

# Immigration to the USA: Current Opinions on the Ukraine and Latin America Countries

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Original Article

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Source: *Clinical Social Work and Health Intervention*  
Pages: 39 – 40

Volume: 13  
Cited references: 0

Issue: 3

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## Keywords:

Immigration. Ukraine. European Countries. NATO.

## Publisher:

International Society of Applied Preventive Medicine i-gap

CSWHI 2022; 13(3): 39 – 40; DOI: 10.22359/cswhi\_13\_3\_05 © Clinical Social Work and Health Intervention

## Abstract:

The U.S. stands in solidarity with our allies in NATO and European Countries regarding the Ukrainian invasion and war atrocities. The vast majority of Americans support efforts to help Ukrainian people during this Russian military invasion. It is a well-known fact that large communities of Ukrainians live in the U.S. and have American citizenship. Immigration from the Ukraine to the U.S. has existed for decades. Americans support lawful immigration from other countries into the U.S. Overall, more Americans approve than disapprove of President Biden's response to this Russian invasion and humanitarian crisis. There is bipartisan support for limited U.S. intervention but a plurality of Republicans think the U.S. should be doing more in providing Ukraine with military support. There needs to be a balance between avoiding a larger military conflict with Russia and increasing economic pressure.

A recent Gallup poll shows that 85% of Americans have an unfavorable opinion of Russia and 62% of Americans holding a favorable opinion of the Ukraine. The Biden Administration recently announced that the U.S. will welcome up to 100,000 Ukrainians and other displaced people fleeing the conflict in the Ukraine. The U.S. strongly supports defending our NATO allies and letting the Ukraine join NATO.

There are consistent findings across various polls (CNN, Reuters, Newsweek, etc.) that Americans favor action to: help Ukrainians defend themselves; providing financial aid; providing weapons; sending troops to NATO members in Eastern Europe; imparting severe economic sanctions on Russia. Recently several leading Jesuit Colleges and Universities announced plans to recognize the leadership of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky by conferring honorary degrees.

Refugees from Latin American countries continue to enter the U.S. According to boarder authorities, the number of encounters in January 2022 was 154,745 and February 164,973 along U.S. borders. Venezuelans continue to seek and be granted political asylum. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention are now allowing asylum for unaccompanied child migrants. Threats of violence, drought, government corruption, gang activity and high homicide rates continue to drive increased numbers of people from “Northern Triangle” countries of Central America: Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Other refugees arrive at the U.S. border from Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, Belize. Total immigration to the U.S. from Central America totaled 3,782,000 people in 2019. So far this year a record number of people have arrived at the U.S. / Mexico border in search of protection. The good news is that Mexican and US foreign development agencies are working together to address causes of migration. Current data suggests that poverty, lack of education and job opportunities, gang violence, political instability and corruption cause migration, especially in young people. The Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (Amexied) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have targeted Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador with new programs to mitigate migration. The 2022 U.S. budget for humanitarian aid to

Latin America and Central America totals \$228,354,621 USD. The majority of funding will go to Mexico to address humanitarian needs at the U.S. / Mexican borders. The Department of Homeland Security reports 7,100 migrants are crossing into the U.S. per day at the U.S. / Mexican border and most refugees are seeking asylum fleeing persecution. Other Ukrainians are entering the U.S. at the Mexican borders Central and South American countries into Mexico.

World leaders are condemning the war crimes and atrocities cities against civilians in the Ukraine. NATO countries have opened their borders to approximately 4 million Ukrainians, almost all women and children, who have fled the Ukraine since the Russian invasion. The U.S. remains committed to European countries and NATO in addressing war crimes and atrocious acts against children, women, the elderly, poor and marginalized people. Americans support and embrace: lawful immigration; helping people seeking political asylum; addressing global humanitarian crises. The U.S. is taking on new efforts to: address global inequities; poverty, complex humanitarian emergencies; environmental health. Millions of U.S. dollars in humanitarian aid have already been sent to countries surrounding the Ukraine to help with the refugee crises.