



Refugee & Immigration Ministries Join in Some Holy Action!



Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM) equips Disciples to respond to Jesus' call to welcome the stranger through refugee resettlement, refugee & immigrant rights and policy advocacy, organizing and partnership development, and farmworker ministries. RIM is a ministry of Disciples Home Missions.

Be sure to subscribe to RIM's regular e-newsletters, by signing up here: <http://bit.ly/RIMWRAPSIGNUP> & find resources in RIM WRAPS here: <https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/rim-wrap/>

Guiding Faith Values: The following are core principles adhered to by the 52+ national faith partners of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC), including Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries.:

- Prioritize family unity
- Create a process that leads to legal status and citizenship
- Improve access to the legal immigration system
- Protect all workers and reduce exploitation
- Emphasize community safety
- Protect human rights in enforcement practices and border policies, and ensure prosecutorial and judicial discretion
- Reform detention policies to ensure due process & utilize alternatives to detention
- Protect vulnerable populations in the U.S. and abroad, including those trafficked and seeking protections within our borders
- Facilitate immigrant and refugee integration
- Strive for lasting solutions that address root causes



Strengthening Immigrant & Refugee Led Partnerships:



CARECEN

National TPS Alliance



FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS

Matthew 25 Movement

mijente



DETENTION WATCH NETWORK

Leadership Focus: For immigration & refugee concerns, key focus groups include the Judiciary, Homeland Security, Appropriations Committees in Congress and Dept. of Homeland Security, Immigration & Customs Enforcement, and White House.

Faith visits to your leaders are crucial; with national fly-ins helpful, but especially area visits valuable during recess periods. Next begins Aug. 2-Sept. 9. Find the Congressional schedule and listen to committee hearings at: <https://www.congress.gov/>. Go to:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> and to:

https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm to find your US Senators & Representatives.



Some Congregational Resources:

--8 Part Bible/Devotional Study on "Turning Walls into Welcome" & "Holy Days & Holidays" Resources Throughout the Year:

<https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/bible-study/>



--Refugee & Immigrant Welcome Sunday Resources: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/refugee-immigrant-welcome-sunday/>

Key Action Opportunities:

Refugees: (July 18, Politico reported intent of possible zero-ing out of refugee resettlement, or very low numbers of 5,000-10,000. Sept. 30, Admin. announced refugee resettlement goal of 30,000; 1/3 of historic resettlement rates of 95,000 avg. since 1980. In year before, announced 50,000. 90% less Muslims, and many less persecuted Christians, are arriving. Dozens of Cambodians who entered as refugees deported during 2019.)



- #Pray4Refugees; make & add your videos now. Go here for more: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/refugees/>
- Speak out NOW to your leaders before Aug. 1st to support 95,000 refugees in FY2020, and push back against a possible zero-ing out of refugees by the administration!
- Get your congregation re-engaged NOW in refugee resettlement to ensure any refugees who make it to the US are welcomed by faith communities!
- Urge legislators to support the GRACE Act to encourage consistent refugee resettlements of at least 95,000 per year, and to ensure oversight of refugee processes.



Asylum Seekers:

(July 19, Remain in Mx. Expanded to Brownsville; July 15, WH published new rule in Fed. Register saying migrants must have applied for protection in another country they traveled through before arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border; Apr. 30, memo requiring fees for those who apply for humanitarian permits, no work permits for those who cross without documents, etc.)

- Build partnerships to assist migrants in transit to/thru your area.
- Provide accompaniment to ICE Check Ins, support for qualified legal assistance, etc.
- Consider joining with the Poor Peoples Campaign in El Paso the last weekend in July!



Children/Families in Detention:



(June 2019, oversight inspections in Clint, Tx. and other child detention centers which have been growing reported unsanitary conditions. In May 2019, the administration acknowledged that at least an additional 1,712 migrant children may have been separated from their parents. In June 20, 2018, family separation had been "replaced" in an Exec. Order by family detention, yet there was not a plan to reunite the children again with adult caregivers. Following the E.C., proposals emerged in Congress to terminate the historic '97 Flores settlement child protections.)

- SIGN ON to and SHARE our Disciples letter against Child and Family Detention: <https://disciples.org/>
- Go here to learn "5 Ways to Help Children," for you and your congregation: www.bit.ly/help4fams; 1) Call Congress, 2) Partner with front line orgs to help migrants get

released from detention, 3) Hold Public Events—esp. during Congressional Recess, 4) Support Week of Compassion and local border shelters, 5) Share Concerns on Social Media

Temporary Protected Status/Deferred Enforced Departure/Dreamer Recipients:

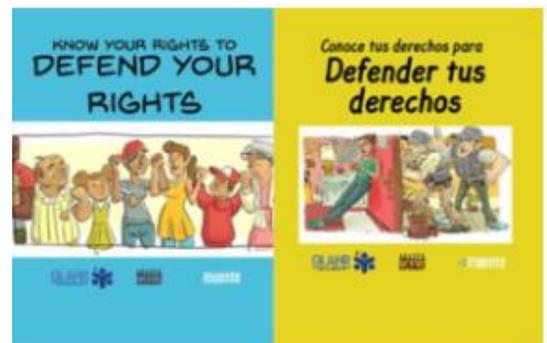
(Over the past 18 months, TPS has been terminated for multiple populations, affecting nearly 300,000 persons and their families. Two court cases are keeping TPS holders from Sudan, Nicaragua, Nepal, Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras from losing protections, and a case for DED holders is processing.)



