

## Coming To The U.S.

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United States are doing well in school, playing soccer and basketball. Three will be in college this fall. My daughter Geraldine was recently honored by Oprah Winfrey for her essay "Like Night and Day," a story of survival. My children are talking about being nurses, construction engineers, doctors, lawyers, and chefs. I am working as a home health aide and studying for my GED. I want to go into nursing administration.

I want to thank Americans because they

didn't know me, but they accepted me. I want to stay in this land that doesn't have a problem with me because of where I was born. Here we can live in peace.

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*Elisa Duraha was born in Congo to a family of 11 children. She finished middle school in Congo and took professional training as a seamstress. She ran a successful business making clothes in addition to being a mother of ten. She was forced to leave Congo and her family in 1998 because her life was in danger.*

# Exploring Your Experience

## Life journeys

Make a class chart about your life journeys. Answer these questions on the chart:

1. When did you leave your country?
2. What was happening in your country when you left? What **pushed** you to leave your country?
3. Why did you come to North America? What **pulled** you to North America?

Name	Your country	Departure	Push	Pull
Victor	Liberia	2003	War	Peaceful life
Manuel	Mexico	1999	Bad work NAFTA	More money to send home; better life for kids
Olga	Russia	1989	Hard time for Jews	Sister here; better for Jews?

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