

Title: Kantian Moral Philosophy, Hospitality, and the Current Refugee Crisis in the United States

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Philosopher Immanuel Kant's deontological argument on behalf of the categorical imperative provides interesting insight into contemporary international political rights and the moral complexities which govern them. In opposition to the utilitarian perception that the ends justify the means, Kant rejects consequentialism and reasons that the essence of morality is captured by the unchangeability and absolutism of universal moral law. While Kant's ethical perspective may seem extreme, reasoning through the categorical imperative can be used to effectively assess the ethicality of various circumstances, such as the refugee crisis in the United States. To explore how the US refugee crisis can be better understood in ethics, I will apply Kant's ethical theory of hospitality to current refugee policy and the sharp cuts to refugee resettlement enforced by the US government. According to Kantian hospitality, nations are duty-bound to be hospitable towards all prospective refugees fleeing persecution or war, a moral perspective which should influence the proposed ethicality of refugee policy in the United States.

Works Cited

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