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Restoring Personhood through Peer-Hosting: The Peers Immigration Rehabilitation Module (PIRM) as a Scalable Rehabilitation Model for Immigrants and Refugees

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Abstract

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The contemporary global migration apparatus is currently characterised by a profound administrative and humanitarian flaw: the prolonged, traumatic transit period between leaving a home country and achieving systemic acceptance in a new nation. This institutionalised waiting period, often stretching from 6 to 24 months in bureaucratic limbo, frequently inflicts severe psychological, emotional, and financial damage on immigrants, stripping them of their dignity and autonomy (Portes & DeWind, 2007; WHO, 2021). Conventional state-led rehabilitation models rely on isolationist detention centres or fragmented NGO silos, treating displaced individuals as economic burdens rather than possessing inherent social value. This manuscript introduces the Peers Immigration Rehabilitation Module (PIRM), a core component of the Alam Happy Town (AHT) living laboratory framework, designed to structurally eradicate this transit trauma. Operating on the philosophical and biological principle of "personhood," PIRM bypasses institutional isolation by operationalising a direct, family-to-family sponsorship model. AHT residents can directly sponsor friends, family, or vulnerable individuals who reach out via designated web portals. Because the AHT community's internal economic engine, the Daily Sustenance Distribution System (DFDS), absorbs 100% of the immigrant's financial burden upon arrival, the state faces zero economic liability. Consequently, this paper advocates for a policy shift allowing expedited government processing, such as a 1-month visit visa for AHT-sponsored individuals. By synthesising well-being economics, theories of recognition, and rapid housing deployment, this research demonstrates that immediate peer-to-peer integration structurally preserves immigrant personhood, transitioning them from a state of systemic paralysis to immediate communal and economic empowerment.

Keywords: Immigrant rehabilitation, Peer-hosting, Institutional isolation, Personhood restoration, Alam Happy Town (AHT), Family-to-family integration

1. Introduction: The Anthropocene, Migration, and the Crisis of Personhood

The contemporary era, frequently designated as the Anthropocene, is characterised by profound ecological, economic, and geopolitical transformations that have displaced human populations at unprecedented rates (Steffen et al., 2011; Brauch et al., 2011). According to data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), global displacement has surged past 110 million individuals, representing the highest demographic displacement since the Second World War. However, treating this crisis merely as a logistical challenge of border management fundamentally misunderstands the depth of the trauma involved.

Philosophical anthropology posits that human identity is inherently dialogical; we achieve our full agency and self-understanding through mutual recognition and continuous social interaction (Taylor, 1989; Honneth, 1995). When a human being is forced to migrate, they do not merely lose a physical geographic location; they lose the entire "sphere of solidarity" that previously validated their social existence (MacIntyre, 1981). To survive and flourish, the Human Basic Input-Output System (BIOS) requires the immediate restoration of "personhood", the recognition of the individual as a valuable, dignified, and capable member of a cooperative community (Caplan, 1998; Boeve, De Maeseneer, & Van Stichel, 2014).

Drawing inspiration from the historical paradigm of 'Personhood of Citizens', PIRM modernises this instinct of peer-to-peer solidarity into a structural housing and economic model. Unfortunately, modern administrative state frameworks have industrialised the immigration process. The systemic flaw lies in the perilous gap between departing the home country and achieving legal, economic, and social acceptance in the host nation (De Tapia, 2008). This manuscript argues that this prolonged institutional transit fundamentally damages the immigrant psychologically, emotionally, and financially. To cure this, the Alam Happy Town (AHT) framework introduces the Peers

Immigration Rehabilitation Module (PIRM), which replaces state-managed isolation with immediate, family-to-family integration, ensuring the rapid restoration of personhood and economic viability.

2. The Global Scenario and the Trauma of Transit

To understand the necessity of PIRM, one must first objectively analyse the failures of the current global migration scenario and the resulting trauma inflicted upon displaced populations.

2.1. The Statistical Reality of Stagnation

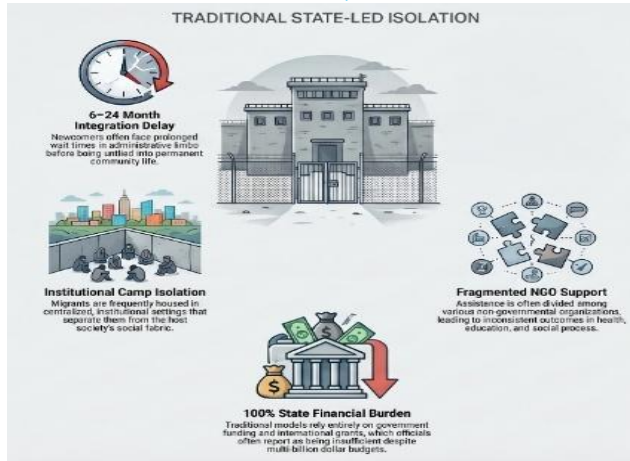
The modern asylum framework was largely designed for a post-WWII demographic reality and struggles to process contemporary South-South and South-North migration volumes (Mark & Chris, 2014; Portes & DeWind, 2007). Consequently, the average refugee or displaced person now spends upwards of 17 years in transient camps or undocumented urban poverty. Furthermore, traditional frameworks fail to account for emerging demographics, such as climate migrants fleeing ecological overshoot, who do not qualify under historical asylum criteria but face identical existential displacement (Club of Rome, 2022; Peilin & Wang, 2016).

