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**Refugee Advocacy Organizations:
Factors that Influence Success in The United States and Ireland**

by

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Advisor: Dr. Rogelio Contreras

**An Honors Thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Bachelor of
Science in International Business**

**Sam M. Walton College of Business
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Abstract

This thesis is a comparative study of refugee advocacy organizations in Ireland and in the United States. The goal is to research and study some of the best practices that refugee support organizations utilize and report how these two countries address the ever-growing refugee crisis. This study assesses the applications and operations in both organizations and determines how these practices contribute to the fulfillment of their missions. This better understanding of the strengths and struggles experienced by these organizations will support the development of a model and framework for successful social welfare initiatives. Within this thesis, the social initiatives in Ireland and the United States are compared, and the political and social factors are assessed. Political, social, and economic factors can have a huge impact on the success of a social initiative. These factors greatly effect these organizations and their ability to impact the refugees they work with and subsequently achieve their goals.

While The United States and Ireland seem to be similar in many political and social aspects, there are certainly many differences between the two countries. These differences have a large impact on the domestic and global affairs within each country. By assessing the social values and political trends within the two countries, this thesis contributes to a better understanding of how political and social factors influence social welfare.

Introduction: Refugees in the World

All over the World, people are being forcibly displaced from their homes and families. Of the nearly 100 million displaced people worldwide, over 32 million of them are classified as refugees (*UNHCR*). According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, a refugee is defined as someone who has fled their country in order to escape war, violence, or persecution (*UNHCR*). The global refugee crisis is a growing problem, with many countries taking in more asylum-seekers than they ever have before.

Although humans have been fleeing violence and persecution for thousands of years, the first modern definition of international refugee status appeared in 1921 (*Wikipedia*). Around this time, the League of Nations, the first international organization, created the Commission for Refugees (HRC) in response to the vast numbers of people fleeing Eastern Europe. The HRC provided internationally recognized travel documents to those who had been displaced during the First World War (*Origins*). These documents, called Nansen Passports, were the first officially recognized travel documents that served to support refugees as they fled war and violence. Unfortunately, World War II and the rise of fascism in Europe disrupted the efforts of the HRC. Nazi Germany's persecution of the Jewish and other minorities left hundreds of thousands of people fleeing across and out of Europe (*Refugee History*). Nearly 40 million people were displaced by the Second World War, and nations around the globe came together in order to solve this problem. In 1951, during the aftermath of the War, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was developed to create solutions to the global refugee crisis. Although the UNHCR was initially supposed to last only three years, the organization is still hard at work, protecting and supporting refugees around the world (*UNHCR*).

Since the creation of the UNHCR, the organization has been involved in assisting refugees in many types of global and national emergencies. From their second major project during the Hungarian Revolution to the support of refugees throughout Africa, Asia, South America, and the Middle East, the UNHCR has helped well over 50 million refugees successfully restart their lives. Today, the organization has nearly 20,000 personnel and a budget exceeding \$8 billion (*UNHCR*). The UNHCR paved a path for thousands of smaller refugee advocacy organizations across the globe. Today, there are a wide variety of international, national, and local refugee support groups all over the world. Despite this, the number of refugees across the globe has grown in the past few decades, and many countries are struggling to support the vast amount of people fleeing violence, war, and persecution.

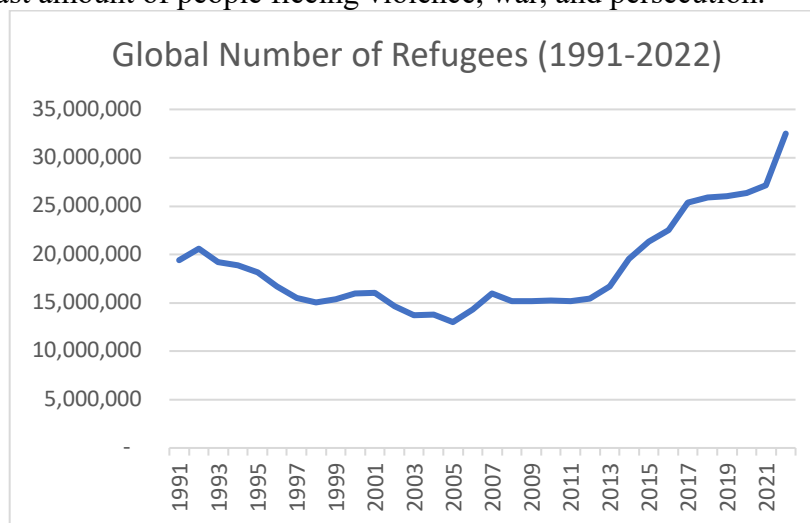


Figure 1: Growing number of global refugees from 1991-2022 (*UNHCR*)

