



## April 18... Alert on Immigration

### What's Happening?

A proposal to build a controversial immigrant detention center in Gary, IN has hit a snag. Florida-based GEO Group hopes to build a \$65 million facility to hold undocumented immigrants as they await travel to their country of origin. The company says it would employ up to 200 people and would run the facility for ICE. GEO Group needs a zoning variance to build the facility on abandoned industrial land just north of the Gary/Chicago International Airport. Gary's Board of Zoning Appeals voted 3-1 to send an unfavorable recommendation to the Gary City Council, which meets next week. The vote came after about 2 hours of testimony, mostly from opponents of the project. Opponents -- include a diverse group of activists, clergy members and others -- who say this facility would be harmful to Gary, even though it desperately needs jobs. "We will not settle for for-profit prisons in our community. Absolutely not," Rev. Cheryl Rivera said. "We're going to make sure that this cancer does not come into our community." This is the fourth attempt to build an immigrant detention center somewhere south of Chicago. More info: <https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/a-proposal-for-an-immigrant-detention-center-to-be-built-in-gary-hits-a-snog/7d590f44-c378-42b9-bba7-b2373cc72664>

(Adapted from WBEZ)

### **Action One: Prayer**

#### A Prayer for Citizenship

Creator God, we bring before you in prayer the needs of our immigrant community. Bless and protect all who have fled their homelands to seek asylum in the United States, especially those in detention. Grant them strength and hope to endure the difficulties of beginning a new life in this land. May each of us resist the natural urge to fear the stranger and to hate those who are different from us. May we have the courage to be a voice for the voiceless and to stand up for the powerless. May we love them as people like ourselves for we too were once strangers in this land. We lift up this prayer in your name, because with you all things are possible. Amen.

(Written by Sr. Margaret McGuirk, OP; Source: NETWORK 2016 Lenten Toolkit)

### **Action Two: Calls/Letters**

**Show Your Support for the Fair Day in Court for Kids Act:** <http://cqrcengage.com/jesuit/app/take-action?engagementId=194173#.Vw-13Prq5q8.twitter>

**Congress: Protect the World's Most Vulnerable:** [http://act.one.org/sign/us\\_refugees/](http://act.one.org/sign/us_refugees/)

**Tell the Debate Moderators to Ask About Voting Rights:** <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/debate-moderators-ask-about-voting-rights>

**Fire Teacher Who Called 12-Year-Old Student 'Terrorist':** <http://act.mpowerchange.org/sign/fire-teacher-who-called-student-terrorist/>

**Tell Congress: Migrant Children Need Legal Counsel:**  
[http://act.credoaction.com/sign/Fair\\_Day?t=2&akid=17499.8488121.U5fICe](http://act.credoaction.com/sign/Fair_Day?t=2&akid=17499.8488121.U5fICe)

**Urge Speaker Ryan to Reject Anti-Refugee Bill:**  
<https://secure2.convio.net/lirs/site/Advocacy?alertId=223&pg=makeACall#.Vvr3uHq4abh>

**Tell DHS No One Should Be Deported to their Death:** <http://act.mpowerchange.org/sign/tell-dhs-no-one-should-be-deported2death/?t=1&akid=17.14070.3uFADd>

**Tell your Lawmaker to Pass HR922, Responsible Budget Resolution:** <http://www.responsiblebudget.org/takeaction>

**Call your Senators & Representatives (202-224-3121) – Urge them to cosponsor and support S.2540 & H.R.4646. Sample Script:** “I’m a constituent from [City, State] and I urge all Senators and Representatives to co-sponsor and support *The Fair Day in Court for Kids Act*. Children from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are fleeing traumatizing violence and should not have to stand before an immigration judge alone. *The Fair Day in Court for Kids Act* would increase legal orientation programs, ensure children have access to lawyers, and increase court appearance rates.”

### **Action Three: Education**

Gary Zoning Board Rejects GEO Bid: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-gary-geo-decision-st-0413-20160412-story.html>

US 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Decrees DACA Recipients are Entitled to AZ Driver’s Licenses: <http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/us-ninth-circuit-decrees-that-daca-recipients-are-entitled-to-arizona-drivers-licenses-8196917>

Australian Government Agrees to End Child Detention: <http://catholicleader.com.au/news/catholic-refugee-advocates-end-immigration-detention-of-children>

Pope Francis Plans Trip to Lesbos: <http://www.economist.com/blogs/erasmus/2016/04/pope-and-refugees>

### **Action Four: Events/Resources**

**IIC Refugees Welcome National Call – Thursday, April 21 at 3pm (CST)**

**Webinar: How Ready Are You? April 21 at 1pm (CST); Cost: FREE**

More info/registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3911970386227594500>

**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:** [iicdapadacaprayerServiceVigilToolkit\\_4.18.16.docx](http://www.iicdapa.org/resources/iicdapadacaprayer/vigiltoolkit_4.18.16.docx)

**Administrative Relief Regional Collaboration Toolkit:** [http://www.adminrelief.org/resources/item.596504-Regional\\_Collaboration\\_Toolkit\\_10](http://www.adminrelief.org/resources/item.596504-Regional_Collaboration_Toolkit_10)

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

**Share any info you have on reports of raids on Central Americans in your community here:** <http://www.aila.org/advo-media/agency-liaison/case-examples/reports-of-raids-against-central-american-families>

**Immigration Raids Alert:** <http://www.nilc.org/raidsalert2016.html>

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

### **Action Five: Social Media**

**Twitter:** Access your member of Congress’ twitter handle at <http://stuffthought.com/blog/113th-congress-twitter-handles/>

**Sample Tweet:** Our country welcomes #refugees. @SpeakerRyan - reject HR 4731, the so-called "Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act" #StandForWelcome

**Thank you for your efforts!**