

# RESETTLEMENT AND PEACE: EXPERIENCES OF BHUTANESE-NEPALI REFUGEES IN A UNITED STATES RUST BELT CITY

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This article, featuring the experiences of resettled Bhutanese refugees, considers economic development and post-refugee peace. It examines the US resettlement system and offers a critique of practices that perpetuate forms of structural violence within refugee communities. The article inspects refugee narratives through the lens of human needs theory—survival, freedom, well-being, and identity—and finds that while some refugees are able to satisfy their needs adequately, others become marginalized. The article draws on data from ethnographic field observations and thirty semi-structured interviews. The qualitative dimension of this research is especially useful in conveying the complex narratives of refugee lives in the United States.

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“[Resettlement is] ... as if the whole refugee camp was transported to Akron. There are good things here. Also, bad things.”

Bhutanese refugee in Akron, Ohio

## INTRODUCTION

Third-country resettlement is one of the three “durable solutions” in addressing the global refugee problem outlined by the UN.<sup>1</sup> “Resettlement is [a family-based] transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another State that has agreed to admit them and ultimately grant them permanent