Modern Refugee Crises

Today, the number of refugees seeking asylum is massive, and it continues to rise. As of mid-2022, over 70% of the global refugee population originate from just five countries: South Sudan, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Venezuela, and the Syrian Arab Republic (*UNHCR*). The primary causes of these refugee crises are war, violence, and unstable governments throughout the world. Although these five countries make up the majority of the global refugee crisis, there are still millions of people seeking refuge from other countries around the globe. These modern refugee crises have dramatically affected the rising number of global asylum seekers and billions of dollars in aid are being spent each year trying to solve these issues.

For over ten years, Syria has remained a country with one of the world's largest refugee crises. The Syrian refugee crisis is the result of a violent government crackdown that ultimately led to a civil war within the country. Since 2011, more than 6.8 million Syrians have been forced to leave their country and another 6.9 million people remain internally displaced within the country (*How to Help Refugees*). Syrian refugees have sought asylum in more than 130 countries, but the vast majority have found refuge in neighboring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. Over 70% of these Syrian refugees are still living in poverty, and the massive influx of refugees has caused economic instability within neighboring countries (*How to Help Refugees*).

One of the other major refugee crises in the world is a result of the war in Ukraine. Since the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, thousands of civilians have been killed and millions of people have fled the country. As of March 2023, the UNHCR reports over 8 million refugees from Ukraine have been displaced across Europe (*CREAM*). Despite many people returning to Ukraine, the war continues to impact the lives of those within the country and it is estimated that over 17 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023 (*Ukraine Emergency: Aid, Statistics and News*). The war in Ukraine has caused ripple effects across the globe – disrupting supply chains and increasing the price of valuable commodities like food and fuel. Unfortunately, this has put a great amount of strain on global efforts to support countries going through similar crises (*Ukraine Emergency: Aid, Statistics and News*).

For the past decade, South Sudan has been another location of mass refugee exodus. Nearly 2.3 million South Sudanese have fled to neighboring countries since 2013, making the country home to the largest refugee crisis in Africa (*How to Help Refugees - Aid, Relief and Donations*). Although South Sudan was established as a new country only 12 years ago, conflict has continued to rattle the people living there. War, economic decline, disease, and hunger have forced millions of people to seek asylum elsewhere. Like most refugee crises, the vast majority of those seeking refuge are women and children. Unfortunately, children make up 63% of the total South Sudanese refugee population and the bulk of these children are uneducated (*How to Help Refugees - Aid, Relief and Donations*).

For over 40 years, Afghan refugees have continued to make up one of the largest displacement situations around the world. Throughout the past few decades, more than 6 million Afghans have been driven out of their country due to prolonged violence, conflict, and poverty (*Afghanistan Refugees: Facts & Crisis News*). The Taliban's takeover of Kabul in 2021 exacerbated the severity of this issue. The impact of this conflict has been particularly devastating for women and girls who have been forced to flee due to the threat of violent attacks and sexual assaults. Of the millions of civilians that have been forcibly displaced in Afghanistan, 80% of them are women and children (*Afghanistan Refugees: Facts & Crisis News*).

Venezuela, a country that has traditionally been a host to refugees, is currently facing its own displacement crisis. Rampant violence, inflation, and soaring crime rates have caused millions of people in Venezuela to flee to neighboring countries (*How to Help Refugees - Aid, Relief and Donations*). Nearly 6 million civilians within the country have been displaced globally, and at one point, an estimated 5,000 people were leave the country each day. Unfortunately, a large portion of these displaced people lack documentation and are not guaranteed access to safety and basic human rights (*How to Help Refugees - Aid, Relief and Donations*). Although many countries have been involved in the effort to support Venezuela and its refugees, violence, starvation, and shortages of essential services continue to devastate the country.

