



June 6... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

In the last hours of the spring legislative session, the IL General Assembly passed the Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) bill, SB 250. AVR would use reliable information in state agency databases to register eligible citizens to vote or update their voter registration status. In Illinois, between 200,000 and 300,000 Latinos and roughly 150,000 Asian are eligible to vote but not registered. At such a pivotal time for immigrant communities, we need to continue breaking down barriers to civic participation. AVR provides us with an opportunity to spend more time engaging our communities, and less on voter registration. SB 250, which received bipartisan support, now moves on to the Governor's desk.

The IL General Assembly ended its spring session on May 31 without passing a state budget. As the session ended, the Senate defeated SB 2048, which would have funded immigrant services and other vital services but without additional revenue, leaving a \$7 billion shortfall. House Republicans introduced a stopgap funding bill (HB 6585) that would have funded adult education but not immigrant services or parent mentors; that bill did not move forward. We continue to advocate for a responsible state budget that would maintain funding for immigrant services and other programs that help immigrants further contribute to our community.

(Adapted from ICIRR)

Action One: Prayer

We are grateful for the summer months ahead, and the laughter of the children. Bless our children during these next months; may they grow in grace through play and picnics. We pray too for children in our global community, especially for children being scarred by the violence of conflict, the horror of war, of life on the run, and the violence of child labor. For them, summer holds no promise nor relief. Bless our children during the months ahead, all our children in every place where the sounds of guns and bombs continue to be heard and continue to silence the sounds of children's laughter and childhood dreams. God of Grace, may these children know comfort and healing, through Your compassion and through our efforts to bring peace and justice to the global village we all call home. Amen.

(Adapted from: A Summer Prayer for Children by Jane Deren, PhD; Source: Education for Justice)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

Call on DHS to Renew DACA for Ireri: www.notonemoredeportation.com/daca-youth-punished-for-protesting/

Tell Obama to STOP the Raids!

https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50887//p/dia/action3/common/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=18802

Sign on to Stop Voter Suppression:

<http://www.signforgood.com/preservevotingrights/?code=Courage&redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure.actblue.com%2Fcontribute%2Fpage%2Fvotersuppress%3Frecurring%3D15>

Send your Members of Congress a Message to Support Peace & Human Rights in Colombia:

http://org.salsalabs.com/o/625/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19745

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/>

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

Action Three: Education

Berta Didn't Die, She Multiplied: <http://www.lawg.org/component/content/article/81/1655>

More Migrants Are Coming and They're Arriving More Hurt: <http://www.lawg.org/component/content/article/79-promote-justice-for-mexico-and-the-borderlands/1659-in-mexico-more-migrants-are-coming-and-theyre-arriving-more-hurt>

El Salvador's Violence – No Easy Way Out: <http://www.lawg.org/component/content/article/81-being-better-neighbors-towards-latin-america/1661-el-salvadors-violence-no-easy-way-out>

Action Four: Events/Resources

Join 8th Day Center for Justice in their **Lunch & Learn Series on June 17** to see **Sr. Norma Pimentel** discuss her work and **the Humanitarian Response along the Texas/Mexico Border**. Sr. Norma is the Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley where she works with those crossing the border. **Please RSVP** to Mary Ellen Madden at maryellen@8thdaycenter.org or [312-641-5151 X112](tel:312-641-5151)

ICIRR's next 6-day immigration training will take place August 10-17. This training will prepare staff members of authorized nonprofits and law offices to provide immigration assistance. The application deadline is Friday, July 15. For more info, please contact Fred Tsao at ftsao@icirr.org, or visit <http://icirr.org/content/6-day-immigration-training>.

Resources from National Immigration Law Center: What's Next in the DAPA/DACA+ Case?
<http://us11.campaign-archive1.com/?u=f6c2f9aea8a6a89b0e6dc23e0&id=2fce5c1e7>

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

Thank you for your efforts!

WORLD REFUGEE DAY RESOURCES

We are called to work for peace and mutual acceptance as we walk in solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers. There are more forcibly displaced people around the world today than any other time in history, including nearly 20 million refugees. It is our collective responsibility to respond to increasingly tragic situations of violence and conflict with leadership and compassion. We are in the midst of an unprecedented attack on refugee resettlement from the politics of fear that is dominating public discourse, and now is the time to act.

World Refugee Day is June 20. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- **Sign petition – Tell House Leadership NOT to Bring Anti-Refugee Bill to a Vote:**
<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/recent-legislation/>
- **The Refugees Welcome Website** contains resources for communities to organize and promote Refugee Welcome events (<http://www.refugeesarewelcome.org/>). It also has the **Refugees Welcome Toolkit** with prayers, actions, social media, and other resources to prepare for World Refugee Day (<http://www.refugeesarewelcome.org/welcoming-resources/>).