



March 28... Easter Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

The failure of the governor and lawmakers to put the budget first has led to a budget standoff that is leaving children, families, small businesses and communities without the resources they need to thrive. All across the state vital services have been cut or eliminated, leading to instability, and in some cases elimination, of services. The Responsible Budget Resolution is an opportunity to create a bi-partisan coalition in favor of recognizing and generating the revenue our state needs to invest in our shared priorities. By becoming a co-sponsor and voting YES on the *Responsible Budget Resolution*, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle can show their support for moving Illinois forward by modernizing and reforming our tax code to create the revenue we need to invest in children, families, small businesses, and communities. Learn more about the resolution here:

<http://www.responsiblebudget.org/hr922>

(Adapted from Responsible Budget Coalition)

You know a 3-year-old child should not be expected to stand up alone in front of a judge and plead his or her case. Much less a traumatized child who has fled spiraling violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, or Mexico to seek protection at the U.S. border. However, a U.S. judge recently claimed otherwise, asserting that he has taught immigration law to 3- and 4-year old children. We know this is absurd, and child psychology and legal experts have been quick to say the same, but some of our policymakers still disagree. Current U.S. law does not guarantee access to counsel in deportation hearings, even for children.

(Adapted from Latin America Working Group)

Action One: Prayer

Lord of life we pray for all who bring your word of life as a light to those in darkness. For those who bring your word of peace to those enslaved by fear. For those who bring your word of love to those in need of comfort. Lord of love and Lord of peace, Lord of resurrection life, be known through our lives and through your power. Christ the Lord is risen today. Amen.

(Adapted from faithandworship.com)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

Tell Obama Administration to Grant Temporary Protective Status to Central American Asylum Seekers like Hilda & her Son: <https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-the-deportation-of-asylum-seekers-hilda-ramirez-and-her-son-ivan>

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

Sign Petition to VP President Joe Biden: Close the SOA & Scrap the 'Biden Plan':

http://org.salsalabs.com/o/727/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19410

Tell Congress to Support the Fair Day in Court for Kids Act:

http://org.salsalabs.com/o/625/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19367

Tell your Representatives & Senators to Open their Hearts to Refugees:

<https://secure.crs.org/site/Advocacy;jsessionid=4D1261AEC154CC883E47D2BB43897BD3.app217a?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=914&AddInterest=1881>

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.”

Tell the Obama Administration to Stop the Raids on Central American Refugees: <http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-the-raids-on-central-american-refugees>

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

Action Three: Education

Former Judges Challenge Official who Said 3-Year-Olds Can Represent Themselves in Immigration Court: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/former-judges-challenge-official-who-said-three-year-olds-can-represent-themselves-in-immigration-court/2016/03/15/d9cb0538-aaaf-11e5-b0fd-073d5930a7b7_story.html

Family Detention Centers may be Labeled as Child Care Centers: <http://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2016-03-18/child-care-center-or-baby-jail/>

St. Joseph the Refugee: <http://www.catholiccourier.com/commentary/blogs/to-have-and-to-hold/st-joseph-the-refugee/>

Action Four: Events/Resources

National Catholic Prison Ministry Conference: “Concluding the Year of Mercy Behind Bars” (Nov.10-11)
For more info or to register, go to <http://www.dismasministry.org/conference/> (discounted through March)

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>

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: .@Senator/Representative Kids can't represent themselves alone in court. Protect kids by supporting the Fair Day in Court for Kids Act! #Not1More

Thank you for your efforts!

REFUGEE ALERT

Secretary of State John Kerry took the important step of calling the attacks by ISIS against the Yazidis, Christians and other minorities a genocide. But what happens next is more important. Calling these attacks genocide means we should be doing more to protect these innocent men, women and children who are being targeted because of the god they pray to. We must act to hold those responsible fully accountable. And at the very least, we must be taking action now to accept more of these refugees who are literally running for their lives.

Sometimes it feels like this crisis has no end in sight, but on March 30 we have our best chance to protect these families: the biggest refugee summit in 25 years is happening in Geneva. We need to show our leaders that an overwhelming number of us support it, and refuse to allow fear and hatred to split us when now, more than ever, we need to unite as one. Click here to find out more info and to add your voice: https://secure.avaaz.org/en/fair_share_global_responsibility_35/?bEWqmk&v=74054&cl=9666136501