Although the majority of global refugees are coming from the same areas of the world, the refugee crisis is an international issue that impacts all nations. Many nations have been expelling refugees for decades, and other nations have just begun to experience their own refugee crises. Nations such as Honduras, Haiti, Burkina Faso, Yemen, Congo, Mali, and many others have experienced vast amounts suffering and have dealt with massive displacement issues (*Wikipedia*). Although people seek asylum for a wide range of reasons such as hunger, violence, and poverty, the climate crisis is one of the more modern issues leading to displacement. Climate change is the defining crisis of the world currently, and disaster displacement one of its most devastating consequences (*UNHCR*). The number of refugees across the world is massive and unfortunately, the issue could continue to get worse. As the climate crisis worsens and inequality becomes more rampant, more people will become displaced and will need support. In order to create lasting change, immediate action needs to be taken to improve the assistance provided to oppressed and displaced populations.

In most global refugee crises, the vast majority of refugees are women and children who have fled to neighboring countries. Unfortunately, these neighboring destinations are often developing countries facing issues of their own. As a result, developing regions have continued to assume a disproportionately large responsibility for hosting refugees and asylum seekers (*UNHCR - Europe*). Although it is most common for refugees to flee to nearby countries, the European Union and the United States have historically been common destinations for refugees. The European Union (EU) has long been an area of protection for people fleeing persecution or serious harm in their country of origin. Since the 1951 Geneva Convention on the protection of refugees, most countries in the EU have recognized that asylum is a fundamental right (*Migration and Home Affairs*). The United States has also been a leader in the resettlement of refugees. Until recently, the United States offered refuge to the most people each year. This was quickly changed under the Trump administration when the maximum number of refugees that could enter the country each year was drastically reduced (*American Immigration Council*). The United States has numerous allies within the European Union and the two areas of the world are thought to be fairly similar to one another, especially when compared to the rest of the globe. While the United States is close with many countries in the EU, there is no European country more similar to the U.S. than Ireland.

The United States and Ireland have shared close relations for decades. Economically, the two countries have significant investment in one another and are similar in many ways. The intertwined nature of Irish and American businesses has had a massive impact on the economies within both countries. The impact that the United States has had on the Irish economy and culture is massive, and in many ways, the U.S. is thought to be Ireland's closest ally. There is certainly a difference in the sociocultural norms between the two countries, however, they

continue to remain extremely close. The similarities in politics, cultures, and economies between these two countries make them prime candidates for a comparison.

Case Study

Methods

This case study involved a thorough literature review of the history of refugees both internationally, and in the United States and Ireland. The policies and interventions around immigration within these countries were also explored. Additionally, the researcher interviewed an employee at each of the studied organizations. Supporting documents regarding the two organizations were obtained from the respective websites, reviewed, and incorporated into this thesis. The University of Arkansas' Internal Review Board approved the research protocol during the fall of 2022.

Refugees in the United States

People have been seeking refuge in the United States for decades. The United States Bureau of Immigration was created in 1891 to oversee the admission of immigrants, including those considered refugees (*USCIS*). Since then, refugee policy has been a major topic in U.S. political and social affairs. After World War II and the establishment of the UNHCR, the United States became a global leader in the assistance of refugees. During this time, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) administered refugee admissions and the government developed several programs to help support refugees around the world. The INS continued to oversee refugee admissions into the U.S. until the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) took over in 2003 (*USCIS*). Since the USCIS began operations, hundreds of thousands of refugees have entered the United States and the department has created several additional programs to support these people.

Today, the President and Congress determine a numerical ceiling for refugee admissions into the United States. Then, the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security assess which refugees will be granted asylum (*American Immigration Council*). While the United States has historically led the world in refugee resettlement numbers, admissions fell dramatically under President Donald Trump (*Migrationpolicy*). The Trump administration reduced the number of refugees that would be allowed into the country each year and increased the difficulty of obtaining refugee status. In 2018, the United States fell behind Canada as the top resettlement country globally (*Migrationpolicy*). In 2020, the refugee ceiling was set at an all-time low of 18,000, down from the previous all-time low of 30,000 set in 2019. This reduction in the refugee ceiling made it very difficult for those seeking asylum to begin the legal process of obtaining refugee status in the United States. Also in 2020, the Covid-19 Pandemic temporarily suspended the refugee resettlement program, and less than 12,000 refugees were ultimately accepted into the United States (*American Immigration Council*). As seen in *Figure 2* below, the number of refugees admitted into the United States was noticeably low during 2021. Although the Biden administration has pledged to reverse this trend and has raised the refugee ceiling significantly, the number of refugee admissions into the country has remained far lower than it was only a few years ago (*Migrationpolicy*).

