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Introduction: Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies Immigration Project

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The Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies
Immigration Project

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies is pleased to announce the publication of its fifth annual Immigration Project. Every fall, the Journal publishes a series of student papers documenting important developments and trends in immigration or transiency-related legal issues. The papers in the Immigration Project are intended to create a point of reference for further research and scholarship. Notes provide in-depth substantive analysis of topics that reflect recent developments in immigration law. Trend papers document new or recurring issues surrounding different aspects of immigration.

II. IN THIS ISSUE

Two student Notes provide analyses of immigration-related legal issues involving at-risk persons. Working Toward a Global Discourse on Children’s Rights\(^1\) analyzes the international community’s response to the rise of children’s rights and the particular plight of unaccompanied child asylum seekers and refugees. Current substantive areas of international law are explored, advocating an updated international legal regime specifically addressing the issue of unaccompanied children. Vagabonds, Tinkers, and Travelers\(^2\) examines legal and social abuses of the Roma of Eastern Europe, asserting that their position is one of statelessness. The history of the Roma and their itinerant culture are explored as a context for proposing solutions to the dilemma facing this historically transient people.

Two student Trend Papers complete the project. China’s Newly Enacted Intercountry Adoption Law\(^3\) focuses on recent Chinese policy changes favoring intercountry adoption and discusses the social and economic

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considerations that surround this form of adoption, as well as the international community’s legal response. As adoption and parenting become increasingly global activities, concern for the welfare of prospective adoptees and social factors must be considered. *The Constitution, Alien Controls Act, and Xenophobia* brings to light the abuse undocumented immigrants face in South Africa’s highly xenophobic atmosphere. Through this lens, the South African 1996 Constitution and Aliens Control Act are shown to be in conflict, leaving South Africa’s judiciary the immigrant’s only hope for protection.