



DREAMERS WELCOME AT THE TABLE Community Meals Building Relationships to Support The Dream Act Now & Renewal of Temporary Protected Status November 12- December 8th, 2016

As we approach the holiday season, community meals together are important moments in which we celebrate friendships and family. Many faith communities hold regular community meals and often join interfaith holiday events.

On September 5th, the administration announced that the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program would end, which had offered a legal status to work, attend school, and avoid deportation for nearly 800,000 young immigrants who entered the U.S. with their parents as children. Because of this change, DACA recipients, often called “dreamers,” are reporting great anxiety—as they wait to see the result of the President’s challenge to Congress to consider a legislative solution before the total expiration of the program on March 5th, 2018.

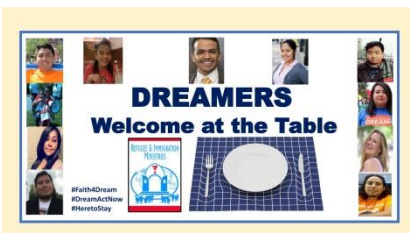
Many of our “dreamer” Disciples youth with DACA status have likewise expressed deep concerns. One reported that when they spoke publicly of their dreamer status, they received a death threat on their college site. Another Disciples college has made dozens of calls to their legislators in support of The Dream Act, and has visually demonstrated their support for dreamer classmates and friends. Now, we invite your family and congregation to consider participating in the “Dreamers Welcome at the Table” campaign to invite dreamers to come to your holiday season meals between now and the middle of December, to build relationships and to think together about how you might help support the bi-partisan Dream Act that is being considered right now in both the House and Senate.



This Holiday season, consider bringing a clear message to your event for Congress to pass the Dream Act now, without more enforcement measures that could lead to increased deportations. If we don’t pass the Dream Act before the end of the year, 800,000 undocumented youth who hold the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival might find themselves in the deportation pipeline as soon as March 5th.

Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, is a life-saving immigration program that allows foreign nationals to remain in the U.S. if, while they were in the U.S., something catastrophic happened in their country of origin that prevented their safe return. TPS protects people from deportation and allows them to work legally while they remain in the U.S. Right now, TPS protects approximately 330,000 people in the U.S. and this administration is considering canceling TPS for everyone.

Steps to hosting a community meal to Support the Dream Act



1. If you are already planning some type of community dinner, simply invite some undocumented youth and/or TPS beneficiary in your area to join and tell their story.
2. Invite elected officials at the local level, or U.S. Representatives or Senators to your dinner and asking them to speak on why it's important to pass the Dream Act.
3. Consider holding a press conference before the dinner begins with undocumented youth, TPS beneficiary, faith leaders, civic leaders

or elected officials.

4. Simply invite media and hold a short program of speakers, including undocumented youth, and TPS beneficiaries before or after your community dinner.
5. Send a press release with links to pictures and quotes of speakers from the event.

Find additional resources and messaging at the **Interfaith Immigration Coalition's [Dream Sabbath toolkit](#)** to incorporate Dreamers' stories and solidarity into your faith-led advocacy, worship services, scripture study, educational events, and public witness. Also, find more information about how faith communities can support TPS holders in the [Interfaith TPS Toolkit](#).

Place your event on the Dream Sabbath Map <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/dream-sabaath-events-page/>

MEDIA RESOURCES

Sample Social Media Posts

**#Faith4Dream #CleanDreamAct #HereToStay
#DreamActNow #TPS**

As we come upon the season of joy and celebration, Dreamers must be welcome at the table #Faith4Dream #HereToStay #DreamActNow

As faith communities join for fellowship, we give thanks for Dreamers and #TPS beneficiaries in our community #Faith4Dream #HereToStay



This Thanksgiving, we remember to love our neighbors, and welcome undocumented youth & #TPS beneficiaries to the table #Faith4Dream #HereToStay #DreamActNow #CleanDreamAct

Sample Media Advisory

(Sent before the event to invite the press)

DATE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

NAME, PHONE NUMBER

MEDIA ADVISORY

Date of Event, Time, Location

Faith Communities and Civic Groups Hold Thanksgiving Dinner, Call Upon Congress to Welcome Dreamers and TPS to the Table

(Faith/ Human Rights Group) Hosts (Community Dinner) (Name of Town)

Your City Name, State Abbreviation – As the (City/Town Name) community seeks to demonstrate support for undocumented youth and Temporary Protected Status beneficiaries (Organization/Congregation/Coalition) will host (event type/ Thanksgiving/ Community Dinner) and remind Congress to pass the Dream Act now, protect the TPS program. Community leaders (list other special guests, especially clergy or elected officials) will discuss how undocumented youth and TPS holders are an integral part of our community and should not be thrown into deportation proceedings. Leaders will ask Congress to pass a bill without attaching further funding for increased immigration enforcement. All participants will be available for interviews before and after the event.

WHAT: Event type with faith and community leaders to welcome refugees

WHERE: Address of event

WHEN: Date and time of event

SPEAKERS: List of all speakers and their titles

DETAILS: Add event details such as if a press conference will be held first, special visuals (religious symbols, art pieces, etc.), or any other important event information.

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Sample Media Release

(Sent after the event for press who could not attend)

DATE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

NAME, PHONE NUMBER

MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Event, Time, Location

Faith Communities and Civic Groups Hold Thanksgiving Dinner, Call Upon Congress to Welcome Dreamers and TPS to the Table

(Faith/ Human Rights Group) Hosts (Community Dinner) (Name of Town)

Your City Name, State Abbreviation – As the (City/Town Name) community showed support for undocumented youth and Temporary Protected Status beneficiaries (Organization/Congregation/Coalition) by hosting (event type/ Thanksgiving/ Community Dinner) to remind Congress to pass the Dream Act now, protect the TPS program. Community leaders (list other special guests, especially clergy or elected officials) discussed how undocumented youth and TPS holders are an integral part of our community and should not be thrown into deportation proceedings. At the event, speakers focused on a “clean” Dream act that would not include further funding for increased immigration enforcement. All participants will be available for interviews before and after the event.

QUOTES: Find quotes from 3 of your speakers, if possible, gather quotes ahead of the event so your media release is ready to be sent as the event unfolds.

Links to any photos or videos.

For further information, contact: Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director

Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries 202-957-7826 (cell)

sstanley@dhm.disciples.org, Twitter: @StanleyRea, Website & to Sign Up to Donate or Subscribe to “RIM

WRAP news: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/>