

## SAMPLE CAMPUS PRAYER VIGIL In Solidarity with Dreamers



Below is a sample candlelight service, particularly for communities on college/university and seminary campuses, although it can be adapted to fit other contexts. Have available battery operated candles for each participant. Invite media to your event if you are able, in order to raise visibility about your commitment to Dreamers. Find additional helps for your vigil, and REGISTER YOUR DREAM SUPPORT EVENT in our DREAM Sabbath Toolkit here:

<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/2017/09/18/dream-sabbath-2017-launch-join-us-to-stand-in-solidarity-with-immigrant-youth/>

Before your event, research and consider sharing some of these realities of Dreamers and their contributions in the United States and in your own state:

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/08/28/437956/daca-recipients-economic-educational-gains-continue-grow/>

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/07/21/436419/new-threat-daca-cost-states-billions-dollars/>

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/25/key-facts-about-unauthorized-immigrants-enrolled-in-daca/>

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles>

**WELCOME & INVITATION:** Thank you, everyone, for your attendance and willingness to gather in prayer and solidarity for our Dreamer neighbors.

In this moment following the September cancellation of the DACA program, and as we hope for and encourage a legislative protection through passage of “The Dream Act” of the 800,000 who have held DACA status and are ones we call “Dreamers,” we light candles to recognize a Divine presence that calls us into community with one another, that calls us into loving solidarity with our Dreamer neighbors who are vulnerable and hurting, and that calls us to lift our voices for justice and mercy.

We also light candles as a symbolic acknowledgment of the Dreamers who are such a vital part of our community, for their dreams that illuminate the darkness, and for their light that offers hope for a new future together.

As we light candles, we remember our God is a God of hope and life, a God who seeks a future for all persons and generations, a God who desires the fulfillment of dreams for all creation. Hear these words from the prophet Joel, chapter 2, verse 28: “Then it will come about at a later time that I will pour out my Spirit on every person. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your elderly people will dream dreams, and your young people will see visions.” Hoping to support that spirit of hope, we take time to listen to young adults whose dreams have been strong, but are now in jeopardy.

### **DREAMER STORIES:**

*(If available, have Dreamers, friends of Dreamers, professors of Dreamers, etc. related to your campus community share stories of their own background, accomplishments and struggles, if available. Consider locating and building a connection with a United We Dream group in your area by going to:*

<https://unitedwedream.org/groups/>. Or, share stories like these: <https://www.dreamerstories.com/>).

**PRAYER:** Invite people to read the different parts. This can be done with different individual readers or collectively. Invite all to respond with: “God in your mercy, Hear our prayer...”

**Reader 1:** 800,000 immigrants have been filled with fear and uncertainty of their future, as it was announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) has ended. DACA provides

temporary legal status for immigrants who were brought to the US as children, and allows them to pursue higher education and jobs to support their families.

Our neighbors are faced with the unimaginable fear of deportation, separation from their families and systems of support, and a complete disruption of their way of life.

Let us stand with Dreamers because as people of faith we are called to work for justice and healing and to make room for all of God's children to flourish. We pray that our Dreamer neighbors know that they are seen, they are heard, and they are loved.

***ALL: God in your mercy, Hear our Prayer.***

***Reader 2:*** We lift up our Dreamer neighbors and the ways they have shaped our own lives. Dreamers are doctors, lawyers, teachers, pastors, and students. They are mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends, and family. They are beloved children of God.

We pray that their stories are heard and the ways that they transform our lives are made known.

***ALL: God in your mercy, Hear our Prayer.***

***Reader 3:*** As people of faith we are reminded that we were created to live in community and that we are called love our neighbors when others in the world tell us not to. Let us move beyond hospitality and welcome, towards deep relationship and justice.

We pray that we might embrace our call to live into mutuality and solidarity, not just to welcome, but also to allow ourselves to be welcomed, living into abundant life with our neighbors by fighting for the passage of the Dream Act, and recognizing that our liberation is deeply bound with the liberation of Dreamers.

***ALL: God in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

***Going Forth/Call to Action:*** We are called to action. Let us live our prayers by writing statements of support to our newspapers, calling and visiting our representatives to pass The DREAM Act, pushing our university/college to speak out on behalf of Dreamers, and listening to the stories, needs, and most importantly, dreams of Dreamers.

Let us commit to being in truly authentic and life-changing relationship with our neighbors, and to stand in solidarity with Dreamers; trusting that when we do so, we are making room for God's abundant love to transform us and to transform the world.

***ALL: God in your mercy, hear our prayers.***



As your event closes, offer resources for actions that can be found in the *DREAM Sabbath Toolkit* at: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/2017/09/18/dream-sabbath-2017-launch-join-us-to-stand-in-solidarity-with-immigrant-youth/>. Consider ending your event with phone calling or letter writing to Congress to pass a clean DREAM Act or with interviews with media. Or, “commission” a team at the end of your event to go forward to deliver your messages and make legislative visits together to share your concerns with members in your local office.