



May 23... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

The administration announced last week another round of raids on the homes of Central American families who have sought refuge in the US from violence and insecurity in the region. This would be one of the largest deportation sweeps targeting immigrant families under the Obama administration, instilling fear in immigrant communities. "We are angry that this is taking place once again to vulnerable people who fear for their well-being in their native countries. We should be attempting to find a solution for these refugees fleeing their home countries for a better life," said Lawrence Benito, CEO of ICIRR. "That fact that our government is separating families and sending people back to countries that cannot provide a safe home for their citizens is disappointing and heart breaking." During the past two years, more than 100,000 children and parents have come to the U.S. from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador – some of the most dangerous countries in the world. More than 17,000 Central American families have been issued removal orders across the country as a result of these flawed proceedings, including nearly 800 in Illinois alone.

(Adapted from ICIRR)

Action One: Prayer

Ancestors came across the waters – men, women, sons and daughters. Ellis Island is where they'd debark, record numbers to make their mark. Immigrants dreamed of no more strife, craving the chance for a better life. Always unsure but determined to cope, never turning from their faith and hope. Denouement unknown, they came ashore reaching their destination, America's door. Every day was an adventure anew. As they adjusted to their new milieu, many saw their dreams come true.

(Adapted from *American Dream* by Patty E. Padgett)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

Call the White House Comment Line at 202-456-1111 and tell Pres. Obama to STOP the Raids!

Sample Script: "Hello, I am [your name] from [city, state, community] calling to urge President Obama STOP plans to deport Central American children and families. These individuals are fleeing horrific violence and should have access to due process and legal counsel so that they can apply for asylum and protection in the United States. We should not be traumatizing communities and sending mothers and children back to the dangers they fled."

Sign Petition to IL Senate – Pass HB 5736 to Keep our Kids Insured! <http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/illinois-senate-keep>

Sign Petition – Mr. President, Halt the Raids! <http://cqrcengage.com/jesuit/app/onestep-write-a-letter?0&engagementId=207633>

Tell Obama Don't Deport Immigrants to their Death! Stop the Raids! <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/tell-obama-dont-deport-immigrants-to-their-death-stop-the-raids/>

Tell House Leadership NOT to Bring Anti-Refugee Bill to a Vote: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/recent-legislation/>

Stand Up against Attacks on Policies that Protect Immigrants: <http://immigrantjusticenetwork.org/take-action/>

Support the Justice is Not for Sale Act: http://justiceisnotforsale.com/take-action-1/?SQF_ORGANIZATION=pfaw

Sign: Solidarity with Immigrants in US v. Texas:

https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51184//p/dia/action3/common/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=17840

Support Jose Juan in Asking for Sanctuary: <http://www.notonemoredeportation.com/portfolio/josejuan/>

Action Three: Education

ICE Plans Major Wave of Deportation Raids: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-deportation-exclusive-idUSKCN0Y32J1>

Cincinnati may Offer Photo ID for Use by Undocumented: <http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2016/05/09/city-may-take-bold-step-issuing-photo-ids-immigrants-homeless/84040258/>

For-Profit Prison Companies' Earnings Rise with Family Detention Centers: <https://www.rt.com/usa/342553-child-detention-camps-earnings/>

2-Minute Look at a Refugee Girl's Life: https://www.buzzfeed.com/hayesbrown/two-minute-look-into-the-life-of-a-refugee-girl?utm_term=.mjRZxw26R#.quVK4o7g8

Leaked Text Confirms TTIP Trade Deal Threatens Democracy: <http://www.iuf.org/w/?q=node/4988>

Action Four: Events/Resources

ICIRR is asking groups to distribute this DACA/DAPA Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DACADAPA>

The survey is aimed at assessing the needs of undocumented persons in IL. They'll use the data to advocate for programs specific to the needs of the undocumented, as well as produce summative reports of the findings.

Please distribute this survey to any undocumented person in IL you may know. Please note they **DO NOT** ask for any personally identifying information in the survey.

Resources from National Immigration Law Center: What's Next in the DAPA/DACA+ Case?

<http://us11.campaign-archive1.com/?u=f6c2f9aea8a6a89b0e6dc23e0&id=2fcef5c1e7>

Resources to End Mass Criminalization of Immigrants: <http://immigrantjusticenetwork.org/resources/fix96/>

Refugees Welcome – contains resources for communities to register, organize, promote, and host their own

Refugees Welcome events: <http://www.refugeesarewelcome.org/>

Toolkit for Action to Support DACA/DAPA: [ICDAPADACAPrayerServiceVigilToolkit_4.18.16.docx](http://www.icdapa.org/resources/ICDAPADACAPrayerServiceVigilToolkit_4.18.16.docx)

Administrative Relief Regional Collaboration Toolkit: http://www.adminrelief.org/resources/item.596504-Regional_Collaboration_Toolkit_10

CLINIC Refugee Resettlement Toolkit: <https://cliniclegal.org/resources/clinic-refugee-resettlement-toolkit>

Action Five: Social Media

Sample Tweet: [@WhiteHouse](#) [@POTUS](#) protect Central American children and families seeking safety #StopTheRaids

Thank you for your efforts!

ELECTION RESOURCES

In recent months, Pax Christi USA has been working with a new Catholic coalition of advocacy organizations. One of the results of this collaboration has been a new election guide meant to be of service to organizations during this election year. The guide is entitled, **A Revolution of Tenderness: A 2016 Election Pope Francis Voter Guide**. The guide is meant as a spiritual reflection guide and to incorporate significant elements of Pope Francis's message. The guide is available as a 10-page booklet and a tri-fold brochure which incorporates highlights from the booklet. You can access both guides here:

<https://paxchristiusa.org/2016/04/13/election-2016-new-voter-guide-incorporating-the-message-of-pope-francis-now-available/>