

— WHY PEOPLE MIGRATE · EPISODE III · CRIME

THE INVISIBLE BORDER.

A community dies long before it goes empty. It dies when the children stop playing on the street — and no one notices exactly when everyday life left.

No03

Every Number Has a Face

THE INVISIBLE BORDER.

There is a border no society believes it can afford to lose. It does not appear on maps, it is not protected by soldiers, it has no passport. In nine passages — from Honduras to Cape Town, from Haiti to the Amazon, from the streets of El Salvador to Instagram DMs — this article searches for the exact moment when everyday life walks away without anyone noticing when.

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THE INVISIBLE BORDER

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■ PROLOGUE • THE BORDER NO MAP DRAWS

THERE IS A BORDER NO SOCIETY BELIEVES IT CAN AFFORD TO LOSE.

It does not appear on maps. It is not protected by soldiers. It has no passport. No checkpoint. It is the invisible border between what protects us and what we need to be protected from.

When that border disappears, the house is still standing. The school is still open. The street is in the same place. The family is still together. Nothing seems to have changed.

And yet, everything has changed.

It is at this moment — long before the escape, long before the backpack, long before the international border — that many migrations begin. Only later do we find a name for what happened.

Organized crime.

As if there were a clean name for a dirty thing.

Because the truth is different. A community dies long before it goes empty. It dies when the children stop playing on the street. When the ice cream melts faster than the courage to cross the square. When windows stop opening on summer nights. When people start whispering names they used to say out loud.

No official communiqué announces this. There is no date. No decree. No news. Just, one day — without anyone noticing exactly when — everyday life is gone.

And only much later, when someone is already on the other side of a border carrying a backpack heavier than what is inside it, do they find the words for what happened.

■ A COMMUNITY DIES LONG BEFORE IT GOES EMPTY.

EVERYDAY LIFE WALKED AWAY — WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING WHEN.

ONLY LATER DO WE FIND A NAME
FOR WHAT HAPPENED.

CRIME ENTERS THROUGH THE DOOR OF MEANING — BEFORE ENTERING THROUGH THE DOOR
OF THE HOUSE.

SYMBOLIC LIMITS



Normal life no longer sits on the square's bench. The moments of peace have shortened inside daily life. There is something new in the air, and it does not smell of vanilla.

AI IMAGE

NOTHING WAS DESTROYED.

The meaning changed — and when the meaning changes, it is not only a person who leaves.

Before the State, there was something else. Long before there was a police force, long before there was a Constitution, long before there was any written code. Human societies survived because they created something invisible: **symbolic limits**. Not walls. Limits.

The child belongs to the group. The house is inviolable. The body cannot be taken. The given word has value. The dead are respected. None of these norms depended on a law — they depended on a collective belief.

A SOCIETY IS BORN WHEN A GROUP AGREES THERE ARE THINGS THAT ARE NOT DONE.

Now look at organized crime. It does not begin by destroying those limits. It does something more sophisticated: it demonstrates that they *can* be crossed. Once. Then again. Then again. Until they are no longer absolute.

The school is still open. The port is still the port. The phone still works. The border still exists. Money is still money. **The neighborhood is still the neighborhood.**

NOTHING WAS DESTROYED. EVERYTHING WAS PROFANED.

The meaning changed. And when the meaning changes — when the place that should protect starts being perceived as vulnerable — it is not only a person who leaves. It is the idea that that place was worth staying in.

Germán was 38 years old and had a life that made sense in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. A professional accountant, he worked with small and medium-sized companies. One day, an armed group kidnapped him. They didn't want his money. They wanted his clients' finances — information that, in their hands, would turn business owners into targets for extortion and kidnapping.

Germán refused. He managed to escape. He fled to Texas. He asked for asylum. He was taken in.

CRIME DIDN'T INVADE HIS HOUSE. IT INVADED THE SPACE WHERE HE KEPT OTHER PEOPLE'S TRUST. AND WHEN THAT SPACE WAS PROFANED — WHEN PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENTIALITY STOPPED BEING INVIOABLE — GERMÁN UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS NO WAY TO KEEP BEING WHO HE WAS IN THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS.

GERMÁN, 38 • TEGUCIGALPA → TEXAS • USA FOR UNHCR

HE DIDN'T LEAVE BECAUSE HE FAILED. HE LEFT BECAUSE HE LOST.

