



Faith Resources to Support Mothers' Day & Immigrants' Rights Throughout MAY

For Further Information, and to Share Your Stories of How You Will Use This Toolkit, contact: Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, Refugee & Immigration Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), at: 202-957-7826 or: sstanley@dhm.disciples.org.

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Introduction:

On Mother's Day every year we honor the special role of motherhood in our families. Our mothers perhaps make the most impact on our childhood in shaping how we are raised and who we become. This Mother's Day we are paying special attention to the humanitarian crisis we face with our broken immigration system. Every day 1,100 people are deported, and too many mothers are ripped away from their children, or forced to support their family and raise their children alone. In the last two years, over 200,000 parents of U.S. citizen children were deported.

The time is now to act for immigrant justice and we invite you to participate through calling your decision makers, highlighting the struggle of immigrant mothers in your worship services on Mother's Day and throughout the month of May, and by participating in voter registration activities with partner organizations.

MAY Mother's Day Immigration Action Alert:

Call EVERY Day You Can in May to Show Your Support for Immigrant Mothers Who are Facing Family Separation!

Make TWO CALLS to tell the House of Representatives & the White House that you pray they will act to reunite families and heal immigrant communities!

- The House is refusing to act on immigration reform
- The Obama Administration must stop the suffering and separation of families by deportations

Congress and the White House need to hear from you!

House leadership continues to refuse to bring immigration reform up for a vote, despite having enough bipartisan votes to pass a bill with a path to citizenship. As Republicans are predicting that they might win control of both the House and Senate in November, it is becoming less and less likely that the House will vote on immigration reform this year. We need all Representatives to hear from people of faith that delay is unacceptable, and that we need House leadership to make immigration reform a reality.

Every day that the House delays, 1,100 individuals are deported from their families and communities by the Administration. There are bold, concrete actions that President Obama can and must take to stop the pain that families and communities face due to deportations. The President has the authority to provide our undocumented community members opportunities to stay in the United States without fear of deportation. Such action could look similar to the recent Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in which undocumented individuals who came to the U.S. as children can apply to temporarily be able to travel and work legally.

We need to hold both the House and the White House accountable to keep families and communities together!

Call your Representative at 1-866-940-2439. Here's a sample script:

You can also call the Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 or find your Representative's direct line at www.house.gov

"I'm from City, State, Congregation/Community and as a person of faith, I am outraged that the House has failed to pass immigration reform. The need for reform is urgent, as our broken immigration system tears families and communities apart. I urge the Representative to insist that House leadership work to enact immigration reform that reunites families and leads to citizenship for our undocumented community members."

Then Call the White House at 1-866-961-4293. Here's a sample script:

You can also call the White House Comment Line directly at [1-888-907-2053](tel:1-888-907-2053).

"I'm from City, State, Congregation/Community and as a person of faith, I urge President Obama to stop the pain and family separation caused by deportations. The President has the authority to allow our undocumented community members to stay here in the United States without fear of deportation. As our broken immigration system tears families and communities apart, the President cannot neglect his authority to grant relief similar to the DACA program to more of our community members."

Keep up the pressure on social media! Urge [@WhiteHouse](https://twitter.com/WhiteHouse) and your Representative's [Twitter](https://twitter.com/) name (found on their website, www.house.gov) to do their part to reunite families and heal communities.

Ex: [@Raul_Labrador](https://twitter.com/Raul_Labrador) As a person of faith from Idaho I want you to champion #immigrationreform What are you doing for #familyunity?

Ex: [@WhiteHouse](https://twitter.com/WhiteHouse) As a person of faith I want you to use your authority to grant relief to our undocumented community members. #Not1More family separated

Follow [@soulhikr](https://twitter.com/soulhikr) & [@InterfaithImm](https://twitter.com/InterfaithImm) on Twitter and "like" Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries at

<https://www.facebook.com/RefugeeAndImmigrationMinistriesChristianChurchDoc> & the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithImmigrationCoalition) on Facebook to receive up-to-date alerts.

Mother's Day Month Worship Resources

Opening Prayer: God of dignity and life, we honor the mothers, who have born and raised us, who shaped us into who we are today. We remember the struggle of so many mothers to raise their children, especially those who have seen their families torn apart due to our broken immigration system. Some mothers are ripped away from their children by deportations, while others miss their husband who might have died in the desert while trying to join them in the United States. God, we pray for all those mothers in our congregation and throughout our country struggling for their families. May you bless them all this Mother's Day season.

Call to Worship

Leader: Oh God we pray for all the mothers throughout the world.

People: We thank you for our own mother's guidance and love that has nurtured us into adulthood.

Leader: We pray for those mothers who even in poverty work to provide for their family and put their kids through school.

People: O God, blessed are the mothers among us. Let the inaction of our policy makers end here and now, as we pray to keep families together and stop deportations so that not one more mother is separated from her child.

Benediction

Our God has nurtured and counseled us, brought us in when others rejected us, shown us the tender care that only a Mother, God could bring. We follow in the footsteps of our mothers who have shown us the way along our path. We are ready to work towards keeping mothers and fathers with their children, to keep families together, to stop deportations, and welcome all people regardless of their immigration status.