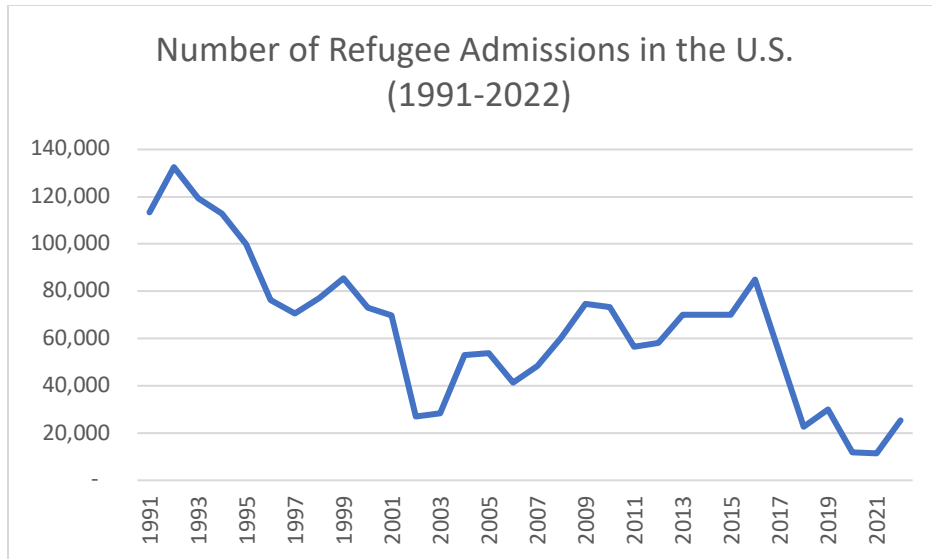


Figure 2: Number of refugees admitted into the United States from 1991-2022 (Statista)

Although refugee policy in the United States continues to change each year and is controlled by the central government, there are many private and non-profit organizations that serve to promote and protect the rights of refugees. Across the globe, these types of organizations make a large impact on the lives of refugees and the refugee crisis as a whole. In the United States, one of these refugee advocacy and resettlement organizations is Canopy NWA, located in Northwest Arkansas.

Canopy NWA

Canopy NWA's story began in 2015, when dozens of residents across the Northwest Arkansas (NWA) community came together to respond to the worsening global refugee crisis. Although these community members wanted to help, they quickly found that there were very few ways to support refugees through resettlement assistance. At the time, there were no active resettlement agencies in Northwest Arkansas, and these community members wanted to change that. In January of 2016, Canopy NWA's first meeting took place in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The very next month, the group began organizing to meet the criteria to become a refugee resettlement agency (*Canopy Northwest Arkansas*). The group united on the desire to provide refugees with a good, safe home in Northwest Arkansas - and the understanding that NWA would be a stronger, more diverse community thanks to these new neighbors. In October of 2016, Canopy was officially designated as a refugee resettlement site and began to welcome their first families to Northwest Arkansas (*Canopy Northwest Arkansas*).

In the United States, the government is primarily responsible for refugee acceptance and resettlement. After refugees are accepted by the State Department of Refugees, there are a handful of national agencies that serve to find safe and healthy places for these refugees to go. Each of the national agencies then subcontracts resettlement operations to smaller entities like Canopy NWA. When Canopy was founded, they partnered with the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) so that they could begin to accept refugees into Northwest Arkansas. After the LIRS conducted research on the area, they concluded that Northwest Arkansas would be a perfect home for refugees entering the country. This partnership allowed Canopy to get their start, and the LIRS has continued to support the organization and assign refugees to NWA.

