



August 8... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

The Senate and House are on recess this month. August is a great time to engage your members while they are back in their districts. When Congress returns in September they will only have a few weeks to finalize an appropriations agreement and pass legislation before everything resets again for the 115th Congress. With over 65 million people displaced globally (the largest recorded displacement crisis in generations), it is critical that FY17 funding include needs for refugees, unaccompanied children, and other at-risk groups under the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). ORR has been chronically underfunded for years, and an infusion of resources is needed to meet both the increase in refugee admissions and the need for all refugees to have the opportunity to succeed in their new communities. Use the Refugee Council USA Toolkit for Local Congressional Visits to see how you can help increase resources for refugee protection and resettlement:

http://www.rcusa.org/uploads/images/RCUSA%20FY17%20Appropriations%20Toolkit_07.28.16.pdf

(Adapted from Catholic Charities/RCUSA)

Action One: Prayer

God of our Wandering Ancestors, long have we known that your heart is with the refugee: that you were born into time in a family of refugees fleeing violence in their homeland, who then gathered up their hungry child and fled into alien country. Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages: "Will you let me in?" Give us hearts that break open when our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry. Then surely all these things will follow: ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices. Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat. Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate. And hands will reach out – working for peace in their homeland, working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven. Lord, protect all refugees in their travels. May they find a friend in me and so make me worthy of the refuge I have found in you. Amen.

(Adapted from A Moment for Grace; Source: Catholic Relief Services)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

IIC would like to ask for your support on behalf of Tomoni Mwamunga, a member of the UndocuBlack Network that's currently in deportation proceedings. UndocuBlack folks are 5 times more likely to be deported than non-black folks. **Please sign onto organizational letter before Friday, July 29th, and share along with your networks:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqNbOBkyuRwNo_5fszRU4OuLMpzIZ-CTrhGrMmoUCECq5B5Q/viewform

www.notonemoredeportation.com PLEASE VISIT THIS SITE, click on "TAKE ACTION" and petition in behalf of as many of these threatened individuals and families as you can.

Of 231 cases notonemoredeportation.com has handled, they've had just 60 losses, 124 victories, and the 45 open cases need our ongoing advocacy!

Call for Justice in Border Communities:

https://action.aclu.org/secure/hold_border_patrol_accountable?emsrc=Nat_Appeal_AutologinEnabled&emissue=immigration&emptype=petition&ms=eml_160728_immigration_borderpatrol&af=query_string_encrypted

Tell DHS & ICE to Halt Deadly Deportations of Dozens of South Asians: <https://act.mpowerchange.org/sign/dhs-ice-halt-deadly-deportations/?t=1&akid=59.47858.3yRVAX>

Ask Hilary Clinton to Take Executive Action on Immigration in the 1st 100 Days of Office:
<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/hillary-take-executive-action-in-the-first-100-days/>

Support the Refugee Protection Act of 2016: <http://cqrcengage.com/jesuit/app/write-a-letter?5&engagementId=231633#.V4-PpWRTcGw.facebook>

Sign Petition to Support Civilian Protection in Burundi:
https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/African_Union_Peace_and_Security_Council_Save_Lives_in_Burundi/

If you're a religious leader from Chicago please consider signing on to an interfaith religious leader letter to increase protections for Chicago immigrant residents:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rLCexccC3PLLnU7kdpVxkzXCXPwGxmRG7Oh5le1NXgw/viewform?edit_requested=true

President Obama: It's Time for Emergency Moral Action for Immigrant Families: <https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/president-obama-it-s-time-for-emergency-moral-action-for-immigrant-families?source=gse1>

Action Three: Education

Party Approaches to Immigration Policy Radically Different this Election Season:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-07-28/party-conventions-highlight-growing-u-s-divide-on-immigration>

Video: A Young Syrian Refugee Discovers his Love for Photography While Living in Camp in Lebanon:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rr_gmrCSJ6g

Obama's Statement that Illegal Immigration is at Decades-Long Lows is "Mostly-True":
<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jul/28/barack-obama/crime-and-illegal-immigration-are-decades-long-low/>

Action Four: Events/Resources

RCUSA Local Congressional Visits Toolkit:
http://www.rcusa.org/uploads/images/RCUSA%20FY17%20Appropriations%20Toolkit_07.28.16.pdf

Sign up to Join the Week of Action to Stop the Detention Quota – August 22-26:
http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50601/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=88149

Free Training Sessions for Immigrants Rights Organizations:
<http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/tacticaltechnology/>

"Families Seeking Freedom" Faith Reflection and Action Resource contains personal stories of immigrant families as well as some reflections from our faith teachings:
http://cqrcengage.com/franciscanaction/app/thru?ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAxijMKnaZzscYeLntzghRbqmII12VAhfaOFPbjGsjVS7U0nofWMKMjxIoTRbzcaOEXFiVQjG_bF_TpV3hFHIpJbuw-JR5aUHziOER9vyWfT2a0HMI39_JX_Ikk5kJQdjklmW4yixU4I2QFihhmdm3rV34do0FwyDjkbVRqitCZ9Y75SkmqIlyB4JGpBoepoo_dnUipw-KGJ9dZPNcHevRibR8sZD0-j2urBLaRnSgoQI4AmgNgXLX5mx-bQBehJpJu&lp=0

Action Five: Social Media

Sample Tweet: .@SENATOR, show that #AmericaWelcomes by supporting increased funds to resettle #refugees! #RefugeesWelcome

Sample Tweet: .@REPNAME, stand with #refugee communities – up funds for refugee protection & resettlement!
Thank you for your efforts!