Sample Bulletin Announcements:

National Call In Day (and MONTH OF MAY) to Congress & White House to Keep Families Together on Mother's Day: On Thursday, May 8th (and throughout the month!) faith based organizations are holding a call in to tell President Obama to stop deportations (call 1-866-961-4293) and to ask the House of Representatives to take a vote on immigration reform (call 1-866-940-2439). Find more information at www.interfaithimmigration.org/mothersday.

Civic Engagement: People of faith are joining activities on, {city}(time) (place) to canvas, phone bank and rally to register people to vote. Please contact (name/emal) from (local organization) who will be leading voter registration activities. We will be registering people to vote after worship and to sign-up for early voting.

Social Media Opportunities

Mother's Day season is a great opportunity to share with your friends online how important family unity and immigration reform are to you. Check out interfaithimmigration.org/mothersday to find social media images and sample posts for Facebook and Twitter. Sample Tweets:

- [@BarackObama](#) Too many families are separated this #MothersDay. Our nation's families need relief #DontDeportMyMom #Not1More
- Join me in calling the [@WhiteHouse](#) @ 1-866-961-4293 and stand with families this #MothersDay. #DontDeportMyMom interfaithimmigration.org/mothersday
- [@RepName](#), we need genuine #ImmigrationReform this #MothersDay. #DontDeportMyMom #TimesNow
- [@SpeakerBoehner](#), stand with Moms this #MothersDay. Schedule a vote on #ImmigrationReform. #DontDeportMyMom
- Join me in calling Congress this #MothersDay @ 1-866-940-2439 and support #ImmigrationReform interfaithimmigration.org/mothersday

Civic Engagement/Voter Development

On Saturday, May 10th, many of immigrants' rights organizations will be celebrating Mother's Day by hitting the streets and phones registering people to vote. We encourage all to join these activities by getting in touch with your local state leads on these civic engagement activities as community members, faith leaders, moms of DREAMers and many more join together. Find where you can join a phone bank, knock on doors, or invite a partner organization to come and register voters after your congregation's weekly service. (list of resources below)

Civic engagement is a key component of integration

Voting and participating in civil society are key to both the integration and naturalization processes. When naturalized immigrants and refugees exercise their right to vote, they empower themselves to be full members of their new communities. Even immigrants and refugees who are not yet naturalized – and therefore cannot yet vote – bring valuable contributions to social issues important to their communities through raising awareness about the benefits that newcomers bring to communities and the need to build stronger, more welcoming communities.

Civic engagement is part of our mission to build welcoming communities

We know first-hand the impact that policies have on the lives of refugees, immigrants and entire communities. We affirm that it is important for policy makers to take time to meet refugees and immigrants and understand their struggles. Our faith communities are diverse and share many perspectives, but we come together to educate our local policy makers on the importance of building stronger, more welcoming communities. The civic engagement by our network participates in helps build champions across party lines, at the local and national levels to create policies that lift up and value refugees and immigrants in our communities. Civic engagement work can also be an outreach tool to connect with new partners, as it brings communities together to engage with policy makers on meeting challenges and building stronger communities.

Non-profit civic engagement work is non-partisan, and does not endorse any candidate or political party:

As we promote civic engagement this Mother's Day, we educate candidates and the public about the importance of building welcoming communities. As congregations and non-partisan, 501(c)3 organizations this means that we will not be endorsing parties or candidates, but we will continue, as we always have, to promote welcoming communities. All activities will be consistent with our core values to promote the dignity and rights of all people.

Voter Registration

It is helpful to coordinate with partner organizations and identify volunteers to canvass, phone bank or to register voters at your congregation. If you can, integrate the importance of voting with the struggle of immigrant mothers in your weekly service. Sharing stories about individuals who have not been able to vote in the past, or who are voting for the first time is a great way to motivate everyone to register to vote.

Voter Registration Table Checklist

- ✓ Voter registration cards, absentee and early voting ballots and other relevant information
- ✓ State voter information from your Election Office, including a map of jurisdictions & poll places
- ✓ Ask people to sign a commitment card promising to vote on election day
- ✓ Signs: "Register to Vote Here!" & a non-partisan disclaimer, such as "Our voter registration services are available without regard for the voter's political preference."

Collaborate with Partner Organizations

The partner organizations below can come out and help coordinate activities and organize voter registration drives at your congregation. They can help train volunteers, bring necessary materials, and help educate new voters on how to register or sign up on the early voting list. Contact your local organization from the list of helpful partners below.

STATES VOICES: www.statevoices.org

State Voices is a national network—built from the states up—that helps grassroots organizations win shared policy and civic engagement victories and build long-term power.

CONTACT: Local State Director (Found on Web Page)

MI FAMILIA VOTA: mifamiliavota.org

Mi Familia Vota Education Fund (MFVEF) is a national non-profit organization working to unite the Latino community and its allies to promote social and economic justice through increased civic participation.

CONTACT: Local State Director (Found on Web Page)

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: www.lwv.org

The League has worked to foster civic engagement and enhance access to vote since we were founded in 1920. The League helps you to get registered, get to know the candidates and issues, and get out and vote.

CONTACT: Your local office (Found on Web Page)

ROCK THE VOTE: www.rockthevote.com

Rock the Vote uses music, popular culture, new technologies and grassroots organizing with the goal of seizing the power of the youth vote to create political and social change. Ask any questions on elections in your state at electionland.com.

CONTACT: www.rockthevote.com/contact-us.html