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The 34th Annual Frank Church Conference
Monday, October 23, 2017
Boise State University

“Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...”

AMERICA’S FUTURE:
REFUGEES, MIGRATION and NATIONAL SECURITY

The 34th Annual Frank Church Conference
Monday, October 23, 2017
Boise State University
Welcome to the 34th annual Frank Church Conference

AMERICA’S FUTURE: REFUGEES, MIGRATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY

On World Refugees Day, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that the world is currently witnessing the greatest population displacement since World War II — some 65.6 million people worldwide. This includes 22.5 million people who were refugees at the end of 2016, 40.3 million internally displaced people, and 2.8 million asylum seekers. Last year, 10 million people were newly displaced by conflict or persecution, which was the equivalent of 20 people forced to leave their homes every minute of 2016. Half the refugee population in 2016 were children below the age of eighteen.

Given these staggering statistics, what are the strategic and moral implications of this largest global crisis witnessed since World War II? What lessons have we learned from darker moments in U.S. history, when “fortress America” policies denied safe haven to refugees fleeing persecution? What do the Trump Administration’s policies mean for refugees and for U.S. national security? These issues will be the focus of the 2017 Frank Church Conference, “America’s Future: Refugees, Migration and National Security.”

“Americans are agonizingly aware of the terrible loss of American blood and treasure in Indochina. Too often, however, we have failed to see the even greater toll that has been taken among the Indochinese people themselves….

We know by the continued high level of refugees and civilian victims of the war in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, that the war in Indochina is not winding down for the native people involved. The return home of thousands of American combat troops does not itself reduce for the Vietnamese, or the Laotians, or the Cambodians, or the various hill people of the area, the continuing destruction caused by our bombs and ordnance. These human costs cannot be wished away, reclassified or ignored.”

Senator Frank Church, “Wasted People” Congressional Record, March 23, 1971

AGENDA MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017

8:30 a.m. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
SIMPLOT BALLROOM
Garry V. Wenske, Executive Director, the Frank Church Institute
The Hon. David Bieter, Mayor, City of Boise
Dr. Corey Cook, Dean, School of Public Service, Boise State University

9:00 a.m. OPENING ADDRESS
Framing the Challenges of the Global Refugee and Migration Crisis
Steven Feldstein, Frank and Bethine Church Chair of Public Affairs, Boise State University; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

9:30 a.m. PANEL DISCUSSION
Fortress America in Context
MODERATOR: Steven Feldstein
Michael Young, Senior Advisor, Mercy Corps
Jim Jones, Of Counsel, Parsons, Behle & Latimer; former Chief Justice, Idaho Supreme Court
Jan Reeves, Director, Idaho Office of Refugees

10:45 a.m. PANEL DISCUSSION
America as “Mother of Exiles”
MODERATOR: Dr. Nick Miller Professor of History, Boise State University
Jennifer Sime, Senior Vice President for U.S. Programs, International Rescue Committee
Mohamed Abubakar, President, the African Middle Eastern Leadership Project
Refik Sadikovic, Lecturer, Boise State University

12:00 p.m. BREAK

12:30 p.m. LUNCHEON
HATCH BALLROOM

1:00 p.m. LUNCHEON ADDRESS
Changing U.S. Refugee Policies: From the Obama to the Trump Administration
INTRODUCTION: Steven Feldstein, Frank and Bethine Church Chair of Public Affairs
Anne C. Richard, Visiting Fellow, University of Pennsylvania; Former Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration

2:00 p.m. BREAK

AGENDA THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017

10:30 a.m. PANEL DISCUSSION
America as “Mother of Exiles”
MODERATOR: Dr. Nick Miller Professor of History, Boise State University
Jennifer Sime, Senior Vice President for U.S. Programs, International Rescue Committee
Mohamed Abubakar, President, the African Middle Eastern Leadership Project
Refik Sadikovic, Lecturer, Boise State University

12:00 p.m. BREAK

12:30 p.m. LUNCHEON
HATCH BALLROOM

1:00 p.m. LUNCHEON ADDRESS
Changing U.S. Refugee Policies: From the Obama to the Trump Administration
INTRODUCTION: Steven Feldstein, Frank and Bethine Church Chair of Public Affairs
Anne C. Richard, Visiting Fellow, University of Pennsylvania; Former Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration

2:00 p.m. BREAK

2:15 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Student Perspectives: The Ethics of Working and Studying with Vulnerable Populations
TRUEBLOOD ROOM
Dr. Lisa Meierotto, Assistant Professor, School of Public Service, Boise State University

Essential Skills for Humanitarian Careers
ALEXANDER ROOM
Julianne Tzel, Director, Boise Office, International Rescue Committee

The Movement of People: Migrants, Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers
BRINK ROOM
Leo Morales, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union

3:30 p.m. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Frank Church, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Boise State University Special Collections