobs are	▶ Weaken communities; distort the housing market; undermine the intention behind the possibility in the long run
Offer work visas for foreign graduates of American universities in specialties where there is a shortage of workers	▶ Retain the best minds that will be able to contribute to the domestic economy

### For Further Discussion...

- ▶ Do you believe that government can effectively regulate human migration to meet the needs of the labor market? Why or why not?
- ▶ Whose needs would this possibility would best serve: migrating workers, the local communities to which they migrate, or the nation as a whole? And why?
- ▶ Is it more important to protect the jobs of low-skilled local labor than it is to protect the jobs of high-skilled local labor? Why or why not?
- ▶ Do you believe that we have an obligation to protect the jobs of the established members of local communities even if migrants are ready and willing to do the same quality work for less pay? Why or why not?
- ▶ Do you agree that people move primarily for economic reasons? And if so, what are some of the non-job related economic reasons that might lead them to move?

### Notes:

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## Keep Families Together

This possibility would foster family and community relationships when making policy decisions pertaining to human migration.

*This possibility emerges* from the belief that families and close communities are the basic building blocks of our society. It also flows from a concern that immigration policies pertaining to families consider only immediate family members as relevant for reunification purposes. It maintains that severing relationships among members of the larger community may lead to feelings of isolation and alienation for some migrants, and that this could create social problems. It thus maintains that governments should honor the wishes of families and friends to live together when making policy decisions affecting human migration. And it would expand the notion of “family member” to include close friends and loved ones.

*This possibility sees* the reunification of families—broadly defined—as both a moral and practical issue. Families can function more efficiently as units when they divide their roles and responsibilities among their members. It is also usually less expensive for family members to live together.

*This possibility is* motivated by a desire to avoid disrupting the social fabric of a community that has to be relocated and to make it easier for its members to adjust to a new environment. It is also motivated by the beliefs that people who are responsible for families are more likely to work and to be law-abiding members of their communities, and that migrants and immigrants

who have strong family support systems are more likely to engage in entrepreneurial activities than those who do not.

*This possibility is* steeped in family and community values and would encourage government, non-governmental local support systems, and civil society organizations to help facilitate human migration. Its priority would be to enable migrants and immigrants to live with their families and close friends. This might not foster assimilation, but it would encourage strong and healthy relationships among families and their friends. And it could simultaneously reduce the need for social services, since immigrants would have a familial base or a preexisting network of relatives to help them make the transition.



## Possible Implementations

## Possible Effects of These Actions

### *We could-*

### *These actions could-*

Make zoning codes more family friendly	▶ Enable several generations to live together
Support families that would otherwise be separated—such as military families or families with family members in prison—to live together	▶ Cost a lot of money and distort the housing market; keep families together even though one spouse may not be there on a daily basis
Let U.S. citizens decide what constitutes a family	▶ Keep traditional American family values for immigration purposes
Let immigrants decide who constitutes their family members, thereby allowing a wide range of “extended relations,” such as family servants, godchildren, friends, and lovers to immigrate with them	▶ Increase adoption rates if that makes it easier to immigrate; render the receiving society powerless in the matter, but responsible for its consequences; change the local notion of a family
Give priority to the migration of family and friends over people migrating for jobs or as asylum seekers	▶ Result in simultaneously strengthening families, their economic development, and their emotional wellbeing
Stop requiring families to prove that they can financially support the prospective immigrant	▶ Lead to more immigrants who depend on the state
Provide low-interest government “travel loans” to bring in family members from abroad	▶ Lead to chain migration; entail large up front costs that never get paid back

### For Further Discussion...

- ▶ What do you think constitutes a family or a community? Who should decide this and why?
- ▶ Do you think the definition of a family should be specific to each culture? Why or why not?
- ▶ Do you think we should prioritize certain types of families and communities? If so, which types? And why? What concerns might arise from prioritizing certain kinds of families or communities?
- ▶ Do you think that a local community can be overwhelmed by migrants? If so, why so? If not, why not? And if so, how many migrants are too many? How might the policy address concerns about the capacity of local communities to accept new migrants?
- ▶ Do you think that this possibility would help or hinder assimilation? Why or why not?

### Notes:

## Embrace Freedom of Movement

This possibility would embrace the freedom of people to move whenever and wherever they see fit by removing all domestic and international barriers to human migration.

*This possibility flows* from the beliefs that freedom of movement is an integral part of human liberty, that it is a good in-and-of-itself, and that it is or ought to be a human right. It also flows from concerns that governmental attempts to limit or restrict human migration undermine our freedom and rights, hinder the free movement of people in ways that are harmful, costly and often ineffective. It thus maintains that it is immoral to restrict human migration in any way.

*This possibility would* allow people to move freely across domestic, national, and international borders. Government would not put limits on human migration, or restrict the movement of people against their will. Indeed, at its extreme, this possibility would even abandon the idea of national citizenship, and the ideas of immigration and emigration along with it, in favor of people being citizens of the world. The free flow of people that it would enable would thus allow citizens to exercise their freedom and rights by “voting with their feet” and moving to wherever they want to live.