- Upcoming TPS “next decision dates” which will need advocacy and have alerts about 1 month ahead include: Aug. 1/19-Syria, Jan. 2/20-Yemen, Jan. 17/20-Somalia, Sept. 3/20-S. Sudan.
- Find ways to support our Disciples Liberian Communities at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/liberian-deferred-enforced-departure-ded-resources/> and to support our Haitian communities at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/refugees/background-resources/haitian-tps/>
- Find info. to increase support for the American Dream & Promise Act at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/immigrants/dreamersdream-actdaca/american-dream-and-promise-act/>

Interior Immigration Raids & Increased Detention:

(Though every administration has deported immigrants, ICE has increasingly gone after immigrants who have no criminal background, which also has led to higher rates of fear, and to more voluntary departures.)



- See this “Deportation Defense” page of resources on the RIM website, and support local families now suffering: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/immigrants/Deportation-Defense/>
- Teach Know Your Rights, Rapid Response, and other forms of community solidarity protections.
- Urge Congress reduce funding for detention, deportation, and border militarization. Consider joining partnerships such as #DefundHate, and go here for a faith toolkit for actions: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/2018/03/05/interfaith-toolkit-top-5-ways-to-take-action-to-defundhate/>
- Join efforts to ensure organizations such as banks not invest in corporations such as Core Civic and GEO who profit supporting child, family, and other adult detention. Join with #FamiliesBelongTogether and the Corporate Accountability Committee.

Legal Immigration/VISA Changes:

(The current family based immigration system has not been updated for over 20 years, keeping family members separated for one another for years and sometimes decades. Over 4 million are still held up in immigration backlogs. On Apr. 22, WH memo directed secretaries of state and DHS to find ways by end of summer to combat visa overstays; representing 1.33% total number of total visa entrants), and indicating interest to punish those from nations of a 10% or more rate of overstays.)



- Connect with the “Value Our Families” campaign, endorsed by Disciples RIM and dozens of other organizations. Go here: <https://www.valueourfamilies.org/mission>

- Urge support for the Reuniting Families Act; just introduced this week in the current Congress. The law would clear backlogs, help reunite family members, eliminate various discriminatory practices, and embrace the diversity visa program.

Threats Against Farmworker Rights:

(Over 40 years ago, Disciples of Christ were one of five denominations who helped found the National Farm Worker Ministry organization. We continue still to support farmworker led campaigns for human rights throughout the US, with groups such as Familias Unidas in the Northwest, United Farm Workers, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, and others.)



- Continue to boycott Wendy's, as they have still not joined the Fair Food Program.
 - Make visits to your local Starbucks to encourage their awareness and support for their company to ensure milk is not purchased from sources that mistreat dairy farmworkers.
- For all campaign information, go to:

Pressures Upon Sensitive Locations, Religious Leaders, and Humanitarian Leaders:



- Support and Share the Emergency Resolution from Regional Ministers and others in support of Humanitarian Aid Workers, such as Scott Warren who continues under legal threats, with the

Dept. of Justice who has set a e-trial scheduled for November 12th because of his offering of Humanitarian Aid to migrants through "No More Deaths" non-profit organization. Read more about Dr. Warren's case here:

<http://forms.nomoredeaths.org/en/>

- Support efforts of the "Protecting Sensitive Locations Act of 2019" to protect, expand, and codify the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) existing "[sensitive locations](#)" policy and to ensure that immigrants are able to worship, access education, and receive medical care without fear of deportation. See and SIGN ON to a faith letter with background here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe38EfluIDXqv1rXM7dNP08t2MaXjsdONjphLa0wtyVMI4_Ww/viewform
- Sign here to show support of Pastor Kaji Dousa, Park Avenue Christian Church, who has recently sued DHS after being placed on DHS's "Operation Secure Line" program watchlist: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfR4svY0AsAkfHzTAqLIBohfAt_8UZepAc0_i3QOgQ45Om4ug/viewform



For further assistance in planning your response actions and considering how you can support refugees and immigrants, please contact: Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries Director, sstanley@dhm.disciples.org, 202-957-7826, on Twitter @StanleyRea. See our website at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/>, and subscribe to our RIM WRAP electronic newsletter by clicking the "Subscribe" button on that page.