Canopy's primary approach to refugee advocacy comes in the form of resettlement assistance. In recent years, the organization has had the capacity to resettle 100-150 refugees in

the area. They are assigned refugees from the LIRS and work to integrate these refugees into the community. The first step that Canopy takes is to assign each refugee or family of refugees a group of co-sponsors from within the community. These sponsors help in each aspect of the resettlement process and help to garner community support for new refugees. Once these people arrive in Arkansas, Canopy helps them to secure permanent, safe, and affordable housing within the community. Once they have a comfortable place to live, the groups of sponsors come together to help the refugees navigate their new lives and find employment. Through cultural orientation, job training, and English language classes, Canopy is able to help these refugees build new lives and become self-sufficient (*Canopy Northwest Arkansas*). Support from the community is integral to the success of these refugees, and fortunately, dozens of businesses and people from around the community have helped to support and employ these people. Canopy's goal is to have these refugees self-sufficient within 90 days of their arrival, however, the organization continues to provide support beyond that time. The support from the community has been a massive part of Canopy's success, and since the foundation of the organization, Northwest Arkansas has resettled nearly 500 refugees from more than 15 different countries.

Without the support of the community, hard-working employees, and funding sources, Canopy wouldn't be able to continue their pursuing their goals. Canopy NWA has over 30 employees and has hundreds of volunteers throughout the community. Collectively, the Canopy team speaks over a dozen languages (*Canopy Northwest Arkansas*). Although the organization has received a lot of aid from the local community, it has become increasingly difficult for these types of groups to obtain governmental funding. While many refugee advocacy and resettlement organizations rely heavily on governmental funding, Canopy has been able to survive due to community engagement and private fundraising. Currently, Canopy NWA is funded by its own fundraising efforts, private foundations and donors, and governmental agencies. These sources combined have allowed the organization to obtain a reasonable amount of funding and continue to accept new refugees.

Although many refugee advocacy and resettlement organizations in the United States have been unable to survive in recent years, Canopy has continued to grow and provide support for those in need. That being said, the organization still faces many challenges in their efforts to assist refugees. The resettlement of refugees comes with many obstacles and integrating these people into a new society can be very difficult. For most resettlement organizations, finding employment for refugees is one of the largest issues. However, Northwest Arkansas has a plethora of employment opportunities, and finding jobs for incoming refugees has not been a major difficulty for Canopy NWA. Since Canopy first began operations, people from all over the community have come together to support these asylum seekers and help them become financially independent. Although Canopy has been successful in socially integrating refugees and helping them obtain stable jobs, the organization has faced struggles in other areas.

According to the Director of Economic Advancement, Khalid Ahmadzai, the two major challenges that Canopy NWA deals with are transportation and housing. Canopy NWA seeks out housing for all of their resettled refugees and helps to financially support these people in their first few months in the United States. In Northwest Arkansas, housing and rental prices have increased dramatically in recent years. This has made it difficult to find safe and reasonable accommodations for Canopy's refugees. Transportation is another major challenge for refugees entering the country. None of the refugees being resettled by Canopy have access to vehicles or transportation when they first arrive. Like many areas in the United States, Northwest Arkansas has very little opportunities for public transportation. The lack of public transportation and the

high cost of personal vehicles has been a major issue for refugees in this area. Despite this, the community has played a large role in supporting these refugees and overcoming these challenges. People within the Northwest Arkansas community have come together to donate vehicles, sponsor driving training, and expand transportation opportunities. With support from the community, Canopy NWA has been able to find solutions to many of the issues they face. This being said, the number of global refugees continues to grow, and refugee advocacy organizations all over the world will continue to face new challenges every day.