*The free movement* of people can counter discrimination, exploitation, and modern day slavery. Cultural diversity can mitigate extremism and social conflicts that might otherwise arise between different ethnic, tribal, and religious groups. It helps to improve cultural awareness and tolerance within and among the different nations of the world. It thus maintains that governments should generally embrace greater mobility by allowing people to decide whether, where, when, and how they want to move without restricting their movements.

*This possibility recognizes* that freedom of movement may initially result in culture clash and conflicts among different national, ethnic, tribal, and religious groups. But it also recognizes that human migration, and especially immigration, is a human right and a special part of our American identity. And it would thus encourage people to migrate whenever and wherever they want and are able to migrate.



*This possibility also recognizes* that it is a human right to live a nomadic life—and that it is also a human right not to move at all. It thus maintains that neither governments nor private entities should be able to force people to relocate against their will. It would, however, try to instill the basic sense of freedom of movement by allowing people to move wherever they want. It would thus encourage governments around the world to take a hands-off approach toward human migration regardless of the reasons people might want to migrate.

## Possible Implementations

## Possible Effects of These Actions

### *We could-*

### *These actions could-*

Repeal laws restricting human migration, including dismantling immigration and Visa systems and encourage other countries to do the same

▶ Cause confusion in the legal system; lead to loss of jobs; less security and an increase in crime; cause a brain-drain from certain areas

Change current immigration and human migration policies and regulations and introduce an open border policy so that everyone can come and work in the United States

▶ Provoke sending communities to pass laws restricting emigration to limit the 'brain-drain' and loss of their working forces; lead to greater diversity

Allow newcomers to the U.S. to vote and enjoy all of the other rights of citizenship very shortly after they arrive

▶ Make the newcomers feel welcome; disrupt the democratic process if they are not familiar with democratic culture

Monitor human migration for security reasons, but do not restrict it

▶ Ensure security; lead to a much more transient society

Reduce spending on welfare programs that allow people to stay in economically depressed areas

▶ Enable only the self-sufficient to travel; create regions of wealth and regions of abject poverty

Treat a person's ability to migrate as if there were no national citizenships, thus allowing anyone who can afford to migrate to migrate

▶ Give rise to a wide array of business and non-profit organizations; ranging from transportation to immigrant support groups

Take an incremental "step-by-step" approach when implementing this policy

▶ Make it easier for people to adjust to the consequences

### For Further Discussion...

- ▶ Do you think that freedom of movement is a human right, and that people around the world should be free to move wherever they want? Why or why not? Would it make a difference to the way you think if you had the freedom and liberty to migrate but no opportunity to move?
- ▶ Do you think that a world without national borders and citizenship could actually work? Why or why not?
- ▶ Do you think that a free flow of people would be good even if it hindered the economic growth and prosperity of our nation? Why or why not?
- ▶ Do you think that it would be senseless to adopt this possibility if other governments refused to adopt it? If so, why so? If not, why not? And if so, do you worry that immigrants from different political cultures may have a detrimental effect upon our democracy and its processes?
- ▶ Do you think that open borders would result in increased levels of crime? Or decreased national security? Or environmental or cultural problems? If so, why so? If not, why not? And if so, do you think that governments should regulate migration for these reasons?

# On Contrasts & Choices

The six possibilities in this report contrast with each other on a conceptual level. This means that they flow from different It would be impossible to consistently adopt them all at the same time. You must, instead, choose among them. Below is a grid

Possibilities	Concerns	Beliefs
<p><b>A. Put Security First</b></p> <p>Regulates human migration to ensure our security against domestic, international, and cross-border threats</p>	<p>Human migration can threaten the security of a community on domestic and global levels</p>	<p>The security of a community should take precedence over the benefits of human migration</p>
<p><b>B. Privilege Human Rights &amp; Humanitarian</b></p> <p>Give first priority to humanitarian crisis and human rights violations when deciding whether or not to allow people to migrate. Try to anticipate, prepare for, and prevent such crises, violations, and natural disasters--and to ameliorate their consequences</p>	<p>We currently do not help the people who have the greatest need or are the most oppressed, but rather those who get the most publicity</p>	<p>We have a special responsibility to care for those whose human rights and lives are threatened; large groups of people sometimes have to move because of humanitarian crises, human rights violations, and natural disasters</p>
<p><b>C. Promote Assimilation into Local Communities</b></p> <p>Encourages migrants to assimilate to the social, cultural, and political norms of their receiving communities</p>	<p>Migrants' assimilation is often superficial; their reluctance or inability to embrace the mores, customs, values, and goals of the communities to which they migrate can weaken the social cohesion, identity, and solidarity of those communities</p>	<p>Migrants are often reluctant to adopt the social, cultural, and political norms and values of the communities to which they migrate</p>
<p><b>D. Put the Economy First</b></p> <p>Facilitates human migration to improve the economy</p>	<p>People do not always live where their labor, skills, and talents are most needed; many jobs go unfilled in certain industries because it is difficult and expensive for people to move; migrant workers may displace established members of a receiving community because they are often willing to work for less pay</p>	<p>Most migrants move to new communities for economic reasons; migrants often move for the sole purpose of finding higher-paying jobs and better working conditions; the economic growth and development of our citizens and nation should be our primary goal in developing public policy pertaining to human migration</p>
<p><b>E. Keep Families Together</b></p> <p>Fosters family and community relationships when making policy decisions pertaining to human migration</p>	<p>Our immigration policies pertaining to families consider only immediate family members as relevant for reunification purposes; a failure to keep families and friends together may sever relationships among community members</p>	<p>Families and close communities are the basic building blocks of our society; we should help them to stay together whenever possible</p>
<p><b>F. Embrace Freedom of Movement</b></p> <p>Embraces the freedom of people to move whenever and wherever they see fit by removing all domestic and international barriers to human migration</p>	<p>Government attempts to limit or restrict human migration undermine our freedom and rights, hinder the free movement of people in ways that are often harmful, and are costly and often ineffective</p>	<p>Freedom of movement is an integral part of human liberty; the free movement of people is or ought to be a human right</p>



