

**GMLKCI – Glastonbury Martin Luther King Community Initiative,
IRIS – Integrated Refugee Immigrant Services, and
CIRC – the Connecticut Immigrant & Refugee Coalition**

PRESENT AN ONLINE CONVERSATION

Immigration: Myths, Laws, Policies, & Reforms

Monday, January 25, 2021



HOSTS

Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative

GMLKCI is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, formed in 2001*, under the auspices of the Glastonbury Human Relations Commission. GMLKCI's mission is to increase knowledge about, and understanding of, the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community. We believe that bringing people together discuss openly and honestly social justice issues will help build a more inclusive and tolerant community. As Dr. King noted "... whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly..." and "...the quality of a community is determined by how members of the community relate to one another."



Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services

IRIS is a non-profit agency whose mission is to help refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut's communities. Welcoming persecuted people from other countries is America's most noble tradition. IRIS helps newcomers on the road to self-sufficiency by providing lifesaving support during their transition to life in the United States.



Connecticut Immigrant & Refugee Coalition

CIRC is a broad-based network of community organizations, religious and business groups, and legal service providers committed to protecting the rights of and economic development of refugee and immigrant communities in CT and to foster their civic participation. CIRC has been advocating for immigrant and refugee communities in Connecticut since 1996.



*Note: GMLKCI celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year, 2021.



PROGRAM

WELCOME AND PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Jon Bauer

CONVERSATION—OUR SPEAKERS

Chris George

Dana Bucin

Alan Dornan

Demetrios Giannaros

Camila Bortolletto

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Please enter your Questions into the “Chat”
function on your zoom screen.

CLOSING REMARKS AND APPRECIATION

Jon Bauer

The goal of this Community Conversation is for our panelists to provide both a starting point and a resource for what we hope will be an inspiring, lively, informative, thought-provoking, and life changing conversation.

Jon Bauer

Jon Bauer will moderate and facilitate the Conversation.

Mr. Bauer is a Clinical Professor of Law, the Richard D. Tulisano '69 Scholar in Human Rights, and the Director of the Asylum and Human Rights Clinic at UConn School of Law.

Chris George

Mr. George is the Executive Director of IRIS, a government and privately funded nonprofit helping refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, regain hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut's communities.

Following college, Mr. George served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Oman and later worked in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, directing a legislative strengthening project with the Palestinian Parliament and later established an emergency assistance program for Palestinian nonprofit organizations.

Mr. George also served with Human Rights Watch – Middle East, Save the Children in the West Bank and Gaza, and the American Friends Service Committee. Mr. George spent most of his professional life in the Middle East.

Mr. George will address the following issues: reform of the refugee quota system; the social adjustment and the legal, employment, educational, law enforcement, and economic issues faced by refugees. Mr. George will also address whether refugees are a threat to our national or individual security; disproportionately engage in criminal activities, are unemployed or uneducated; or are a burden on taxpayers. Mr. George will also explain the vetting process and the success IRIS has had over the past few years in settling refugees in Connecticut.

Dana Bucin

Ms. Bucin received a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University and a J.D. from Boston University. Ms. Bucin is an immigration attorney with the Murtha Cullina law firm representing both business and individual clients with green card applications, H-1B visas, foreign investor visas, naturalization/citizenship, religious worker visas, as well as various other employment and family-based immigration matters.

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Dana Bucin *Continued from page 4*

Ms. Bucin has been the recipient of many awards including a “40 Under Forty” award from the Hartford Business Journal and CT Magazine. The CT Law Tribune named her as a 2010 Women in the Law High Achievers; selected her as one of the “New Leaders in the Law;” and named her “Attorney of the Year.” In addition, Ms. Bucin was named a Rising Star by the Super Lawyers Magazine. Ms. Bucin will provide an overview of Federal immigration laws and policies during the Trump administration, anticipated and actual changes in the law and policies under the Biden administration, and recommended reforms

Alan Dornan

Mr. Dornan is an 81-year-old activist who has been demonstrating with a sign advocating for DREAMers and all immigrants for 90 minutes each day in his Wethersfield community since January 25, 2018*. He has organized and participated in many rallies in his neighborhood and across the State. In June 2019, Mr. Dornan joined two other 80-year-old men in blocking the entrance to the Federal Courthouse in Hartford as an act of civil disobedience, protesting the inhumane treatment of refugee children at the southern border. They were arrested by Federal agents and fined. He declined to pay the fine and his case remains pending in Federal Court, delayed by COVID-19.

