



Why do they come?

Victims of violence, poverty and climate crisis, Central American refugees undergo hardships and uncertainty as they seek safety in the north.

Understanding the Trail of Tears



Presentation with visuals on climate refugees from Central America to the US/Mexican Border

Created and presented by Pat Hynes,
Director, [Traprock Center for Peace & Justice](https://www.traprockcenter.org/)

“There were many trails of tears all over North America of indigenous peoples who were forcibly removed by government forces.

The indigenous peoples who are making their way up from the southern hemisphere are a continuation of the Trail of Tears.”

– *An American Sunrise Prologue*, xv, by Joy Harjo. Poet, musician and author, Joy Harjo is the first Native American United States Poet Laureate.

Why do they leave?

Migration from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras to the US-Mexico border increased rapidly in 2007 through 2018, with even higher numbers expected in 2019. All three governments declared a national food emergency in 2017. That year a World Food Program study found nearly half of those leaving their Central American homes behind did so after their subsistence and small farms had failed from extended drought. Hunger drove their flight.

Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, known as the Northern Triangle countries, are located in the Central American Dry Corridor, a region especially vulnerable to climate change. 'Hotspot' temperatures, drought and floods, deforestation and sea level rise are driving poor people from their homes, small businesses and subsistence farms to our southern border. They are climate refugees.

Many are also escaping extreme violence, loss of land to extractive corporations and severe poverty. These are among the consequences of long-term US military and corporate involvement in their countries.

Pat Hynes welcomes the opportunity to present and discuss photos and facts regarding Central American migrants, including the roles of US imperialism and climate crisis in driving them to the US/Mexico border. She will also address climate policy solutions for these countries.

A retired professor of environmental health, Pat Hynes has been Director of the [Traprock Center for Peace and Justice](https://traprock.org) in western Massachusetts since 2010. She has written and edited seven books, among them "The Recurring Silent Spring." She writes and speaks on issues of war and militarism with an emphasis on women, environment, and public health. See her work on the Traprock website homepage and collected at: <https://traprock.org/the-pen-is-mightier-than-the-sword/> Contact her at: justicia@traprock.org

Help Traprock encourage awareness and discussion on key issues of our time.

This program is offered to community, religious and social action groups for a minimal donation, which helps fund our work. We provide the speaker, visuals (on USB stick or laptop), as well as a model poster and press release ready for your local information to be added. Your event will be announced through the Traprock website calendar and listserv, with emails reaching over 450 individuals and groups. In return, we ask that sponsoring groups provide an appropriate meeting space with audio-visual support, and do local outreach. A (tax-exempt) donation of \$50 or more for Traprock's work is appreciated.