

# How to Be An Effective Clinician Advocate: Speaking, Writing and Organizing in Support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Katherine McKenzie, MD

Hope Ferdowsian, MD, MPH, FACP, FACPM

Kathryn Hampton, MSt

# Presenters

Katherine McKenzie, MD, FACP  
Director, Yale Center for Asylum Medicine



Hope Ferdowsian, MD, MPH, FACP, FACPM  
Associate Professor, University of New Mexico School of  
Medicine



Kathryn Hampton, MSt in Int'l Human rights law  
Asylum Program Officer, Physicians for Human Rights



# Disclosure of Financial Relationships

This program (session) has not received financial or in-kind support.

# Disclosures

Dr. Katherine McKenzie: paid and unpaid volunteer for HealthRight International and Physicians for Human Rights.

Dr. Hope Ferdowsian: Author, Phoenix Zones: Where Strength Is Born & Resilience Lives; Founder and Principal, Phoenix Zones Initiative and Phoenix Zones Movement; Paid and Unpaid Medical Consultancy with Physicians for Human Rights and HealthRight International; Unpaid Board Service (Hero Women Rising, New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs) - all of which, in one form or another, address human rights issues, including the treatment of refugees, asylum seekers, and other voluntarily or involuntarily displaced persons.

Kathryn Hampton: PHR staff

# Objectives

- Discuss why clinicians make ideal advocates
- Review successful clinician advocacy campaigns
- Practice advocacy skills

# The Clinician as Advocate

- Why should clinicians be advocates?
- Examples of clinician advocacy
- Ways to advocate for refugees and asylum seekers
- Spheres of influence as advocates
- Steps to become an advocate

# The Clinician as Advocate

Small groups to review advocacy skill sets

- Writing opinion pieces
- Working with elected officials
- Preparing for media appearances

# What is Clinician Advocacy?

**Action** by a physician to promote those **social, economic, educational, and political changes** that **ameliorate the suffering** and threats to human health and well-being that he or she identifies through his or her **professional work and expertise.**

American Medical Association. Declaration of Professional Responsibility: Medicine's Social Contract With Humanity



