



# Ways Disciples Can Learn About & Advocate for Immigrant Kids & Parents in Detention

## Get educated about family detention and share what you learn

- Backgrounder from Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/DISCIPLES-Families-in-Detention-Resource-Jan2015-FINAL.pdf>, and by Detention Watch Network: <http://bit.ly/1MHflwO>
- The Shame of America's Family Detention Camps from the New York Times Magazine: <http://nyti.ms/1IMvl8U>
- Locking Up Family Values, Again; Report by WRC and LIRS about Artesia: <http://lirs.org/familyvalues/>
- For-Profit Family Detention: Meet the Private Prison Corporations Making Millions by Locking Up Refugee Families; Report by Grassroots Leadership: <http://bit.ly/1I0vqha>
- The Interfaith Immigration Coalition's Mother's Day Toolkit focuses on these topics, and can be found at: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/2015/03/25/religious-holiday-resources/>

## Sign the Faith Leaders Open Letter, and recruit other faith leaders to sign on, too

- The letter begins: "We, the undersigned faith leaders, write to you with grave concern about the practice of family detention in the United States. We oppose family detention on the grounds that it is immoral, inhumane, and unnecessary."
- You can see the whole letter and sign it at <http://bit.ly/1G0qCWQ>

## Host a film screening

- Host a house-party or church gathering to screen the 30 minute video by Grassroots Leadership, **No Sanctuary: Big Business and Family Detention**. There is an accompanying study guide for group discussion. Contact Cristina Parker ([cparker@grassrootsleadership.org](mailto:cparker@grassrootsleadership.org)) at Grassroots Leadership for a copy of the film and the study guide.

## Call your Representative or Senator

- Find your Senators' contact information at: <http://1.usa.gov/KxiTHC> <http://1.usa.gov/1e8pAws>. Find out who your Representative is and his/her contact information at: <http://1.usa.gov/1e8pAws>.
- Suggested script: *My name is \_\_\_\_\_ calling from \_\_\_\_\_. I am a [name of your faith community] and a constituent, and I oppose immigrant family detention. Central American families held in DHS custody are seeking protection from violence, trafficking, and domestic violence. Children require specialized medical, educational, and legal support that detention facilities cannot provide. The Obama administration has rapidly expanded family detention since June 2014, claiming that women and children fleeing violence should be detained in order to deter others from migrating because this migration is a national security threat. This fails to live up to our most basic obligations to treat people humanely. I hope you will publicly speak out against family detention and contact the White House to express your alarm over this practice. I want the Karnes, Dilley and Berk family detention centers closed, and the use of family detention ended.*

**For follow-up, contact Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries Director, Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, at [stanley@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:stanley@dhm.disciples.org), or 202-957-7826.**