

Podcasts United Episode 5, Civil Injustice to Culture Shock, Transcript

Speakers and their normal voice standing~ Brent:persuasive/informative young male's voice or British accent, Korey:storytelling male narration voice, Jacqueline:quiet, reserved, and gentle female voice, Chris Dooley: British Accent, normal male news anchor voice, Ari Shapiro: Strong male news anchor voice with an edge, Ted Cruz: Persuasive, middle age male voice

Slow fade into a musical intro. Starts off with a light frolickly sound in the background, then extends into a more dramatic music being played over the original background.

Brent(British accent): Welcome, listeners, to the fifth and final episode of Podcasts United, Civil Injustice to Culture Shock .

Small slight pause for a transition.

Brent(Serious, slightly questioning tone):What would you do if you had to escape war, famine, or oppression in your own country? Would you deal with terrorists and smugglers just in order to save your family? Could you walk in these shoes and be able to handle the hardships that will ensue? Even once here in America, the land of the free, can you say you would truly be free from oppression, neglect, or any of the things you've tried to escape? Many of us would think, yes of course we'd be free from all that injustice here in America. Yet others that have experienced these injustices would say otherwise. We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone. "Ronald Reagan"

Small slight pause for a transition.

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration):During this podcast we will be drawing our main story from the book, *Outcast United*. This book wrote by Warren St. John tells the actual account of how a soccer team, consisting of refugees boys from all around the world, has come to be made in the small southern town of Clarkston, Georgia. St. John tells how almost every boy on the original team came to America, and what they had to overcome in order to do so. Even though this book is mostly centered around the soccer team, what readers can take away from the story is the much larger picture of understanding what a refugee in America has and is going through. This larger picture can be seen by each story of how a specific family came to America, and what they encounter once they got here. Each family had to find a way to escape the corruption and violence of their home country. Then once escaped, they have to find their way to get to a place of refuge, but that can take months of paperwork and red tape to get through. Even once in America, the adjustment to their new lifestyle can be extremely challenging. With

so much going against these families, they still found a way to overcome all of the odds. Once such story in *Outcast United* of a refugee family overcoming the odds is the one of Ziaty family, we will focus directly on the Ziaty family's story from this book in order to actually understand what refugees in America have and are going through.

Small slight pause for a transition.

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration):When civil wars or violence from extremist groups become too gruesome in a country, its citizens may be forced to seek asylum in a different country. The Ziaty family was stuck in Monrovia during the middle of a civil war. The Ziaty family thought their home would be a safe place of refuge, but as St. John describes that was soon not be the case,

Korey(Serious narration):“Eventually, though, even the Ziaty's home failed to provide refuge. The men who came in the night for Beatrice's husband began to beat him when he said he didn't have access to any stash of government money. Beatrice panicked. She grabbed Jeremiah and Mandela... and ran for the back door. ...Beatrice trekked through the darkened streets. ... past checkpoints manned by menacing teenage boys and young men ... Beatrice and her sons made it out of town and began walking east, toward the border with Ivory Coast. She scavenged for food and hitched rides when she could...after ten days of travel, she arrived at an overflowing refugee camp across the border.”

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration):Other places that has been experiencing a lot of violence lately is Syria and Iraq. In Syria there is a brutal civil war going on leading many to die, and many more to be scared for their lives. Extremist groups in Iraq are forcing the people to face inhumane brutality through mass killings, imprisonment, and rape. In order to escape the savagery of both these countries many citizens have no choice than to flee to another country whether it be under lawful pretences or not. When the citizens do decide seek refuge from a neighboring country they have to be careful to not get caught when escaping, be aware of nations more willing to accept asylum seekers, and must also know if that nation has enough room to hold them. Some nations have gone above and beyond to try to help refugees as shown by the article *Syrian Refugees Desperately Need our Help*. One example is the refugee camp in Jordan.

Korey(Serious narration): “Jordan, Syria's neighbour to the south, has seen the second largest influx of displaced Syrians... [It] was intended to house 60 000 refugees — its numbers have now swelled to 120 000, making it Jordan's fifth-largest city and the second-largest refugee camp in the world.”