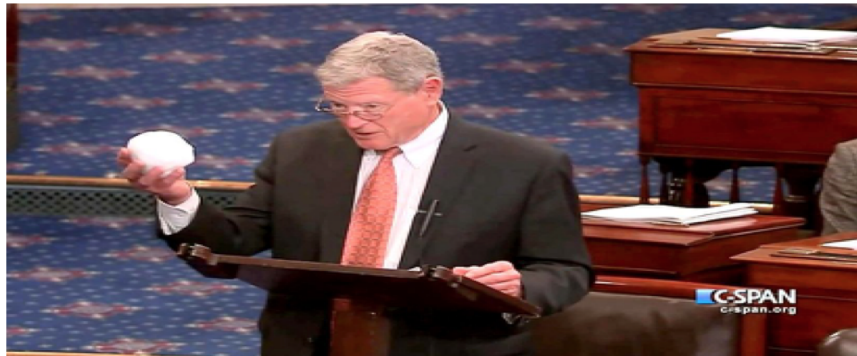


# Why Should Clinicians Be Advocates?

## Expertise

Scientific training

Scientific authority



# Why Should Clinicians Be Advocates?



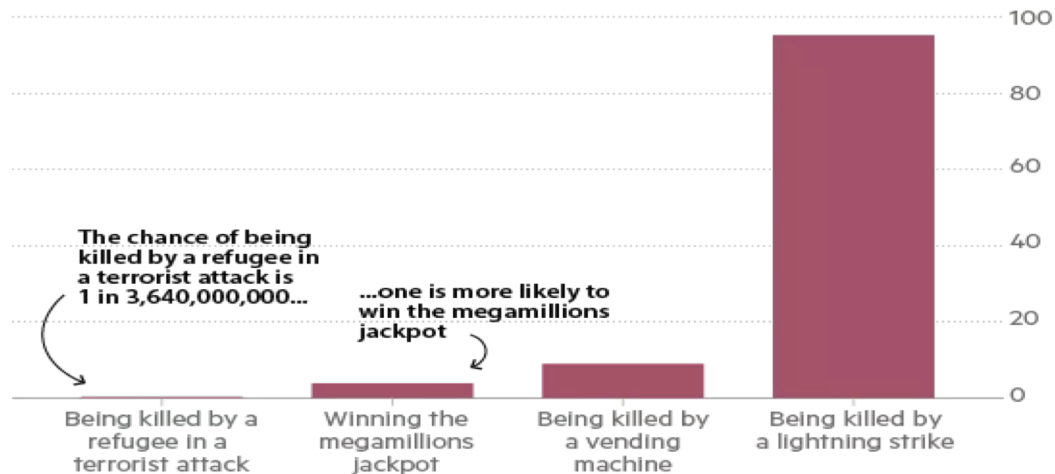
Physicians for  
Human Rights

*Through evidence, change is possible.*

# Why Should Clinicians Be Advocates?

The terrorism threat from refugees is very low

Likelihood of certain events per billion people



Source: CATO Institute, Mega Millions, Discovery News, the Economist

FT



North American  
REFUGEE HEALTH  
CONFERENCE

# Why Should Clinicians Be Advocates?



SunVancouver

## Obligation

Humanity is our patient\*

## Stature

Privileged role in society

\* AMA. 2017. A Declaration of Professional Responsibility.

# Clinician Advocacy Campaigns

**#FamiliesBelongTogether**

**“[The Trump Administration separating children from their parents] ...really is nothing less than government-sanctioned child abuse.”**



**- Dr. Colleen Kraft, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 6/16/18**

DEMOCRATIC WHIP  
STENNY HOYER

# Clinician Advocacy Campaigns

## 3 Ways That Health Professionals Can Improve The Safety & Health

### of Migrants And Immigrant Communities:

- 1) Hospitals and other health facilities can educate staff on immigration issues, applicable laws, and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Custom Border Protection (CBP) sensitive locations policy and prepare staff for interaction with border and immigration enforcement.
- 2) U.S. health professionals associations can publish policy and position statements, as well as medical ethics standards related to immigration enforcement activities and their impact on migrant populations and the healthcare workforce.
- 3) Health professional organizations, state and institutional ethics boards should enact policies protecting doctors from reprisal in cases where they act in accordance with medical ethics and U.S. law to protect patient privacy and to prioritize patient health during border enforcement activities.

**1. Hospitals...can educate staff on immigration issues...**

**2. Health professionals associations can publish policy...statements...related to immigration enforcement activities...**

**3. Health professional organizations...and...ethics boards should enact policies protecting doctors from reprisals in cases where they enact in accordance with medical ethics...to protect patients during border enforcement activities**

# Clinician Advocacy Campaigns

## **Society of General Internal Medicine Position on Physician Participation in Torture**

Prepared by Carolyn Kreinsen, P. Preston Reynolds, Katherine McKenzie, Tom Comerci, Oliver  
Fein on behalf of  
Global Health and Human Rights Interest Group, Ethics Committee, and Health Policy Committee

# Clinician Advocacy Campaigns



Physicians for Human Rights



# Legislative Advocacy

Generating and supporting momentum around laws affecting refugees and asylum seekers

Bringing attention to overlooked issues that have a health or medical dimension

Providing technical feedback on medical standards and best practices to new proposed policies