Refugees in Ireland

The country of Ireland has struggled with its own refugee crisis in the past. Between 1845 and 1855, more than 1.5 million people left Ireland to seek refuge in America. This was due to a disease that devastated Ireland's potato production, leaving many to suffer from starvation and sickness (*Constitutional Rights Foundation*). This catastrophe, called the Irish Potato Famine, killed more than 1 million people, and destroyed the economy of the country. The crisis impacted the country so heavily that there are less people living in Ireland today than there were in the mid-1840s (Powderly). Ireland continued to have political and social strife for decades, and much of the country's history was filled with violence. As time went on, the Irish people and economy began to recover, and the country became more economically and socially stable. Eventually, in 1973, Ireland joined the European Union (EU), and the country became more open to global trade and economic opportunities (*Wikipedia*). The country's admission into the EU helped them grow and gave them the funding to improve their infrastructure and socioeconomic conditions. Today, the country is thought to be one of the more developed countries and is home to a large amount of economic resources (*Wikipedia*). Despite having no real system for admitting refugees at first, Ireland has greatly improved their efforts to assist those seeking international protection. Eventually, the country created its first legislative framework for the acceptance of refugees in 1996 (*Irish Refugee Council*). Since then, the country has been working to support refugees through resettlement programs and global advocacy.

Since Ireland first began to accept refugees at a higher level, the country has experienced some struggles regarding refugee assistance. In 2000, the country established a system called Direct Provision in response to the increased levels of refugees entering the country. The system placed refugees into institutionalized communal centers and created other barriers to integration (*Irish Refugee Council*). Today, advocacy groups across the country continue to advocate for the establishment of an improved system (*Doras*). Despite some struggles, Ireland has continued to support refugees from around the world and is beginning to admit more people seeking international protection. In 2022, a record number of 13,319 people were granted asylum in Ireland. Along with these people, a further 70,000 Ukrainians were granted temporary protection within the country (*DublinLive*). Ireland has continued to make efforts to improve their refugee support programs and is projected to continue accepting more asylum seekers.

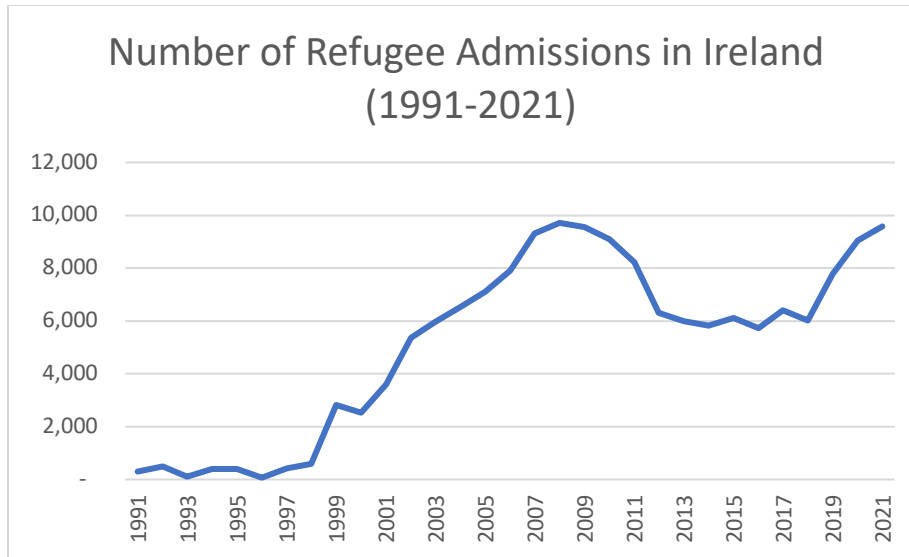


Figure 3: Number of refugees admitted into Ireland from 1991-2021 (MacroTrends)

In Ireland, there is also a large number of non-governmental refugee advocacy organizations. Although refugee policy in Ireland and the United States differs, these types of groups share the common goal of supporting refugees as they rebuild their lives. One of the most prominent refugee advocacy organizations in Ireland is Doras. The name Doras stands for Development Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. While the group initially began in Limerick Ireland, they now have operations throughout the entire nation.

Doras

Doras is a refugee and immigrant advocacy organization that was founded by a small group of dedicated volunteers in the year 2000. The creation of Doras was a response to the establishment of the Direct Provision system by the Irish government (*Doras*). Direct Provision is Ireland's reception system for refugees and asylum seekers. The system began in 2000 and works to accommodate refugees by placing them in communal centers and giving them weekly allowances. The majority of these centers are run by for-profit contractors and the system has failed asylum seekers for decades (*Doras*). Initially, Doras supported refugees by providing English classes and outreach visits to Direct Provision centers. Although Direct Provision was supposed to act as a temporary measure, unfortunately, the system is still active in Ireland 23 years later. Today, there are more than 7,000 people living in Direct Provision centers across Ireland, and Doras continues to search for a better solution to refugee resettlement (*Doras*).