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration):In some countries the migration of refugees there is so huge that it is now causing problems, Germany has even went as far to ask for help Chris Dooley briefly describes this problem in his podcast *Europe's Refugee Crisis* when he says,

Chris Dooley(Professional, unemotional narration)“The EU's migrate crisis, as it has become to be known, is now the biggest challenge facing Europe's political leaders...And we also

see splits among various lines in Europe. We see Germany calling for more solidarity for countries to take migrants or asylum seekers or refugees on a closer basis, so they will be shared around the Union effectively in terms of.. according to each country's capacity to absorb refugees.”

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration):The countries that can provide asylum are filling up fast, so there is a lot of competition to gain entry into refugee camps. There are so many complications a refugees must surpass in order to first flee from the violence of their home nation and second find asylum in a camp with the capacity to hold them. This still leaves refugees needing to find a way to provide for the families.

Small slight pause for a transition.

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration): In order to get enough food and proper living conditions for their families most refugees will need to find another place to live, due to overcrowding in refugee camps. Warren St. John tells how Beatrice dealt with the overcrowding but had to make plans to leave,

Korey(Serious narration):“Beatrice passed the time in the camp by standing in lines to apply for resettlement by the United Nations. ...She knew the odds that she would be selected were minuscule_but what else was there to do? The camp was squalid, with frequent food shortages and a quiet threat in the form of soldiers who worked in the camp to recruit young men back into the war. Beatrice and her sons spent five years in that camp. Against all odds and after countless interviews with UN personnel, Beatrice learned that she and her boys had been accepted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for resettlement.”.

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration): David D. Laitin and Marc Jahr have suggested a possible solution to the overflow of refugees in their article, *Let Syrians Settle Detroit*. The article brings to light the idea of taking the refugees stranded in camps and bringing them to Detroit. Detroit, mostly a ghost town now, lost over one million of its population when most of the automobile factories closed and moved to other places. The loss of so many people and jobs at once left over 70,000 vacant homes. And as David D. Laitin and Marc Jahr suggested these vacant homes could be put to great use by allowing refugees in need to stay in them. An issue occurs when it comes to getting refugees approved to actually live in America though. With the large amount paperwork, medical screenings, and the red tape it takes many refugees months if not years to get approved to come to America. As described in an first hand account on RefugeeAction.org figuring out how to gain status in a country, and knowing what comes with certian statuses is very hard to do when you don't understand the language and/or the rights you have there. In this particular account a single mother wants to stay in the UK to keep her children safe from harsh traditions that happen in her home country, but doesn't know how to go about doing so.

Korey(Serious narration): “ ‘So I was alone with my children,’ Fortune says. With no status or income, Fortune asked a friend for help. The friend referred her to a refugee organisation, who told her to claim asylum. To do this, Fortune and her sons had to travel to the Home Office in Croydon. They arrived late at night. With nowhere else to go, the family spent the night at the police station. Fortune’s youngest son slept in his pushchair; her and her old son on a chair. ‘I don’t want to remember it,’ Fortune says. ‘It was horrible’. The family thought they could stay with friends after claiming asylum, but this was not to be. They became homeless, sleeping on people’s sofas and floors. Occasionally they stayed in hostels or shelters. As a mum with young children, Fortune should have been protected – but no-one had ever told her about her rights.”

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration):As shown by Fortune’s story learning what kind of status is needed and how to gain it, is a fairly difficult and long process for refugees. Despite the difficulty of this process most refugee families will go through this process in order to be able to provide for themselves.

Small slight pause for a transition.

