

ADAMS, DEBORAH

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Poster Presentation

The Argument for Assisting Displaced Persons in Increasingly Insular Societies

There are currently more than 65 million persons displaced worldwide, including refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons according to UNHCR's 2018 report. Many of those who have been displaced are also survivors of torture. The Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights at Boston Medical Center (BCRHHR) assists refugees and asylum seekers who are primarily survivors of state-sanctioned torture and are now living in the Greater Boston area. BCRHHR offers assistance with mental health, psychological evaluations, case management and career development services as well as referring clients to legal, housing, food and medical assistance. Our holistic, trauma-informed approach seeks to serve the needs of the entire person, and the clinical scales we administer to our clients regularly prove that our model is working; we can see improvements in clients' mental health, general well-being and ability to contribute to society after several months of engaging in care at our center.