70%

Of displaced people in **Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico** fled from criminal-group violence — not a bomb, not an earthquake, not drought. Source: UNHCR • IDMC 2024

THE PREDICTABILITY OF FEAR.

The growing certainty that the limit could be crossed at any moment. And that this time it would be your door.

THE SOCIAL DEFEAT

WITHOUT NOTICING, THEY BECAME THE DINNER MENU.



All the merchandise still on the shelves. The cash register. The little potted plant. The stack of newspapers. Only a handwritten note saying what happened.

AI IMAGE

There is a difference rarely named. The *economic migrant* makes a bet. Weighs risks, ponders opportunities, decides to leave. The *war refugee* is running from a bomb. The violence is explicit, datable, geographic.

BUT THOSE FLEEING CRIME HAVE BEEN DEFEATED.

Not morally. Socially. They worked. They built. They bought. They planted. They opened a business. They raised children. They made friends. They put down roots. And one day someone decided none of that belonged to them anymore.

No trial. No appeal. No court.

HONDURAS • ASTRID & MIGUEL

Astrid and Miguel lived in Honduras with six people — their six-year-old son, two young nephews, a cousin. They paid weekly extortion to keep the small business open. When illness and a broken piece of equipment made payment impossible, they found a folded note under the door:

“YOU HAVE 24 HOURS TO LEAVE. YOU CAN’T TAKE ANYTHING.”

“We knew the 24 hours weren’t real. It was less time. And we knew they would come just to kill us.” They fled with the clothes on their backs. A church in another town gave them shelter. Ten months later, new threats — this time they were trying to recruit the teenage nephew. They fled again.

CRIME CHOSE ONE. IT DISPLACED THEM ALL.

THE SYSTEM WASN'T BUILT FOR CASES LIKE HIS.

Henry was 15 when he left El Salvador for Long Island, in the United States, to live with his mother. He had run from MS-13. He arrived at his new school. MS-13 was there too. He was forcibly recruited for the second time.

Later, he agreed to cooperate as an FBI confidential informant. He helped dismantle cells of the gang. On January 10, 2018, he was deported back to El Salvador — because U.S. asylum rules exclude former gang members, even those who were coerced, even those who risked their lives to help the State.

Back in the country he had left to survive, he began living in hiding, pursued by those he had helped arrest.

“I’VE BROKEN WITH THE GANG FOR GOOD NOW — THAT’S ONE GOOD THING THAT CAME OUT OF ALL THIS. I HOPE I’VE HELPED PEOPLE SEE HOW HARD IT IS TO MAKE THAT KIND OF CHANGE.”

HENRY • PROPUBLICA

Henry didn't fail. It's the system that wasn't built for cases like his. When the institutions meant to protect prove incapable — not necessarily corrupt, but incapable — the predictability of crime becomes relatively stronger.

Corruption doesn't create that parallel system. **It reinforces its credibility.** Every time a complaint is ignored, every time a law doesn't apply, every time promised protection fails to arrive, crime offers a more credible alternative.

Not a better alternative. Just a more predictable one.

AND PEOPLE LIVE WITH WHAT IS PREDICTABLE.

■ INTERNALLY DISPLACED • EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS •
END OF 2024

318.600

PEOPLE INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS

Without crossing borders. Without
refugee status. Without recognized
international protection.

**DEFEATED INSIDE
THEIR OWN COUNTRY.**

SOURCE: IDMC • GLOBAL REPORT ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT 2025

■ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS INVISIBLE DISPLACEMENT



THE DOOR STILL CLOSES.

There is a limit that ought to be the strongest of all. Not the nation's. Not the neighborhood's. Not the school's.

THE HOME'S.

The home is the place where a civilization decides that the outside world stops. Where the body rests without surveillance. Where sleep is possible. Where the child exists without having to be on alert.

The home is inviolable — not by law. By a human agreement older than any law.

When that limit is crossed by the person chosen to protect — when the danger doesn't come from the street but from the next room — it isn't only a body that bleeds. **It is the idea that there is a safe place.**

And when the neighbors say *"that happens"* — the ground shifts.

1 IN 3

Women experiences domestic or intimate partner violence in her lifetime. WHO • global data

38%

Of domestic violence victims become homeless at some point — uncounted displacement.

>90%

Of homeless women have experienced domestic violence. Invisible in refugee reports.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM — ONE OF THE RICHEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD — MORE THAN 140,000 WOMEN INTERNALLY DISPLACED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN EIGHT YEARS. A FIGURE COMPARABLE TO ASYLUM SEEKERS OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

■ UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
RESEARCHING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

“VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS EVERYWHERE — AND YET ALSO SOMEHOW NOWHERE.”

