

ABSTRACT

There are approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States of America presently. Mexicans are the largest group; however they are followed by immigrants from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador (GHS), a region known as the Northern Triangle. Current immigration from the region of GHS prevails. One of the reasons is an ongoing 2014 American immigration crisis, related to the migration of unaccompanied minor's. The Northern Triangle is considered to be one of the poorest in the region, with the high levels of crime and murder rates, which is likely to be caused by numerous street gangs and drug cartels. The first wave of migration was caused by civil wars in Guatemala and El Salvador in the eighties. There was another wave after 1998 caused by several natural disasters which swept through the region. The newcomers widened the numbers of undocumented immigrants in the USA.

President Trump plans to deport most of the undocumented immigrants and he wants to prevent other migrants from coming with the construction of the border wall with Mexico. The immigrants live in the USA ten years or longer on average, some of them have families and kids who are American citizens. In contrast to the decision of the previous administration, they would not avoid the deportation. The current US President is against the sanctuary cities which do not consider the immigration status as the main reason for deportation. One of them, New York City, is involved in the case study. The second area of the interest is on Long Island (NY), where there is a strong presence of the notorious gang MS-13, whom President Trump wants to eradicate.

The aim of the study is to analyze interviews with the people from GHS which were held on Long Island, and to compare and contrast the different aspects of everyday life with the information about the undocumented immigrants from the Northern Triangle presented in the academic field and studies.

The analysis showed that most of the respondents fit the description of Central American unauthorized immigrants in the thesis. The journey towards the USA was not the easiest one and the main reason for the immigration was economic situation and the need to help their family. Only the applicants for asylum feared for their lives. They have limited English proficiency, although they have lived in the USA for many years, but it was enough skills for their low paid jobs. Their friends were among Hispanic community. They agreed that the whole community of undocumented immigrants' lives in more fear than ever before, caused by the new rules and possible deportation. The question about legalization of their stay is unlikely to happen, there is only one option for now and that is the (sham) marriage. Among the respondents there were immigrants who would like to return back to Central America one day.