



# Friends Committee on National Legislation

A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest

April 11, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a Quaker lobby in the public interest, dedicated to pursuing policies that lift up the inherent worth, contributions and dignity of each person; we urge our legislators to do the same. We write to you today as representatives from FCNL to urge you to speak out in support of immigrants, refugees, and people of the Muslim faith and reject all derogatory, inflammatory, and fear-mongering rhetoric that seeks to divide our communities.

**We are strongest as a nation when we stand together and lift up those most vulnerable in our society.**

We are disheartened by the decision by some members of Congress to tear down bridges between people in the name of community security. FCNL's work is led by the call for right relationships among all people – respect for human and civil rights is essential to safeguarding the integrity of our diverse society and the inherent dignity of all human beings. We further embrace the faith principle of welcoming the stranger, and believe the United States' historic tradition of welcoming refugees and immigrants should be restored.

**FCNL urges members of Congress to reject any proposals that would stop, pause, or obstruct refugee resettlement in the United States.** We therefore strongly oppose H.R. 4731, "Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act of 2016," which would drastically reduce and cap refugee admissions to 60,000 refugees per year, place refugees under continual surveillance after arrival, and could effectively prevent many Muslim refugees from being resettled in the United States. The United States has the most secure, vetted, and robust refugee screening process in the world, which involves the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Department of Defense and multiple intelligence agencies. The United States has a history of welcoming refugees and immigrants, having successfully resettled more than 3 million refugees since 1975.

**FCNL urges members of Congress to stand in solidarity with Muslim Americans.** Quakers came to this country over 365 years ago to practice our faith openly. We repudiate the denunciation of an entire religion as unjust discrimination and contrary to the American founding principle for religious freedom. Hate crimes against Muslim communities and individuals are at an all-time high in the United States. We urge legislators to denounce these crimes and any conflation of Muslims with terrorism.

**FCNL urges members of Congress to ensure immigrant families maintain access to tax credits via the Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).** The Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) directly reduce the amount of federal taxes an individual or family pays and help keep families out of poverty. The EITC and CTC programs are second only to Social Security when it comes to reducing poverty in the United States. Immigrant families are deserving of this protection and their qualification for ITINs must not be restricted. It is not in our nation's interest to further impoverish children, 4.5 million of whom are U.S. citizens, by denying their families eligibility to this most important program.

**FCNL urges members of Congress to speak out in support of deferred action for families and pursue lasting legislative solutions;** without the implementation of deferred action for parents of Americans and expanded deferred action for childhood arrivals, immigrant families are being unjustly torn apart by deportation and immigrant detention on a daily basis. In the absence of any congressional movement on immigration reform, our immigration system continues to be unfair and unsustainable. Immigrant families are being subjected to family hardship through separation. We look to Congress to enact lasting solutions for immigrant families and to support the temporary relief provided by DAPA/DACA.

**FCNL urges members of Congress to keep in place asylum processes and protections for victims of trafficking, ensuring the right to due process for each individual;** we cannot and should not curb the efficacy of our asylum and parole processes in the ways that the misnamed bills S. 2561, “Protection of Children Act” or H.R. 4720, “Expedited Family Reunification Act” propose. Rolling back protections outlined in the bi-partisan Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) would result in children being returned back into hands of traffickers, gangs and others who seek to exploit them. Our trafficking protections and asylum processes are strong and should only be improved upon, not torn down.

It is our responsibility as Americans to continue welcoming those most in need; legislative proposals that seek to further divide our nation have no place in response to any humanitarian crisis. We are called as people of faith to work in community with and answer to that of God in each person – we ask that Congress do the same and welcome our neighbors with open hearts and minds.