# On Contrasts & Choices

concerns, beliefs, values, interests, and goals. It also means that they move in different philosophical and political directions. that compares the possibilities, along with the concerns, beliefs, values, interests and goals from which they flow.

Values	Interests	Goals
<p style="text-align: center;">Security</p> <p>Autonomy of a community</p>	<p>Secure families &amp; communities</p> <p>Reduced crime</p> <p>Reduced spread of disease</p>	<p>To secure the well-being of communities and protect their members on both a community and global level</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Compassion</p> <p>Human rights</p> <p>Readiness</p> <p>Migrants' rights</p>	<p>To help the needy</p> <p>To make large migrations less destructive</p> <p>To help migrants and their new communities</p>	<p>To meet basic human needs</p> <p>To help the ones who suffer the most</p> <p>To anticipate, prepare for, prevent, and ameliorate the consequences of such migrations</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Local identity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Culture</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Heritage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peace</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Unity</p> <p>Strong community</p> <p>Helping migrants</p>	<p>Preservation of the cultural unity and heritage of our nation and its communities, social harmony, help migrants</p>	<p>For migrants to assimilate to the social, cultural, and political norms of their receiving communities; maintain the social harmony of receiving communities</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Employment</p> <p>Economic growth</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Efficiency</p> <p>Mobility of labor</p> <p>Helping migrants</p>	<p>The development of the economy as a whole, the development of effective labor markets, and the protection of local labor</p>	<p>To regulate human migration so as to fill jobs, give people greater economic security, improve our individual and national economic welfare</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Unity of family</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength of a community</p> <p>Family reunification, broadly defined, as both a moral and practical issue</p>	<p>Strong and healthy family relationships, close communities</p>	<p>Maintain the social fabric of a community that has to relocate; make it easier for its members to adjust to their new location through mutual support</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Freedom of movement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">World peace</p>	<p>Greater mobility; counter discrimination, exploitation, and modern-day slavery; mitigate extremism and social conflicts; help improve cultural awareness and tolerance</p>	<p>Allow people to move freely across domestic, national, and international borders</p>

# Additional Policy Possibilities

The panelists developed many other policy possibilities that were eliminated or combined during the process due to the limited space in the printed version. But you can see some of those possibilities below and more of them on our website: [www.interactivityfoundation.org](http://www.interactivityfoundation.org)

## Promote Short-Term Migration

- ▶ This possibility would promote mobility and short-term migration over long-term migration in order to maximize the benefits that come from short-term migration and avoid the negative impacts of long-term migration on individuals, groups, infrastructure, and society at large.

## Allow State & Local Choice

- ▶ This possibility would allow state and local governments to decide whether and when migrants and immigrants can relocate to their jurisdictions.

## Enforce Our Laws

- ▶ This possibility would protect and enforce existing laws and regulations pertaining to immigration and human migration because they reflect the wishes of the nation.

## Migrate Online

- ▶ This possibility would encourage online social and economic interactions to make online migration an alternative to physical migration. It conceives migrating into a virtual space as a form of human migration.

## Build Democracies Abroad

- ▶ This possibility would promote democracy and economic development in foreign countries in an attempt to address the root causes of immigration.

Your Policy Possibility \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## An Open Invitation To Further Discussion & Interactivity

*We hope that* you will use this report to carry forward the discussion begun by our project panels.

*We have developed* a citizen discussion process that may be useful for groups interested in discussing the ideas presented in our reports or in discussing matters of public interest more generally. We have also developed facilitation and discussion guidebooks to assist in the planning and conduct of these discussions. These materials, as well as copies of this and other Interactivity Foundation reports, may be downloaded from our website (listed below). You can obtain additional printed copies of any of our publications (at no cost) by sending us a request that briefly indicates their intended use.

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Finally, we welcome your comments, ideas, and other feedback about this report, its possibilities, any of our publications, or our discussion processes.

You may contact us via any of the addresses listed below:

Interactivity Foundation  
PO Box 9  
Parkersburg, WV 26102-0009  
Website: <http://www.interactivityfoundation.org>

E-mail: if AT citynet.net

Copyright © 2013 Interactivity Foundation, some rights reserved  
Project Manager & Editor: Ieva Notturmo

Art Director: Calida Garcia Rawles