

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Community Health Clerkship  
**Health Advocacy**

**REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT HEALTH - BOSTON**

<b>Advocacy Organizations</b>	
What are some Local organizations that do advocacy work?	MIRA, MGH Chelsea, BMC, HPRT, LCHC
What are some State level organizations that do advocacy work?	MA DPH Office of Refugee and Immigrant Health
What are some National level organizations that do advocacy work?	Center for Mental Health Services & Refugee Mental Health Program (part of SAMHSA)
What are some International organizations that do advocacy work?	UNHCR, IRC, MSF, CARE, Refugees International
<b>Advocacy Issue</b>	
Looking at the State, National, and/or International level, at the websites or information from the organizations above, what is a major area of advocacy at this time? <i>Try to choose an advocacy issue that will in some way affect the local community.</i> Advocacy specifically refers to promoting legislation, policies or specific budgetary appropriations that positively affect a health issue. This may occur through decreasing barriers to accessing health services, providing an infrastructure conducive to effective health promotion programs, or directly increasing the resources and infrastructure of the public health system.	In Massachusetts, the MIRA Coalition, representing 100 member-organizations, has included in their legislative agenda (among other priorities) support for criminalizing human trafficking, providing services for trafficking victims and creating a commission to study the issue and review best practices.
What specific law, policy or appropriation is being advocated for?	Massachusetts State Senator Mark Montigny has submitted legislation on the topic which is being supported.
Who is doing the advocating? (Which organizations?)	The MIRA Coalition (on the state level)
Who is being lobbied?	Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick as well as the Massachusetts Legislature.
Whom will this issue affect?	Victims of human trafficking. Two estimates, one from 1999 and one from 2004 estimate the number affected is 14,500 to 50,000. <a href="http://www.traffickingproject.blogspot.com/">(http://www.traffickingproject.blogspot.com/)</a>

Were they or will they (in your opinion) be successful?	There is already some public support on the national level for addressing the issue of human trafficking. I believe that success will depend on whether there is full-scale agreement on the severity (in terms of numbers affected and the prevalence statewide) of the issue.
Why or why not? What do they need to be more successful?	A marketing campaign to expose the level of human trafficking present in the state would help.
What are the consequences if they are not successful?	If human trafficking continues in this country (and is definitively shown to be an issue), it questions the foundations of this nation as a free one.
If they are not successful, what other strategies can be used to achieve the same goal?	Building their coalition and/or working with other coalitions of organizations which advocate for broad human rights and other related issues.
How can physicians and/or nurses be involved in this advocacy issue?	By contributing to MIRA monetarily or by making it a priority with the Massachusetts Medical Society and other physician organizations, which speak for and advocate for Massachusetts health care workers as a whole.