



Week of September 19, 2016... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

United Nations: On September 19, The United Nations General Assembly is calling together for the first time a summit level meeting of Heads of State and government officials to discuss the large movement of refugees and migrants in the world today. The event will highlight the need for shared responsibility by the international community to address migration related crises around the world. This provides an opportunity for the bishops to bring attention to their long-standing teachings on migration, which are rooted in the Gospel message of welcome and grounded in Catholic social teaching. (From Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, auxiliary bishop of Seattle and Chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Migration)

TPP: This fall, Congress will decide whether to approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a mega trade deal that covers 40 percent of the global economy. This trade deal will give 9,200 foreign firms the right to ignore U.S. courts and attack the laws that we rely on the clean environment, safe food and decent jobs. Instead of going through our court when issues arise, these corporations could sue our government before private tribunals of three corporate lawyers. For example, Egypt is being sued by a private corporation for raising its minimum wage to its workers because they would lose profits. The tribunal may force Egypt to pay for corporations for lost profits – leading Egypt to repeal its minimum wage. This is an example of how similar provisions in the TPP could hurt United States law. (From American Federation of State, County and Municipality Employees (AFSCME))

Action One: Prayer

- People who experience persistent hunger, especially migrant women and children
 - Follow God's way in working for the end of hunger especially for the refugees
 - Help the Church to advance the Gospel by working for justice for all
 - Guide the leaders of our country, that they may make ending hunger and poverty a priority by 2017
- (Adapted from Bread for the World)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

TPP: Ask your member of Congress to issue a public statement opposing the TPP. Call this number: 1-888-659-7351. Here is a sample script: *"My name is _____ and I live in _____. I'm calling to leave a message for my member of Congress. As a person of faith, I believe that our economic system and trade policy should affirm the common good of all, and especially those at the margins. The TPP trade deal is destructive of God's people and God's planet. It threatens health, jobs, food security, and the environment in all TPP countries. Please speak out publicly against the TPP. Thank you."*

Tell DHS to Cut its Private Prison Contracts – Like the DOJ: <https://action.mijente.net/petitions/tell-the-dept-of-homeland-security-to-cut-its-private-prison-contracts-too>

Put an End to Abusive Private Prisons:

https://action.aclu.org/secure/stopCARprisons1?emsrc=Nat_Appeal_AutologinEnabled&emissue=massincarcereation_immigrantright&emtype=petition&ms=eml_160817_massincarcereation_immigrantrights_CARprisonskicker&af=query_string_encrypted

Send an Electronic Postcard in Support of Refugees:

[http://capwiz.com/justiceforimmigrants/issues/alert/?alertid=73598626&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/justiceforimmigrants/issues/alert/?alertid=73598626&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

Tell Your Governor and Mayor to Support Funding for Refugee Resettlement Programs –

Call your Governor and local mayors to ask them to sign the letter to sign on to support additional resources for ORR programs that serve refugees in our communities. Ask their offices to electronically sign the letter with their official signature and email it back to you, confirming the Governor/Mayor is signing on. Please forward that email confirmation with the signed letter to Meredith Owen at mowen@cwsglobal.org.

Here's a sample of what to say: *"As a person of faith, I'm concerned that Congress is not increasing funds for refugees in Fiscal Year 2017. I'm calling today to urge the Governor/Mayor to sign on to a [national letter](#) supporting additional resources for the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The sign on letter calls on Congress to ensure ORR can provide our community the support we need to serve refugees and other vulnerable populations. Resettlement is one of the ways the U.S. can lead by example and leverage international support for refugees. My community welcomes refugees, and I urge the Governor/Mayor to sign this letter."*

The letter is attached too. (Interfaith Immigration Coalition)

Sign Petition Urging US to Ensure Adequate Funding for Refugee Assistance: http://cqrengage.com/jesuit/app/take-action?engagementId=238013&ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlciAxACJzTsNu0wh5rrtgTyVvWfw7zOOhSFKljRPBtGfOT7DQq2a1pZIMtCHv9PvsXdCwMZsuDH3q_jFa_p1Z48Pd-pHJjk3PRI-CgilQZ8Pj3E&lp=0

Call for increased funding for resettlement programs: the following numbers to be connected to your Senator(s) and/or Representative. If you can, we suggest you call your Representative as well as both of your Senators! 1-866-940-2439 – House of Representatives 1-866-961-4293 – Senate

Once connected, you can use or adapt this script: "Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from [town name, state name] because I am a person of faith. Please tell the [Senator/Rep] that I support refugee resettlement and want to see the U.S. resettle more refugees. [Senator/Rep X] should support increased funding for both international refugee assistance and for refugee resettlement in the U.S. Thank you for your time!"

Action Three: Education

Good News: Immigrant Advocates Move to Strengthen Chicago's 'Welcoming City' Ordinance

The Welcoming City Ordinance Amendment was introduced at the city council meeting, September 13th.

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/immigrant-advocates-move-to-strengthen-chicagos-welcoming-city-o>– Still a lot to do.

More than 340 immigrant rights, faith-based and civil- and labor-rights organizations delivered a letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson Wednesday calling for the government to end its use of private prison companies to detain immigrants.

http://immigrantjustice.org/sites/immigrantjustice.org/files/DHS%20Private%20Prisons%20Sign-on%20Letter%202016_09_14%20FINAL.pdf<http://www.dhs.gov/xfiles/immigration/9a52760d-c7f6-44a4-a7be-f61e4767a3fa>

Cook County launches new program for the uninsured <http://chicago.suntimes.com/politics/cook-county-trying-new-program-for-the-uninsured/>

Action Four: Social Media

Share on Facebook: President Obama, lead by example and protect, don't deport, Central American refugees and migrants fleeing violence, corruption, and poverty. #ProtectDontDeport #US4RefugeesMigrants

Suggested Tweets: * I stand w/ children & families fleeing Central America violence & corruption #ProtectDontDeport #US4RefugeesMigrants

* @POTUS support asylum & protection NOT more border militarization in Mexico #ProtectDontDeport #US4RefugeesMigrants

Thank you for your efforts!