“PART OF THE SCENERY.
JUST HOW THINGS ARE.”

DR. JANET BOWSTEAD

■ ANABEL • EL SALVADOR → USA

The abuser was her husband. Salvadoran authorities did not intervene. In 2018, her case became the center of a legal battle over whether women fleeing domestic violence have the right to asylum. **The system spent years debating whether her destroyed home counted as persecution.**

■ ANA, 17 • SAN SALVADOR → PANAMA

The gang didn't come for her. They came for her brother, who had refused to be recruited. *“In that moment, I didn't understand why this was happening to me.”* Ana wasn't the target. **She was the message.**

■ THE DOOR STILL CLOSSES.
THE BAG IS STILL NEXT TO IT.

■ THE CRIME THAT HAS NO ADDRESS

IV THE SCREEN HAS DOORS TOO.

There was a belief — reasonable, until recently — that crime had geography. That it lived in alleys, at borders, in ports, on certain corners. That it could be avoided by anyone who knew which wrong paths not to take.

THAT BELIEF IS OVER.

Crime found an entrance with no address. No guard dog. No checkpoint. One that lives in every pocket, in every bedroom, in every moment a teenager unlocks a phone without anyone watching.

Instagram. Facebook Messenger. TikTok. DMs. The phone that was meant to connect became a grooming corridor.

A *Guardian* investigation, published between 2023 and 2026, proved — with court transcripts and more than 1,300 exhibit documents — that the Meta platforms (Facebook and Instagram) became child sex trafficking marketplaces. In March 2026, a jury in New Mexico ordered Meta to pay **US\$ 375 million** in civil penalties.

“I WAS ABLE TO PULL TRANSCRIPTS OF SALE NEGOTIATIONS FOR TEEN GIRLS THAT TRAFFICKERS WERE ENGAGING IN ON FACEBOOK MESSENGER. IN EXHIBIT DOCUMENTS, THERE WERE PICTURES OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS BEING ADVERTISED FOR SALE IN INSTAGRAM'S STORIES FUNCTION. IN THE CASES WE FOUND, NONE OF THESE CRIMES HAD BEEN DETECTED OR FLAGGED BY META.”

KATIE MCQUE • THE GUARDIAN • FREEDOM UNITED

SIMPLE MECHANISM. DEVASTATING.

Traffickers identify vulnerable teenagers by the pattern of their online activity. They reach out via private message. They build trust. They advertise victims in Instagram *Stories* to buyers of sex. They arrange logistics through Messenger. They pay via Meta Pay.

“IT’S INCREDIBLY LUCRATIVE. EVERYTHING IS DONE SEAMLESSLY BY THE TRAFFICKERS.”

PROSECUTOR • META VS. NEW MEXICO CASE

MAYA, 15 • WASHINGTON DC

She liked to dance and play board games. She spent time at *Courtney's House* — a safe home for at-risk teens. She met a 43-year-old man through Instagram. He gave her drugs laced with fentanyl.

SHE WENT TO BED AND NEVER WOKE UP.

KRISTEN GALVAN • TEXAS

A teenager. Recruited and sold into sex trafficking via Instagram. Disappeared in 2020. In 2026, *The Guardian* confirmed she had been murdered.

HER REMAINS WERE FOUND.

51.433

Unaccompanied migrant children **disappeared** after arriving in Europe between 2021–2023. Majority: North African boys 14–17. Invisible to the State — visible to crime.

15.031

Commercial **child sexual abuse** websites on the open internet in 2025 — up **+114%** in a single year. Not the dark web. The internet everyone uses. Internet Watch Foundation

THE CHILD WHO LEARNS NEVER TO REPLY TO A DM IS LEARNING A CULTURAL ADAPTATION — LIKE THE CHILD WHO LEARNS NOT TO LOOK AT THE GANG ON THE CORNER.

THE PORT IS STILL V THE PORT.

ONLY THE MEANING OF *SAFE*
HAS MOVED.

DISPLACEMENT
AS A
POLITICAL
WEAPON

■ VIV ANSANM

IN FEBRUARY 2024, A COALITION OF GANGS CALLED *VIV ANSANM* — WHICH IN HAITIAN CREOLE MEANS “*LIVING TOGETHER*”, IN AN IRONY THAT SAYS EVERYTHING — LAUNCHED COORDINATED ATTACKS ON PORT-AU-PRINCE. THE STATED GOAL: THE RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER ARIEL HENRY.