Mr. Dornan is a Board Member of CIRC and United Action Connecticut, and a member of the Greater Hartford Immigration Coalition, where he assists immigrants in preparing their asylum applications, identifying affordable immigration attorneys, and accompanying the applicants to ICE Court. In addition, Mr. Dornan is involved in raising funds to assist immigrants suffering from COVID-19 related food deprivation, homelessness, and lack of adequate healthcare.

Mr. Dornan will talk about his life as an activist and will address the role and importance of community activism in standing up for the rights of vulnerable immigrants and advocating for immigration reform.

*Note: Today marks the third anniversary of the first day of the demonstration.

Demetrios Giannaros

Dr. Giannaros immigrated from Greece at the age of 14 with his family. He earned a BA degree in Economics from the University of Massachusetts, MA degrees in Development Economics and Political Economy, and a PhD in Economics from Boston University. Dr. Giannaros retired after 36 years of teaching Economics, Public Policy, Public Finance, International Business, Economic Forecasting and Global Financial Markets to graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Hartford, Suffolk University, and Boston University.

In addition, Dr. Giannaros served in the CT House of Representatives for 16 years, including as the Deputy Speaker. He also served as president of the National Immigrant Heritage Center, the Greenbriar Foundation, and the World Hellenic Inter-parliamentary Association. Currently, Dr. Giannaros is the President of the National Immigrant Heritage Center, Vice President, of CIRC, and a Trustee of the Polish-American Foundation.

Dr. Giannaros will speak about the contributions immigrants and refugees make to our society based upon a strictly economic analysis and perspective.

Camila Bortolletto

Camila Bortolletto is an undocumented and a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient. Ms. Bortolletto graduated from Western CT State University in 2010 summa cum laude with a BS degree in Biology. Ms. Bortolletto is a co-founder of Connecticut Students for a Dream (C4D) and has been organizing in the immigrant rights movement for nine years. C4D is the only youth-led, statewide network in Connecticut that fights for the rights of undocumented youth and their families. Ms. Bortolletto proudly describes herself as undocumented, unafraid, and unapologetic. She was born in Brazil and immigrated to Danbury, CT when she was nine years old with her family. She co-founded CT Students for a Dream in 2010, along with her twin sister Carolina, with the intention of creating a space for undocumented immigrant youth to exercise their voice, build community, and create social change for immigrant communities in CT. Camila now serves as the Co-Director of C4D.

Ms. Bortolletto will discuss her personal immigrant story and her work in fighting for the rights of the undocumented youth community in Connecticut.



The Town of Glastonbury Human Relations Commission is available to assist any resident who, because of race, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or intellectual, mental or physical disability, has been discriminated against in a manner prohibited by the laws of the State of Connecticut or the Town of Glastonbury.

For additional information visit the Town's website or contact the Commission through the Glastonbury Human Resources Department, 860-652-7501.

Please consider supporting the GMLKCI through the Amazon Smiles program.

Visit **smile.amazon.com**. Select **Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to GMLKCI.

Thank you for attending today's program. Your presence encourages the work we do as members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative (GMLKCI) to make Glastonbury a more inclusive place to live and visit.

This project was accomplished by a handful of committed community members. Please consider joining as a volunteer; there is an opportunity to express interest on the electronic survey.

While all of our programs are free, we are dependent on the community for financial support. The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations are tax deductible. If you would like to support our efforts with a financial contribution, checks for any amount will be gratefully accepted; payable to **GMLKCI**, and mailed to the GMLKCI Treasurer at:

62 Chimneysweep Hill Road
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033

More information about
Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative:

www.glastonburymlkci.org

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative would like to thank our sponsors, who make this work possible.



Today's Community Conversation is generously supported by the Norma and Natale Sestero Fund administered by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The Norma and Natale Sestero Fund was created through the estate of Natale and Norma Sestero, longtime residents of Glastonbury, with the goal to benefit the people and institutions of the town. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents.

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