# Thought Leadership for a Lay Audience Opinion Pieces

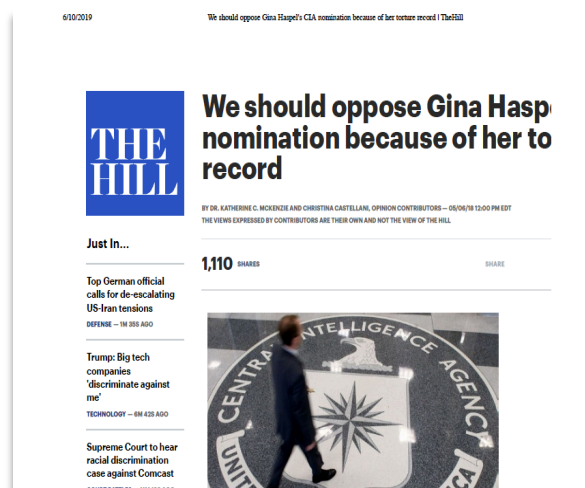
The  
Washington  
Post



The New York Times



# Thought Leadership for a Lay Audience Opinion Pieces



# Thought Leadership within Professional Organizations

## Perspective Pieces



thebmj

BMJ 2016;355:i6798 doi: 10.1136/bmj.i6798 (Published 30 December 2016) Page 1 of 1

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### VIEWS AND REVIEWS

 CrossMark

**PERSONAL VIEW**

#### Supporting human rights, one patient at a time

Medical exams can significantly increase the likelihood that asylum will be granted

Katherine McKenzie *director*  
Yale Center for Asylum Medicine, Yale University, Connecticut



010/2019 Loud, Gray, and Arbitrary — The Compounding Trauma of Detention for Asylum Seekers | NEJM  
Access provided by Yale University

 The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Perspective  
Loud, Gray, and Arbitrary — The Compounding Trauma of Detention for Asylum Seekers  
Katherine C. McKenzie, M.D.

February 28, 2019  
N Engl J Med 2019; 380:807-809  
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1816400

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Article Figures/Media

Metrics

# Thought Leadership for a Lay Audience

## Media Appearances



# Thought Leadership for a Lay Audience Media Appearances





# Thought Leadership for a Lay Audience Media Appearances




The screenshot shows the NPR website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for NEWS, ARTS & LIFE, MUSIC, SHOWS & PODCASTS, and a SEARCH bar. The main content area features a play button icon, a duration of 5:25, and buttons for QUEUE, DOWNLOAD, EMBED, and TRANSCRIPT. The article title is "Before Obtaining Asylum, Refugees Must Show The Scars Behind The Stories" by NPR STAFF, dated August 9, 2015. Below the title is a photograph of a person's back showing numerous scars. The caption reads: "A 16-year-old refugee shows the scars he received while held on a human trafficking boat. Evidence of physical violence like this lends credence to the stories of those seeking asylum in the U.S. It's Dr. Katherine McKenzie's job to evaluate it. Soe Zeya Tun/Reuters/Landov". At the bottom of the article, it says: "Like most medical professionals, it's Dr. Katherine McKenzie's job to evaluate the wounds and scars of the patients who come to her. But".

# Thought Leadership for a Lay Audience Social Media




**Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump




**Following** 

Our legal system is broken! "77% of refugees allowed into U.S. since travel reprieve hail from seven suspect countries." (WT) SO DANGEROUS!

RETWEETS	LIKES
22,526	96,997



7:12 AM - 11 Feb 2017

 33K  23K  97K



# Thought Leadership for a Lay Audience Social Media

**Katherine McKenzie**  
@KMKenzieYCAM  
Physician at Yale, Director of Asylum Medicine, Tweets are my own, #asylum, #HumanRights  
Joined December 2016

Tweets 320 Following 30 Followers 134 Likes 239 Lists 0 Moments 0 Edit profile

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media

You Retweeted  
**JGIM Journal of General Internal Medicine** @JournalGIM · 22 Oct 2018  
Internists Support Global Human Rights, One Patient at a Time  
link.springer.com

# Thought Leadership for a Lay Audience Social Media



# Spheres of Influence

National / Federal advocacy

- Asylum and immigration policy

State and Local advocacy

- State and local enforcement policies

Hospital administration and medical associations

- Hospital policies, ethical guidelines and best practices

# Steps to Become an Advocate

Choose your specific issue of focus

Be informed about:

- Medical literature
- Human rights documentation
- Policy and legal updates

Engage in relevant research or clinical experience

Join or form a network

Speak out as an expert

# Small Groups

## Advocacy skill sets

- Writing opinion pieces
- Working with elected officials
- Preparing for media appearances

# Questions?