■ THE VACUUM

IN APRIL 2024, HENRY RESIGNED. **NO PARLIAMENT SINCE 2019. NO ELECTED PRESIDENT SINCE 2023.** THE HAITIAN STATE DIDN'T DISAPPEAR BY ACCIDENT — IT WAS PROGRESSIVELY HOLLOWED OUT WHILE THE GANGS BUILT AN ALTERNATIVE. THE KENYA-LED MULTINATIONAL FORCE ARRIVED WITH 416 PERSONNEL. THE TARGET WAS 2,500.

THE PARALLEL STATE.

85%

Of Port-au-Prince
under **gang control**.

5.601

People **murdered** by
criminal groups in
2024. **1,500**
kidnapped.

703,000

Internally displaced.
25% are children.
Highest figure *per*
capita in the world.

30%

Of gang members are
children.

THE DOCUMENTED MECHANISM • THREE PHASES

PHASE 01

CONQUER.

Depopulate through violence to
create buffer zones. The popu-
lation flees under direct fire —
no selection, no order, no im-
mediate return possible.

PHASE 02

CONTROL.

Allow selective returns on con-
ditions imposed by the gang:
illegal taxation, control of
humanitarian aid distribution,
parallel hierarchy.

PHASE 03

CONSOLIDATE.

Manage the returning popula-
tion — selectively expelling
those who resist. Displacement
is now an instrument of
government.

**“DISPLACEMENT IS INSTRUMENTALIZED AS A TOOL USED TO MANIPULATE ECONOMIC FLOWS,
EXERT POLITICAL CONTROL AND MANAGE DEMOGRAPHICS.”**

GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 2025

**IN MARCH 2025, WHEN THE GOVERNMENT BEGAN USING DRONES AGAINST
GANG ZONES, A NEW ELEMENT WAS DOCUMENTED: CIVILIANS USED AS
HUMAN SHIELDS. 64% OF NEW DISPLACEMENTS HAPPENED OUTSIDE
THE CAPITAL.**

■ ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE VACUUM OF THE STATE

VI THE DEMOCRACY THAT STAYED OUTSIDE.



Vote ANC. The people shall govern. · 1994 · the flag · and above it all, the numbered gangs 26 and 28. The archaeology of South African democracy written on a Cape Flats wall.

A I I M A G E

Cape Town has some of the most expensive square meters in Africa — and the Cape Flats, less than twenty minutes away, the country's highest gang-murder rate.

Manenberg. Hanover Park. Lavender Hill. Athlone. On average, **64 people are murdered per day** across South Africa. An eight-year-old child can be recruited into a structure offering the only predictable income they've ever seen.

Gangsterism in the Cape Flats didn't begin with the democracy of 1994. It began during apartheid — when racial segregation laws forced Black and mixed-race populations into *townships* without infrastructure, without public investment. **The State decided not to arrive. Crime organized itself in the void.**

Thirty years later, inequality remains structural. Criminal groups offer, in that vacuum, what the State promised but failed to deliver: a way to belong. A hierarchy. An income.

MICHAEL JACOBS · COMMUNITY
POLICING FORUM

Detained in September 1987 during a student protest. In February 2026, Ramaphosa announced the deployment of the army to the Western Cape. The same army that had arrested him.

“THEY WERE THE ENEMY.”

“HOW IS THIS CONDUCTIVE TO RAISING CHILDREN?”

MICHAEL JACOBS · AL JAZEERA, FEB 2026

Families in the Cape Flats do not appear in international reports on the displaced. They do not cross borders. They move inside the city — from Manenberg to Mitchells Plain, from Hanover Park to Belhar — each time the war between factions makes their street unlivable. **They are the invisible displaced of Africa's most developed democracy.**

■ THE NORM OF THE PLANET'S LARGEST CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY

VII THE FOREST AND THE SOIL.



The forest is still there.
The soil is gone. A crater
carved open where the
State decided not to
arrive — and crime did.

AI IMAGE

67%
OF THE 987 AMAZONIAN MUNICIPALITIES
HAVE AT LEAST **ONE ARMED GROUP.**

SOURCE: AMAZON UNDERWORLD, 2025

It isn't a crisis. It's the norm. The Amazon wasn't conquered by crime this decade — crime arrived when the State decided that soil didn't deserve attention. And crime offered what the vacuum asks for: order, income, belonging, predictability.