2.2. The Psychological and Emotional Deterioration

The most critical flaw in modern immigration policy is the systemic "waiting period." In North American and European contexts, standard asylum processing averages between 6 and 24 months. During this period, immigrants are frequently housed in isolated shelters, legally barred from employment, and separated from the broader society. Public health research unequivocally demonstrates that social isolation and institutional loneliness function as severe mortality risk factors, elevating salivary cortisol, inducing chronic anxiety, and fundamentally eroding mental health (Holt-Lunstad et al., 2015; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2020).

When an immigrant is legally forced into idleness, it violates the biological imperative of

the Human BIOS, which requires daily movement and productive purpose (Apostolopoulos, 2018). This systemic paralysis kills the immigrant's self-esteem emotionally and depletes any remaining capital financially, reducing highly capable individuals to a state of learned helplessness and institutional dependency (Stiglitz, Sen, & Fitoussi, 2009; Marmot et al., 2020).



3. Policy Drawbacks: The Failure of Institutional Integration

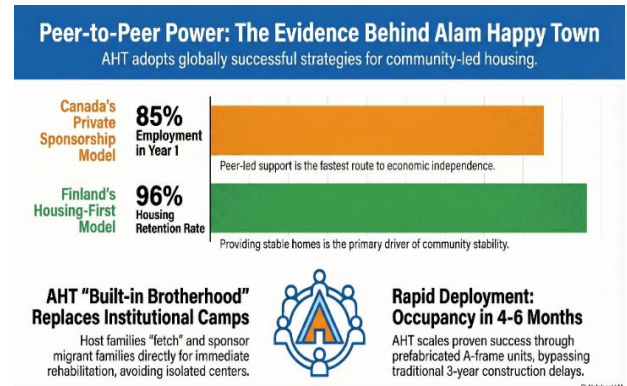
The applied sciences and contemporary policymakers frequently rely on "smart" border dashboards and centralised detention-first approaches to manage migration flows (Kitchin, 2014; Green, 2019). However, these policies systematically under-address the moral grammar of social conflicts (Honnet, 1995).

- The Detention and Shelter-First Approach:** Housing immigrants in mass shelters before allowing economic integration is financially costly to the host government and highly traumatising to the individual. It strips the migrant of their personhood, treating them as administrative statistics rather than social assets (Fields, 2017).
- Fragmented Rehabilitation:** The current system relies on a fractured network of NGOs—one handles housing, another handles language, and a third handles trauma. This soloed approach fails to provide the holistic sustenance (Rizzq) required for genuine human flourishing, leaving the immigrant to navigate a confusing, hostile bureaucracy alone (Ostrom, 1990).
- One-Size-Fits-All Assimilation:**

Standardised language and integration Courses often ignore the immigrant's existing capabilities, forcing highly skilled individuals into menial labour trajectories and erasing their cultural dignity (Levinson, 2012).

4. Positivity: International Precedents Validating Peer Integration

Despite these widespread systemic failures, several international initiatives provide empirical proof that peer-led, decentralised integration yields vastly superior socioeconomic outcomes.



These models serve as precursors validating the AHT PIRM approach:

- Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR):** The Canadian model, which allows private citizen groups to sponsor refugees directly, boasts an 85% employment rate within the first year. This statistically proves that community-led, family-to-family integration is significantly more effective than state-led isolation (Portes & DeWind, 2007).
- Finland's Housing-First Model:** By providing permanent, independent housing immediately upon arrival—rather than temporary shelters—Finland achieves a 96% long-term housing retention rate, proving that physical sanctuary is the prerequisite for psychological healing (Aalbers, 2016).
- Colombia's Temporary Protection Status (ETPV):** By rapidly regularising 1.8 million displaced Venezuelans within 6 months and granting

immediate work rights, Colombia bypassed the trauma of transit, instantly transforming dependents into active taxpayers and community contributors.

5. The AHT Solution: PIRM and the Restoration of Personhood

The Alam Happy Town (AHT) framework synthesises these international best practices into a highly engineered, community-based intervention. By utilising the 40-household, 3-acre micro-community model, AHT replaces the bureaucracy of the state with the intimacy of the neighbourhood, ensuring immediate action to cover the transit flaw.



5.1. Family-to-Family Hosting (The Immediate Action Model)

Within AHT, integration is executed strictly on a family-to-family basis. AHT residents possess the autonomy to identify and sponsor vulnerable individuals, friends of extended family, or those in acute need. Needy individuals can proactively approach AHT residents directly or through the community's designated web portal.