Although Doras has continued to campaign for an end to the system of Direct Provision, their support for asylum seekers and refugees has expanded throughout the organizations lifetime. Today, the organization functions as an independent non-profit with a mission of promoting and upholding the human rights and well-being of migrants through personal advocacy, integration development, and collaborative advocacy campaigns. According to the Chief Executive Officer, John Lannon, Doras has grown to be much broader in terms of the migrant support they offer. Although Doras had a smaller reach at first, the organization now functions at the local and national level, serving to welcome new communities to Limerick and Ireland as a whole (*Doras*).

One of the national projects the organization is currently working on is a crime support project for migrant victims. The project aims to provide assistance to refugees and people from migrant backgrounds who are victims of crimes in Ireland. By providing education and legal

support, Doras is attempting to improve justice for refugees within Ireland. Another one of Doras's goals is to support refugees through political advocacy. In Ireland, the national government has responsibility for the reception and accommodation of refugees and asylum seekers. However, standards have dropped significantly, and many international protection applicants are arriving to the country with no assistance and nowhere to go. Doras has continued to advocate for these migrants by amplifying their voices and articulating on their behalf. The organization has built a significant reputation in their 23-year lifetime, and this credibility has allowed them to bring more attention to the national refugee issues within Ireland. Through press releases and meetings with government officials, Doras has brought people together and made real changes to the policies that affect refugees. By giving refugees and asylum seekers a platform and a voice, Doras has encouraged government-wide changes in support of refugee justice. Also, in 2021, Doras became a Regional Support Organization (RSO) and began to support refugees and migrants through community sponsorships. These community sponsorships provide financial and social support for people being resettled within local communities (*Doras*). While these newer forms of advocacy have been successful for Doras, the organization has continued to see progress with many of their existing forms of refugee assistance. Offering English language and career preparation courses has been extremely impactful for refugees entering the country. By offering these types of educational programs, Doras intends to fill the gaps in existing education and increase the opportunities for those seeking international protection within Ireland (*Doras*). Through community sponsorships, legal support, political advocacy, and educational assistance, Doras has had a direct impact on the lives of refugees within Ireland. Each year, Doras is able to provide some type of assistance to nearly 2,000 refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in need.

Without proper funding and engagement, it would be impossible for Doras to achieve their goals. The organization currently has about 19 staff members. Most of these employees are full-time workers, while only a few are part-time employees. Doras works hard to ensure participation and representation from diverse groups within the organization. For example, Doras currently has Ukrainian team members that help to engage and support the Ukrainian communities entering the country. Besides this, the organization employs several people who have been through the refugee process themselves. By integrating these people into the organization, Doras can provide better support to those in need. Like many refugee advocacy groups, Doras is funded through a variety of sources. That being said, the organization struggles to find core funding, and most of their funding is project or grant based. The primary sources of funding for the organization come from the Department of Children and the Department of Justice. Other than governmental funding, Doras also gets assistance from several EU partnerships, public donors, and faith-based organizations.

Despite the work of Doras and other refugee support groups, refugees continue to face major challenges in Ireland. Like many countries, Ireland has seen a significant increase in the number of international protection applicants in recent years. This influx of refugees has put strain on the existing refugee support systems in the country. Due to the high volume of refugees entering the country, the Irish government has had a hard time accommodating everyone. Ireland has struggled to provide refugees with access to housing, education, and health care. The poor standards for accommodation, lack of access to services, and general exclusion from society has made it increasingly difficult for refugees in the country. Doras has worked extremely hard to amplify the voices of these refugees and foster nationwide support for them. Without the

assistance from non-governmental organizations like Doras, refugees in Ireland would likely face even more hardships.