Indigenous youth receive offers they've never seen before. **Monthly payments their communities never generated.** Illegal gold mining isn't only gold extraction — it is a parallel economy with recruitment, hierarchy, loyalty and punishment.

“YOUNG PEOPLE ARE RECRUITED INTO ARMED STRUCTURES OFFERING MONTHLY PAYMENTS NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.”

AMAZON UNDERWORLD, 2025

YANOMAMI • 2023

363 DEATHS

19.7M acres — nearly the size of Portugal. More than **1% of the territory's population.**

RORAIMA • 2022-24

309 CASES

Documented human trafficking. **73% were migrants.** Most: women trafficked for sex in mining camps.



Documentation queue in Bonfim, Roraima. The last checkpoint before Guyana. A young girl standing silent. A “husband” holding her documents.

AI IMAGE

FACES IN THE QUEUE.

MARCELLA & SOFIA • VENEZUELA → RORAIMA

They answered an online ad for jobs as receptionists. When they arrived, the employer confiscated their phones and documents. **Only Sofia's second, hidden phone let them call for help in time.**

BONFIM • LAST CHECKPOINT BEFORE GUYANA

A volunteer noticed a girl who looked no older than 14, accompanied by a man of about 20 who claimed to be her husband. She wouldn't say her age. He answered questions directed at her. When Sister **Valdelice Gomes** came back — **the two were gone.**

USA • TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

81%

Of 132 tribal communities report gang activity.

8.5×

The national violent-crime rate at **Standing Rock**.

Native American women have the **highest sexual-assault rates in the country**. **70%** of the violence against them is perpetrated by non-natives.

THE BLIND MULE

The driver who crosses the border without knowing the cartel hid drugs in his car while he slept is not a figure of speech. **It is a tactic documented by U.S. customs itself.**

Crime uses innocent bodies as cover. When caught, they are prosecuted as traffickers. The border community learns one more lesson about what is predictable. **AND WHAT IS NOT.**

■ LESS RESISTANCE — NOT NONE. THE DIFFERENCE MATTERS.

VIII THE BENCHES IN THE SQUARE ARE STILL THERE.

This has to be said. Without it, the article would be lying. There are teachers who teach behind a locked door — but they teach. There are journalists who publish under a protected byline — but they publish. There are community leaders who call meetings in neighborhoods where calling a meeting is an act of courage. There are doctors who stay. There are churches that open. There are neighbors who bear witness.

THE FOREST DIDN'T DIE. THE SOIL WAS ALTERED.

But some trees grow differently — and some grow to protect the others. When trust in institutions weakens, the norms imposed by fear meet less resistance to becoming part of everyday life. Less resistance — **not none**.

TINA FRUNDT •
WASHINGTON DC

A trafficking survivor. She founded *Courtney's House*. She testified in the Meta case — **she showed the court how Instagram Stories was being used to advertise girls to sex buyers.**

**A SURVIVOR WHO BECAME
EVIDENCE.**

SISTER VALDELICE
GOMES • BONFIM,
RORAIMA

Pastoral for Migrants. Without institutional resources equal to the need. She reads signals of trafficking in the queue: a “friend” holding someone's documents, a “partner” answering questions meant for another.

AND SHE STAYS IN THE QUEUE.

DAVID • VENEZUELA
→ PERU → BRAZIL

Six months washing dishes in a Peruvian restaurant **without being paid**. He went back. He started over. He crosses the border every day to work at a shop in Guyana. On his days off, he helps other migrants understand their rights.

STARTING OVER AS A METHOD.

“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS NOT TO LOSE HOPE. **THE MESSAGE IS TO KEEP HOPE ALIVE.**”

VENEZUELAN VOLUNTEER • PASTORAL FOR MIGRANTS, RORAIMA • GLOBAL HEALTH NOW

**ASTRID STILL DREAMS HER CHILDREN
WALK TO SCHOOL WITHOUT FEAR.
STILL.**

THE THESIS

IX WHAT CRIME ACTUALLY SELLS.



PROTECTION. Weekly column, handwritten. \$50, \$55, \$60. A brown envelope, crumpled bills. The average shopkeeper priced extortion in — like any other expense.

A I I M A G E

The real product of organized crime **is not drugs**. Not weapons. Not sex. Not gold. Not data. Not bought votes.

THE REAL PRODUCT IS THE PREDICTABILITY OF FEAR.

