



March 21... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

Unfortunately, HR 4731 (Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act of 2016) passed out of committee (18-9) with two additional amendments: 1) By Rep Poe - ORR must give US states 21 day notice for placement of refugees & must provide certification that refugees don't present security threat to that state. If they're not met, Governor can refuse resettlement of a group of refugees or specific refugee. 2) By Rep King - The "people" (of a state) will be able to offer a ballot initiative, referendum, or plebiscite, if the Government does not, to refuse resettling refugees in their state. There is not yet a companion in the Senate. We will continue to monitor & oppose HR 4731 as/if it makes its way to the full House and onto the Senate.

Immigration guidelines permitting deferral of the deportations of millions of people provide "substantial humanitarian benefits" and should be permitted to stand, said an amicus curiae brief, filed March 8 in the US Supreme Court by the USCCB and 24 other US faith-based organizations whose work includes advocating for or providing aid and resources to recent immigrants and their families. The case is *United States v. Texas*, in which some states have challenged the federal government's implementation of immigration guidelines issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security. The guidelines effectively stay the deportation proceedings of 4-5 million undocumented people who pose no national security or public safety threat and who have longstanding close family ties to people in the U.S. These guidelines provide "important benefits to those most vulnerable in our society and to those who serve them" and also ensure "that the public will continue to benefit from the substantial contributions of recent immigrants." Full text of the brief is available here:

www.usccb.org/about/general-counsel/amicus-briefs/index.cfm

(Adapted from USCCB)

Action One: Prayer

We travel through deserts and despair as we focus on how Christ was crucified, and is crucified in the world today. We agree to make the journey, this pilgrimage, and to leave life as usual, to pay attention, to be present to pain and suffering. The journey to the Light of Easter can only go this way. We choose to learn this hard truth, to accept the ashes, to witness the darkness, to walk the way of the Cross. Let us journey together, open to the world, so we may be renewed and help bring to all the renewal of Resurrection. Amen.

(Adapted from Prayer on the Lenten Journey from Education for Justice)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

Call your Member of Congress at [1-866-353-8991](tel:1-866-353-8991) and ask them to vote NO on House Resolution 649

Sample Script: *My name is ___ and I want my Representative to know that I support the Obama Administration's executive actions on immigration. By voting on House Resolution 649, Rep. ___ is putting partisan politics over people. The DAPA and DACA+ programs are beneficial to our state and federal government. They would allow for immigrant families to remain united, and provide them with an opportunity to pursue the American dream. It's time for the Representative to put politics aside and stand with hard-working immigrant families! Please vote NO on House Resolution 649!*

Tell your Representatives to Stand with Syria: http://action.winwithoutwar.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=17891

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

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

Recent Statement by Sec. Jeh Johnson on Border Security: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2016/03/09/statement-secretary-jeh-johnson-southwest-border-security>

Legislators on Board to Support Obama's Immigration Action: <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/03/obama-immigration-action-democrats-amicus-brief-220419>

Private Prisons Cashing in on Refugees Desperation: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/25/opinion/private-prisons-are-cashing-in-on-refugees-desperation.html?ref=opinion&r=1>

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>

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>

When We Were Young/There Was A War is a bilingual website & starting point for those who wish to learn about the civil wars and their aftermath in Guatemala and El Salvador: <http://www.centralamericanstories.com/>

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

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

REFUGEE ALERT

On Thursday, 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

A Clinic called "Hope" Helps Syrian Refugee Boy Cope with Diabetes: <http://www.rescue.org/blog/coping-diabetes-and-trauma-war-seven-year-old-syrian-boy-remains-resilient>

EU-Turkey Deal Could See Syrian Refugees Back in War Zones: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/08/un-refugee-agency-criticises-quick-fix-eu-turkey-deal>