If an AHT resident family agrees to sponsor the applicant, they "fetch" the immigrant family directly into their micro-community. Because the AHT community size is strictly capped at 40 households, it respects the Dunbar number for social cohesion, ensuring that the new family is instantly absorbed into a high-trust, protective social network rather than an anonymous urban grid (Dunbar, 1992; Putnam, 2000). The host

family serves as the immediate cultural and social navigator, providing the "sphere of love" and interpersonal recognition necessary to heal the trauma of displacement (Honneth, 1995).

5.2. Expedited Visa Processing: Removing the State's Burden

The primary reason governments delay asylum processing is the perceived financial and logistical burden on the state's welfare and housing systems (Fields, 2017). AHT eliminates this burden. Because the AHT community provides the physical A-frame housing and guarantees the immigrant's financial survival through its internal economic engine, there is zero financial risk to the host government.

Therefore, this manuscript strongly advocates that the government partner with AHT living laboratories to expedite the legal entry process. If an AHT resident formally sponsors an individual, the government should process the application immediately—potentially issuing a 1-month visit or temporary integration visa. By fast-tracking legal entry, the state prevents the immigrant from suffering psychological and financial death during transit, allowing them to begin a productive community life instantly.

5.3. DSDS: The Economic Engine of Immediate Rehabilitation

The financial viability of PIRM is guaranteed by the AHT Daily Sustenance Distribution System (DSDS). Immigrants typically arrive with depleted financial resources. In a traditional capitalist system, they would face immediate, traumatising scarcity (Oxfam, 2024). However, the DFDS mandates that all earning members of the 40-household AHT community distribute exactly 30% of their daily surplus profit or savings downward to neighbours with lesser income (Alam & Tariq, 2021).

Upon arrival, the sponsored immigrant family immediately becomes a receiver of this circulating capital. Their daily holistic sustenance (Rizzq) is guaranteed not by a slow government check, but by the physical, daily contributions of their 40 neighbours (Keynes, 1936). This completely cures the financial

trauma of migration. Furthermore, as the immigrant utilises this capital to acquire tools, engage in kitchen gardening, or apply their existing skills, they rapidly transition from being a receiver to a giver, achieving total financial dignity and independence within months rather than years (Smil, 2001; Heckman, 2006).

5.4. OCAM: Civic Recognition and Empowerment

Immigrants frequently suffer from civic invisibility, lacking a voice in their new society. AHT cures this through the Open Candidatenhip Administration Module (OCAM). Operating on a 95% consensus rule, the entire 40-house community must agree to decisions without the toxicity of political campaigning (Alam, 2020). The immigrant is immediately recognised as a participating voice in local governance. Their lived experience is valued, granting them the "sphere of rights" and restoring their civic personhood (Honneth, 1995; Taylor, 1989).

6. Holistic Integration Strategies within PIRM

To ensure comprehensive rehabilitation, PIRM deploys several integrated strategies within the AHT living laboratory:

1. Pre-Departure and Job-Linked Integration:

Because sponsorship is initiated via web portals, AHT hosts can begin digital, bilingual cultural exchange and skill-matching while the immigrant is still preparing to travel, utilising "skill passports" to verify undocumented work histories.

2. Mental Health and the "Helper's High":

Trauma rehabilitation in AHT does not rely solely on clinical psychiatry; it relies on continuous community support. Peer-reviewed research demonstrates that prosocial behaviour (helping others) triggers physiological responses that reduce cortisol and elevate baseline happiness for both the giver and the receiver (Durlak et al., 2011; Helliwell et al., 2024). The host family experiences the "helper's high," while the immigrant experiences unconditional safety. Furthermore, integration with domestic animals and community agriculture within AHT significantly accelerates emotional

regulation (Beetz et al., 2012; Krause-Parello & Friedmann, 2014).

3. Educational Continuity:

Migrant children bypass the trauma of entering foreign, institutionalised schooling by immediately entering the Alam Educational Framework (AEF). Utilising accelerated bilingual digital classrooms and parental home-schooling, the child is educated in a deeply secure environment that values their mother tongue while introducing the host nation's language (Alam, 2023).



7. Conclusion: From State Burden to Community Personhood

The contemporary administrative approach to immigration views the displaced individual as a systemic burden, utilising prolonged transit and institutional isolation in a manner that deeply damages the immigrant's psychological, emotional, and financial well-being. The Peers Immigration Rehabilitation Module (PIRM) fundamentally inverts this paradigm. By aligning human settlement with the biological and social imperatives of the Human BIOS, Alam Happy Town proves that peer-led, family-to-family integration is the most efficient and humane method of rehabilitation.

Through direct sponsorship, facilitated via community portals and supported by the expedited issuance of temporary visas, AHT absorbs 100% of the integration burden, relieving the state of financial liability. Empowered by the rapid economic velocity of the DFDS and the civic inclusion of OCAM, the immigrant is instantly shielded from scarcity. By transitioning immigration from a bureaucratic state process to an intimate community duty, PIRM structurally restores the immigrant's personhood, transforming the trauma of displacement into a profound opportunity for mutual economic growth, deep social solidarity, and engineered human happiness.

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