It is the sale of a **new order** — brutal, but credible — to communities where the legitimate order has stopped being reliable.

MS-13 does not control El Salvador through brute force. It controls through the reliable expectation that brute force will arrive at any door that refuses to obey.

The **PCC** does not govern Brazilian prisons because it is stronger than the State. It governs because it is more predictable.

The gangs of the **Cape Flats** do not dominate the neighborhoods because the government allows it. They dominate because the government arrived late — **and crime arrived first.**

CRIME DOESN'T NEED
TO BE EVERYWHERE.

IT ONLY NEEDS EVERYONE
TO BELIEVE
THAT **IT MIGHT ARRIVE.**

When that belief takes hold — when mothers teach their children not to look, when shopkeepers price extortion into the cost, when teachers close the door before they speak, when teenage girls learn never to reply to a DM, when families pack a bag and leave it ready by the door — **crime has already governed.**

WITHOUT WINNING A BATTLE.
WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT.

**ONLY BY CROSSING THE LIMIT.
ONCE. THEN AGAIN.
THEN AGAIN.**

THAT IS WHY THEY MIGRATE. NOT ONLY FROM WHAT THEY FLEE — **BUT
FROM WHAT THEY LOST.**

■ EPILOGUE • THE REFUSAL

SOMEONE OPENED THE WINDOW.

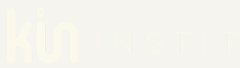
**NOT BECAUSE THE DANGER HAS PASSED.
BECAUSE LIVING WITH THE WINDOW CLOSED
IS ALSO A DEFEAT.**

There is no single guilty party. No villain whose name alone can stop the mechanism. There are conditions. There is history. There are communities that resisted — and continue to resist. **There are people who left, and took with them the memory of a place that once made sense.**

THE INVISIBLE BORDER

AI IMAGE

22



COLOPHON

The KIN Institute works to provide safe routes, verified information and support networks for migrants around the world. **kin.institute**

Series

Why People Migrate

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SOURCES CITED

I · Nothing was destroyed Testimony of Germán (Tegucigalpa → Texas) — USA for UNHCR. Data on 70% displacement from criminal violence — UNHCR and IDMC, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024–2025*, on Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

II · Without noticing, they became the dinner menu

Testimonies of Astrid & Miguel (Honduras) and Henry (El Salvador → Long Island → deportation, Jan 10, 2018) — ProPublica. Data on 318,600 internally displaced — IDMC, end of 2024.

III · The door still closes

Global data 1 in 3 women and 38% homelessness — WHO & international research. Dr. Janet Bowstead, University of Sheffield — *Researching Internal Displacement*. UK study on 140,000 cases across 8 years. Anabel — asylum case, USA, 2018. Ana, 17, El Salvador → Panama — USA for UNHCR.

IV · The screen has doors too

Katie McQue investigation — *The Guardian*, 2023–2026. Meta vs. New Mexico verdict, March 2026 (US\$ 375 million). Testimonies of Maya (Washington DC) and Kristen Galvan (Texas). Freedom United. Internet Watch Foundation — *The Guardian*, April 2026 (15,031 sites; +114%).

V · Haiti Viv Ansanm, February–April 2024. Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2025 — three-phase mechanism. Data: 5,601 murders, 703,000 IDPs, 85% of Port-au-Prince under gang control, Kenya-led multinational force (416 of 2,500).

VI · Cape Flats

Michael Jacobs, community policing forum chair — *Al Jazeera*, February 2026. Deployment of the army to the Western Cape by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

VII · The forest and the soil

Amazon Underworld, 2025 (67% of 987 Amazonian municipalities). Yanomami territory — 363 deaths in 2023. Roraima — 309 trafficking cases between 2022 and mid-2024. Testimonies of Marcella & Sofia. Sister Valdelice Gomes — Pastoral for Migrants, Bonfim. Study of 132 U.S. tribal communities. Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

VIII · The benches in the square

Tina Frundt — Courtney's House, Washington DC. Testimony of David (Venezuela → Peru → Brazil → Guyana). Venezuelan volunteer, Pastoral for Migrants — Global Health Now.

IX · What crime actually sells

Editorial analysis based on the sources in I–VIII and on literature on the parallel economy of fear (MS-13, PCC, Cape Flats gangs).

All data verified against primary institutional, journalistic and academic sources. Names marked with an asterisk have been altered by the sources themselves to protect the people involved. The full list of sources is available in KIN Institute research documents.