

Peruvian Immigrant



Lima, Peru – Julie (19, Dominican Republic) married Henry (25, Peru) and returned with him to his family home after an internet courtship and personal visit. Following his family's rejection he became verbally abusive which turned into physical abuse after their son was born. Public abuse led to a legal complaint and she was assisted by the services of the Ministry of the Mujer. Henry and his family demanded she withdraw the complaint or return to her home, but without her baby. She wants to return to the Dominican Republic, but cannot without a lengthy and costly legal process to take her child with her. Julie's

mother petitioned the assistance of the Embassies who advised her of the need of a lawyer to file for divorce, another lengthy process. Now, living with her child in the Refugee House, Julie is without friends and resources to pay for their

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living expenses, unable to work to complete the legal processes despite the law requiring the Peruvian father to give assistance for the child.

This situation is not unique. Currently there is another woman (Columbiana) and child living in the Refugee House. They and other young women are caught in this vicious circle.

Reflection: “In this world of globalization we have fallen into a globalization of indifference. We are accustomed to the suffering of others, it doesn’t concern us, it’s none of our business. ... The globalization of indifference makes us all ‘unnamed’, leaders without names and without faces,”said the Pope. And he prayed, “Let us ask the Lord for the grace to weep over our indifference, to weep over the cruelty in the world, in ourselves, and even in those who anonymously make socio-economic decisions that open the way to tragedies like this.” Pope Francis – July 8, 2013 in Lampedusa

- What causes me to live with this indifference?
- What could I do to change this reality?

Resource: Pastoral de la movilidad humana (Peru)

Action:

- Contact a public official about refugee or immigrant justice.
- How do I welcome a new family in my neighborhood, work or Church?

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