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration):Even though refugees may gain status in America and have the ability to provide for their family, that doesn’t mean that there still won’t be challenges to be faced. Such challenges that could be faced include a culture shock, and discrimination. As described in *Outcast United* the Ziaty family had a hard time adjusting to the American way of life,

Korey(Serious narration): “Beatrice didn’t know how to use the bus system in Atlanta, but a fellow Liberian offered to show her the way from Wyncrest to the bus stop on her first day of work. ...[Work was hard.]Beatrice’s back ached when she made it back to the bus stop at around ten o’clock. Without her friend to guide her this time, she was on her own. ...Beatrice got off, hopeful she had chosen the right stop. ...Beatrice heard a noise and looked over her shoulder. A man was following her. She sped up and clutched her bag. ... She felt the man’s hand on her arm. ‘Halt,’ he said. ‘Give me the purse.’ Beatrice let go of the bag and braced for a blow that never came. ...The incident robbed Beatrice of the hope that her new home would provide her and her family with a sense of security. ”.

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration): When refugees first get to America they start off with basically nothing, except the home of which they have been assigned to, and a caseworker assigned to help the family find jobs and a school for the children. This leaves the refugees by themselves to have to figure out how to understand the new language and culture surrounding them. To some people who have lived in America their whole life this may seem like a fairly easy task, but as found by National Geographic News that is not the case at all.

Korey(Serious narration): “Since the Lamungus arrived in Phoenix last month, their days have been filled with cultural eye-openers. ... The family was amazed at the three-bedroom city center apartment they were given. ‘They were saying, ‘Is this all for us?’ said Reech.

‘They're used to sleeping nine people in one room.’ The first night, all nine family members slept on the living room floor. Since then, they've slowly begun using the bedrooms too. At one point, Hassan had to take one of his sons, Mohammed, to the doctor. As they sat in the waiting room, a man wearing a Mickey Mouse mask and a tail came out to entertain the children, offering Mohammed a balloon. Both Hassan and Mohammed were terrified. They thought the man in the Mickey Mouse suit was the Devil and had come to take them away.”

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration): When Hassan and his family were thrown into this new lifestyle it was a definite culture shock for them. Just like Hassan’s family many refugees will have a hard time adjusting to the American lifestyle. In some cases though, the culture shock is the least of their worries. Many refugees will experience severely harsh discrimination in their new communities. Ari Shapiro’s podcast *Among The Lucky Few: Syrian Family Rebuilds In America's Heartland* talks directly of this discrimination,

Ari Shapiro(Strong, informative voice)“In some cities around the US the locals have pushed back against the idea of Syrian resettlement. They fear that people like Omar could be terrorist trying to infiltrate the country. While we were in Ohio, Texas senator, Ted Cruz, spoke at a presidential campaign rally in neighboring Michigan.

Ted Cruz(Strong, and slightly angry): ‘It would be the height of foolishness to bring in tens of thousands of people including Jihadists that are coming here, to murder innocent Americans.’”

Jacqueline(Serious, yet slightly conversation narration): As Ted Cruz proves, some Americans fear refugees coming to America. People who share this belief often just group everyone in the middle east together and call them all terrorists. These people are being discriminatory and forgetting that the same terrorist we fear here in America are also terrorising the people in their own countries’ as well. Since there is prejudice against refugees, they may encounter unfair treatment in the job market and from police officers when they are pulled over. With having to deal with discrimination and a tremendous culture shock, refugees in America have a hard time fitting in.

Small slight pause for a transition.

Brent(Serious, slightly questioning tone): From brutalities in their own countries, to general opposition in America, there is a large scope of the challenges faced by refugees. Such challenges include finding a way to escape the corruption and violence of their home country and having to deal with months and years of paperwork to get to America. Once they have made it here, refugees have to not only overcome the culture shock, but also discrimination. Since refugees already go through so much before they get to America, shouldn’t we at least try to make it easier on them here? All that may consist of this just making them feel a little more welcomed here. Whether just by a simple word of

encouragement or actually lending a hand, anyone can change the way we see and treat refugees.

Brent(conversational tone):Special thanks to Warren St. John for writing Outcast United, Ari Shapiro and Chris Dooley for creating the podcasts we used, and finally a thank you to Wanda Toma, Jacqueline Bhabha, RefugeeAction.org, and Stefan Lovgren for allowing us to use their articles.

“Outro music begins to fade in” Outro music is a dramatic piece done by a piano.

Speaking over the music~Brent(British accent):Thank’s for listening to Podcast United, episode five.

“Outro music fades out”