



May 30... Alert on Immigration

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 – No Refugee Bashing in My Name! Tell Congress to Help Refugees:** <http://bit.ly/1S2bVqt>
- **Sign petition – Education Cannot Wait: Support Education for Refugees:** <http://cqrcengage.com/jesuit/app/write-a-letter?5&engagementId=208253#.V0MT7bEBCok>
- Jesuit Refugee Service confirms that education is a life-saving intervention for children and adolescents who are forcibly displaced from their homes in this new report, *Providing Hope, Investing in the Future: Education in Emergencies & Protracted Crises*, (http://jrsusa.org/news_detail?TN=NEWS-20160518123409).
- **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/>).

What's Happening?

The Obama administration is planning another series of raids that would lead to the deportation of Central American mothers and children found to have entered the country illegally, DHS said last week. The news drew protests from several members of Congress and both Democratic presidential candidates. The raids will target adults and children who crossed the border illegally after Jan. 1, 2014, a population of immigrants that the Obama administration has identified as priorities for deportation. (LA Times)

More than 80 Illinois community leaders launched the Community Empowerment and Defense Initiative in response to upcoming raids by ICE. The Initiative stands on four pillars:

- A Family Support Hotline (1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY) to field calls from households facing deportation-related crises;
- Know Your Rights trainings to educate community leaders and members how to respond during ICE raids;
- Deployment of more than 500 “Community Navigators” based in 56 organizations across Illinois to advise on qualifications for immigration protections and relief such as the DACA program; and
- Organizing to gain support from Mayor Emanuel and the Chicago City Council to strengthen the “Welcoming City Ordinance” to ensure that Chicago Police are not interacting with ICE in any way.

Last week the IL State Senate passed SB250, also known as Automatic Voter Registration. This is a huge victory that if enacted would add hundreds of thousands of immigrant voters into the democratic process. The bill now moves to the House, where more than 50 members have already signed on as cosponsors.

(Adapted from ICIRR)

Action One: Prayer

Father of the poor, God of love, you made us all your children; we praise You and thank You. Fill us with a sense of justice. Help us in your work, to take the side of the lowly, to defend the newcomer, to welcome the stranger. Help us now befriend the friendless, protect the weak children, and work for the rights of all. Lord, on our journey home, bring us together in peace, in justice, and in love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from Refugees Welcome Toolkit)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

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://cqrengage.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/>

Tell House Leadership NOT to Bring Anti-Refugee Bill to a Vote: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/recent-legislation/>

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

Support the Justice is Not for Sale Act: http://justiceisnotforsale.com/take-action-1/?SQF_ORGANIZATION=pfaw

Action Three: Education

6 Ways You Can Be a Better Ally to Immigrants: <http://mashable.com/2016/05/15/undocumented-immigrants-allies/#v9nB2uHbDqgg>

Archbishop Schnurr Reflects on Immigrants & Refugees: <http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2016/05/14/archbishop-schnurr-immigrants-strangers-no-longer/83699484/>

When Immigration Status is used as Weapon for Domestic Abuse: <http://fusion.net/story/302534/when-immigration-status-is-used-as-a-weapon-for-domestic-abuse/>

High School Immigrants Share Personal Stories of Their Journey to US in New Book: <http://www.startribune.com/in-a-new-book-young-immigrants-to-minnesota-tell-their-stories/379826981/>

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**

Resources from National Immigration Law Center: What's Next in the DAPA/DACA+ Case?

<http://us11.campaign-archive1.com/?u=f6c2f9aea8a6a89b0e6dc23e0&id=2fcef5c1e7>

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

Thank you for your efforts!