# February 29… Alert on Immigration

## What's Happening?

About 25 of us gathered at Tucson's Federal Courthouse, and heard Sandra Anderson's introduction to the procedures we would witness, as well as the rules the observers needed to adhere to when attending the courtroom session.

We took our seat next to a young woman with a worried look, who kept her eyes on a tall, strong young man seated 3 rows in front of us. He would check the security guards' position, then slowly look back at her to utter a short message. With her hands wound tightly around items on her lap, she squirmed as she looked him in the eyes and uttered her responses, until the guard warned them both to quit their communication. It was heartbreaking to watch, wondering why on earth this communication was seen as damaging to the current proceedings. She was there to see the results of her husband's sentence, hoping that he'd serve his 30 day prison sentence close to Tucson so she and her children could visit him, but wondering what would happen when he is then deported to Sonoyta where he lives in fear of the gang rivalries and violence.

*(Excerpt from reflection by Erica & Dale Granchalek)*

## Action One: Prayer

God, creator and source of all things, you call us to welcome those who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war and to shelter and protect the sojourner among us. Help us by your grace, to banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brothers and sisters; to welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity and respond with love to their needs; to realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice. We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together form so many people. Amen.

*(Written by Sr. Ann Scholz, LCWR; Source: IIC)*

## Action Two: Calls/Letters

**Call the White House at 1-888-473-5915 & Tell President Obama to STOP the raids against Central American children and families!**

Sample Script: *"I am from City, State, and as a Catholic/person of faith, I urge President Obama to immediately STOP plans to deport Central American children and families. These individuals are refugees fleeing violence and should have access to legal counsel so that they can apply for asylum and protection in the United States."*

**Tell the Obama Administration to Stop the Deportation of Asylum Seekers Hilda Ramirez & her Son:**
http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-the-deportation-of-asylum-seekers-hilda-ramirez-and-her-son-ivan

**Ask President Obama & Congress to Commit to Humane Policies that Respond to Realities of Migration:**
https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50887//p/dia/action3/common/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=17128

**Stop Private Prisons from Abusing Immigrants:**
https://action.aclu.org/secure/stopCARprisons2?redirect=stopCARprisons2FB&ms=FB_160201_massincarceration_immigrantrights_CARprisons

**Tell Congress to Oppose the Harmful TPP Trade Agreement:** https://act.openmedia.org/finalbattle?src=RA

**President Obama: Stop the Raids!** http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/president-obama-stop-59?source=s.fb&r_by=326945

**Stop the Deportation Raids against Central American Refugees:**
http://act.presente.org/sign/stopraids/?referring_akid=a4843200.106609.eryTc6&source=copy_thanks_email

**Tell the Administration to Stop the Raids:** http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-the-raids-on-central-american-refugees

**Tell Obama to Call off the Raids against Immigrant Families:** https://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/tell-president-obama-to-call-off-raids-against-immigrant-families?sp_ref=167551883.4.136309.o.1.2&source=clickcopy_sp

## Action Three:   Education

Pope Francis, Illegal Immigration, and Border Security: http://www.ibtimes.com/pope-francis-illegal-immigration-border-security-how-mexico-became-tougher-united-2298462

University of Cambridge Study – Is Immigration Rhetoric Pushing Latinos to Polls: http://theconversation.com/harsh-republican-immigration-rhetoric-is-invigorating-latino-voters-54682

Migrant Voices: http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-migrant-voices-pope-20160214-htmlstory.html

## Action Four:   Events/Resources

**Sign up for Interfaith Immigration Coalition state refugee action alerts here:**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17CiNfgXFFsXaC5pgVUvFAWoZhRv1dPe7r_-wUWE42Lo/viewform

**Sign Up for NETWORK's Lenten Resources:** http://networklobby.org/lent

**See Presidential Candidates' Stance on Immigration:** https://ballotpedia.org/2016_presidential_candidates_on_immigration

**IIC Lenten Resources:** http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/2015/06/05/religious-holiday-resources/

**ICIRR Hotline – Call if you need information on your case or are facing deportation [1-855-435-7693]**

**Know Your Rights Resources:** https://afsc.org/category/topic/know-your-rights

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### *VOTER REGISTRATION*

The **Illinois Primary Election will be held on Mar. 15** and the **General Election on Nov. 8**. We want you to know that **#VotingMatters**. By voting, you can send a clear and direct message to candidates that the issues affecting your community demand attention and action. Looking at candidates' stance on immigration and other issues that are inter-related will help us to make our choices. Keep praying for the candidates. More info here: www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/RegistrationLookup.aspx

Resources:
Where the Candidates Stand on Issues:
https://www.yahoo.com/politics/where-the-candidates-stand-on-the-issues-129228051706.html?soc_src=mail&soc_trk=ma

Tell the Legislature to Pass SB 2134 (Automatic Voter Registration):
https://secure2.convio.net/comcau/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1256&sp_ref=173626631.214.153995.t.0.2&s_subsrc=taf_tw

**If you missed the Feb. 16 primary voter registration deadline, you can still register!** You can register in person at your local election authority up until Election Day. You can also register at a polling location on the day of the election.

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN DESERVE
REFUGE, NOT DEPORATION!

CALL 1-866-473-5915
TELL PRESIDENT OBAMA TO
STOP THE RAIDS!