



March 14... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

On Feb. 11, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid introduced the "Fair Day in Court for Kids" Act (S.2540), co-sponsored by Sens. Richard Durbin, Patty Murray, Patrick Leahy, and Robert Menendez, mandating government-appointed counsel for children in immigration court who had crossed the border alone or are victims of other duress such as abuse, torture or violence. (Adapted from Washington Post)

Recently the IL Legislative Latino Caucus members held a media conference to discuss the increasing budget crisis for IL families, students, workers and nonprofit organizations in the Latino community. These members called for immediate action to negotiate a balanced budget. The Latino community has been one of the most negatively impacted by the budget impasse in education, human services and immigrant integration. A recent study from the Alternative Schools Network indicated that 85% of Latino/a youth, 18-24, are not in school or at work. Recent immigrant raids have added to the crisis and increased uncertainty among low income Latino families throughout the state. Since July 1, 2015 the state has not been providing immigration services. Latinos are the largest growing segment of the population in IL. It is obvious that this current crisis has profoundly negative implications for the future of Illinois. (Adapted from Project IRENE)

Action One: Prayer

That as Catholics study the issues, they be guided by the Social Teachings of the Church and the values of the Gospel, we pray to the Lord. That during this election year, we may pray for the candidates and all elected officials, we pray to the Lord. That all voters may be watchful for the poor, vulnerable and the weakest of society, we pray to the Lord. That we may pray for our country during this election year, that we may be Christian voices of truth, honesty and compassion, we pray to the Lord.

(Petitions Written by Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSpS)

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."*

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>

Action Three: Education

More Latinos Seek Citizenship to Vote: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/08/us/trumps-rise-spurs-latino-immigrants-to->

[naturalize-to-vote-against-him.html](#)

Can a 3-Year-Old Represent Themselves in Immigration Court? This Judge Thinks So:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/can-a-3-year-old-represent-herself-in-immigration-court-this-judge-thinks-so/2016/03/03/5be59a32-db25-11e5-925f-1d10062cc82d_story.html

Bishop Challenges Catholics to Combat Ugly Tide of Anti-Islamic Bigotry:

<https://cnstopstories.com/2016/02/22/bishop-challenges-catholics-to-combat-ugly-tide-of-anti-islamic-bigotry/>

El Salvador's Violence: <http://www.lawg.org/action-center/lawg-blog/69-general/1578-el-salvadors-violence-no-easy-way-out>

Action Four: Events/Resources

CLINIC Webinar – Making the Best of the DACA/DAPA Wait – April 1, 1-2:30pm (CST)

Register: <http://cliniclegal.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d1e29c8d7ab34d84237ecd8ee&id=4420d5fe63&e=87c044323d>

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

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

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

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

PRIMARY ELECTION ALERT

The **Illinois Primary Election will be held on Mar. 15** and the **General Election on Nov. 8**. Find your state's primary election day here: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/elections/election_dates/. 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.

REFUGEE ALERT

On March 15, the Syrian War reaches the 5-year mark. Currently, 60 million people are displaced around the world, the largest number since World War II. Historically, the US has recognized its moral and legal imperative to lead by example in addressing global issues such as refugee resettlement. That is why our nation is the largest resettlement country in the world, taking in almost 70% of all refugees resettled by the UNHCR globally last year. Last year, the Obama Administration announced an increase in refugee admissions, from 70,000 last fiscal year, to 85,000 in FY2016 and 100,000 in FY2017. In order to meet the needs of refugee assistance and resettlement programs, we must ensure that adequate funding is provided to local communities to help refugees integrate and thrive.

A helpful resource is the state-by-state profiles of refugee resettlement, which can be found here: <http://www.rcusa.org/wrd2015>.

Another great resource is the state-by-state compilation of pro-refugee support: www.interfaithimmigration.org/2015/12/03/welcoming-refugees-state-by-state-resources/. And the state-by-state list of refugee resettlement offices can be found at bit.ly/refugeeresettlementsites.

Syrian Mothers Get High School Opened in Iraqi Refugee Camp: <http://www.rescue.org/blog/fearless-syrian-women-and-girls-advocate-reopen-schools>

New Report Finds Worsening Conditions for Syrian Refugees: <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/press-release/new-report-finds-worsening-conditions-syrian-refugees-threats-regional-stability-due>