# Changing Demographics and Policies at US Borders: The Impact on Migrants Seeking Asylum



On May 7, individuals lined up at the border walls separating Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego, USA, to apply for asylum. This sector has become the busiest along the entire US-Mexico border. Aid workers, including Jacqueline Arellano from the non-profit Border Kindness, distributed donated clothing and other essentials to migrants gathered in places like Home Depot parking lots.

The demographic of migrants has shifted over the years. Initially primarily Mexican laborers, recent arrivals now include people from Haiti, Venezuela, Bolivia, Guatemala, Brazil, and Ecuador. Many of these individuals are filing for asylum and are stuck navigating complex immigration systems without adequate resources.

Meanwhile, New York City initiated evictions from migrant shelters on May 22, aiming to reduce shelter populations by enforcing a stricter 30-day stay policy for adults. This policy, imposed by Mayor Eric Adams’ administration, affects around 250 migrants initially. Exceptions are made for those who show significant efforts to leave or have extenuating circumstances. Critics argue this policy will lead to increased homelessness among migrants struggling to secure jobs and housing.

Both San Diego and New York City highlight the ongoing challenges and shifting dynamics at the US's borders amid rising immigration concerns during an election year.