Factors of Success

Resettled refugees are majorly affected by the political, social, and economic environments of their new home countries. Both in Ireland and in the United States, the political atmosphere often determines the treatment and acceptance of displaced populations. Although Canopy NWA and Doras are supporting refugees in very different ways, the two organizations deal with many similar political challenges. In both Ireland and the United States, refugees frequently become a governmental scapegoat for the internal issues within the countries. Politicians in both countries often blame refugees and migrants for the economic strain that the rest of the country is facing. This rhetoric has a massive impact on the social acceptance and integration of refugees into society. In the United States, this issue is exemplified by the decreasing number of refugee admissions into the country. Although Ireland has moved in the opposite direction and is accepting more refugees than ever before, there are still several political figures in the country that continue to oppose the support of international protection applicants. Despite the political struggles, both Doras and Canopy NWA have been able to survive and continue supporting refugee populations.

A large portion of the success that Doras and Canopy NWA have had is attributed to the economic and social environments that they are located in. For Canopy NWA, the community surrounding the organization has played a massive role in their ability to support refugees. After the Trump administration decreased the refugee applicant ceiling in the United States, many refugee support organizations were unable to survive as their funding was massively reduced. The community surrounding Canopy came together and provided a large amount of financial support for the organization. This allowed Canopy to continue their efforts despite the lack of governmental support. The economic health of Northwest Arkansas has also meant that refugees resettling in the area have access to employment opportunities. Similarly, the societal support of refugees is growing in Ireland. After the Ukrainian refugee crisis, there was an outpouring of support for those seeking international protection. This support has benefited groups like Doras and has allowed them to continue advocating for refugees. Although both refugee advocacy organizations have faced political hurdles, the social and economic support they have received has allowed them to continue their missions and achieve some of their goals.

Both Canopy NWA and Doras have been successful despite having two very different approaches to refugee support and advocacy. Canopy NWA functions as a resettlement organization that assists refugees through financial support, employment assistance, and social integration initiatives. This method of support is more hands-on and focuses on providing direct assistance to refugees as they build their new lives. On the other hand, Doras has a slightly different approach. Doras functions more as an advocacy organization that seeks to amplify the voices of refugees and create political change nationwide. While Doras does provide educational and legal assistance, their primary initiatives focus more on political advocacy. This allows them to have a wider reach despite providing less direct support. The following table illustrates some of the major differences between Doras and Canopy NWA. Although the two organizations operate in very different ways, they have both seen success and could learn from each other's approaches to refugee advocacy and support.

	Canopy NWA	Doras
Organization Lifetime	~ 7 years (2016 - Present)	~ 23 years (2000 - Present)
Number of Employees	~ 30 employees	~ 19 Employees
Number of Displaced People Supported	~ 100-150/year (Nearly 500 refugees resettled in total)	~ 2,000/year (Nearly 30,000 in total)
Funding Mechanisms	Governmental Agencies, Private Donations, Self-Fundraising	Department of Children, Department of Justice, EU Partnerships, Public Donations and Faith-Based Donors
Approach to Refugee Support	Resettlement Support, Employment and Economic Advancement, Social Integration Assistance	Legal Support, Political Advocacy, Educational Support, Community Integration

Conclusion: Improving Advocacy for Refugees Around the World

The global refugee crisis has continued to grow in severity. Millions of people across the planet are displaced, and a large portion of them are seeking international protection from violence, persecution, hunger, and inequality. Although a large portion of global refugees are coming from the same areas of the world, the refugee crisis is an international issue that impacts all countries. As international leaders, it is the responsibility of developed nations such as Ireland and the United States to provide support for these oppressed populations. Despite this, many developed nations across the world have failed to provide reasonable accommodation and assistance to refugees. This has resulted in the development of many non-governmental refugee support agencies around the world.

While many of these refugee advocacy and support organizations function in very different ways, collectively, they have a massive impact on the global refugee crisis. Doras and Canopy NWA are prime examples of organizations providing meaningful support to refugees from all over the world. The two organizations have very different approaches to supporting migrants, however, they are both successful. Canopy NWA serves to directly support refugees and their families through resettlement assistance while Doras protects the rights of refugees through political advocacy and integration support. Although Doras may provide less direct support, they are generating government-wide changes to the ineffective systems in place. On the other hand, Canopy NWA is providing life-changing direct support, but on a narrower scale. While there is no single approach that is most effective in assisting refugees, these organizations can learn from each other's methods and collaborate to generate global change. The global refugee crisis is ongoing, and there will likely always be displaced populations in need of support. However, refugee advocacy and resettlement organizations will continue to make a massive difference and will provide more refugees with the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

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