

The need for volunteers on the ground in Tijuana – specifically legal professionals – is dire and urgent.

Background:

As 7,000+ refugee children, elders and individuals flee widespread political persecution, gang violence and discrimination from Central America in the largest caravan in decades, it is vital that we, as a legal community, come together and provide immediate and concrete legal support for the people seeking asylum in our country.

The U.S. government is attempting to deny the right to asylum and has been violating U.S. and international law. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) is denying asylum seekers their right to request asylum and is illegally restricting the asylum application process. **There is a tremendous need during this rapidly changing humanitarian crisis for asylum seekers to receive accurate legal information on US immigration law and the asylum process. Our vision is to ensure that every individual seeking asylum at the border understands their rights.**

Volunteer Description:

Who: There is a large need for attorneys, legal staff and law students familiar with or experienced in asylum law are needed in Tijuana for the next several months to provide urgent legal support.

- Although Spanish-speaking volunteers are preferred, non-Spanish speaking volunteers familiar or experienced with asylum law are still needed and should bring their own interpreters. French and Creole speakers are also needed.

Must be a self-starter. It is important to understand that we are working together in a coordinated effort and we are learning from each other as they dynamics at the border are constantly changing.

What: provide legal information to people seeking refuge and to ensure the right to seek asylum is protected. The different tasks include:

- Facilitate informal “charlas” (chats) with individuals about US asylum law
- Conduct individual legal intakes and consultations at different shelters
- Accompany people from their camps and shelters to be added to “The List”
- Conduct legal observing at the camps, the ports of entry, and other locations

When: Al Otro Lado is requesting legal volunteers to sign up for a minimum of one of two shifts: Monday through Thursday or Friday through Sunday.

Where: Legal volunteers meet every morning at 10am at Enclave Caracol in Tijuana, Mexico

- Every day at 10am, Al Otro Lado staff provides an overview for legal volunteers and shares basic training materials to prepare legal volunteers for the day. Volunteers may then be deployed to the port of entry or different shelters.
- Every day at 1pm, Al Otro Lado hosts a legal clinic at Enclave Caracol, where volunteers conduct brief 15 minute consultations. Brief training is provided and the legal clinic lead is available to answer volunteer questions.

How: Fill out Al Otro Lado’s Border Rights Project- Tijuana On The Ground Legal Support [form for legal volunteers \(attorneys, law students, and legal workers\)](#)

- Once you complete the form, the volunteer coordinator will reach out to you to discuss scheduling according to your skills and the demand on the ground.

Thank you!