**Higher walls do not make our communities safe or thriving; building stronger bridges does.**

Sincerely,



**Yasmine Taeb**  
Legislative Representative  
Human Rights & Civil Liberties



**Hannah Graf Evans**  
Policy Associate  
Immigration and Domestic Issues



# Franciscan Action Network

April 12, 2016

To Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives:

Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is a national membership organization of fifty institutional members and approximately 12,000 individual Franciscans, men and women, religious and secular, predominantly, but not solely, Catholic. FAN's commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ and to Catholic Social Teaching lead members to work for human rights, including advocacy on behalf of immigrants and refugees. FAN opposes legislation perceived to be anti-refugee and anti-immigrant, and supports legislation that assists immigrants and refugees. We also believe that legislation that welcomes and assists refugees is an expression of the best values of our country. We call on our Congress to oppose any legislation that would close America's doors to refugees, and urge Congress to provide funding to assist refugee resettlement. Attached please find two recent FAN statements, one a press release and the other a statement submitted to the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sister Marie Lucey  
FAN Director of Advocacy



# Franciscan Action Network

FAN Statement to the House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security for its hearing *Crisis of Confidence: Preventing Terrorist Infiltration through U.S. Refugee and Visa Programs*

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Franciscan Action Network, a national organization of Franciscan men and women, professed religious and lay persons, supports the United States refugee resettlement program and urges all legislators to reject any proposals that would stop or hinder resettlement of refugees in the United States. FAN also supports H.R. 4380, the bipartisan Equal Protection in Travel Act of 2016.

To achieve refugee status, individuals must prove that they have fled persecution due to their nationality, ethnicity, religious, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Images and stories of refugees from Syria fleeing violence and persecution appear in U.S. media almost every day, and the United States is one of 28 countries that resettles refugees. Of the Syrian refugees that have been resettled in the U.S., 77 percent are women and children.

The Department of Justice announced the arrest of two Iraqi men in January, for providing false statements in a terrorist investigation, though neither was charged with attempt to commit terrorist activities in the United States. Their actions are to be condemned, but they do not represent the majority of refugees resettled in our country. Refugees are the most vetted group of travelers to the U.S., undergoing a stringent scrutiny process which the Department of Homeland Security continually works to strengthen.

Syria is experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises the world has seen in modern history with at least 4 million refugees and 8 million internally displaced persons trying to escape violence, persecution, and even hunger. Most of these are women and children. FAN urges Congress to support resettlement as a lifesaving program.

FAN also supports the Equal Protection in Travel Act of 2016 (H.R. 4380), bipartisan legislation to repeal the travel restrictions targeting dual nationals included in the FY2016 Omnibus Appropriations Act passed in December, 2015. These changes to the U.S. Visa Waiver Program were a reaction to the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris and discriminate against dual nationals of Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Syria solely due to their ancestry and not to any decision or action on their part. Such discrimination violates American values and tradition. FAN commends the bipartisan group of legislators who introduced the Equal Protection in Travel Act of 2016 to repeal these travel restrictions for dual nationals and strongly urges Congress to pass this legislation.

# FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK

For Immediate Release

March 15, 2016

Contact: Sr. Marie Lucey

FAN Director of Advocacy

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## **Franciscan Action Network Opposes Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act**

**Calls the bill 'deceptive' and claims it undermines the  
principles our country was founded on**

The Franciscan Action Network (FAN) urges members of the House Judiciary Committee to oppose H.R. 4731, *The Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act*. Refugee resettlement is a longstanding, life-saving American tradition that has recently become unjustly maligned and politicized. In the midst of today's global refugee crisis, the consequences of legislation such as H.R. 4731 cannot be overstated. Pope Francis, in his address to Congress in September, stated, "The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us."

H.R. 4731 would impose a sharp reduction in refugee admissions by capping resettlement at 60,000 refugees per year and making any increase nearly impossible. At a time when the humanitarian community is facing the worst displacement crisis since World War II, reducing refugee admissions would only take our country backward. FAN [released a statement](#) in November 2015 urging an increase in the resettlement of refugees this year.

"FAN collaborates with faith partners to welcome and support refugees as new neighbors," said Sr. Marie Lucey, FAN Director of Advocacy, "and we will continue to stand up for them."

By mandating that the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) prioritize religious minorities, H.R. 4731 attempts to prevent Muslim refugees from being resettled to the United States. It is paramount that the USRAP stay true to its mission to resettle the most vulnerable individuals who face persecution due to any of the five grounds: race, religion, nationality,

political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. H.R. 4731 would, for the first time in U.S. history, prioritize one of those five grounds above the others.

This legislation would also mandate expensive and redundant measures within the refugee screening processes, despite the fact that refugees are already the most vetted individuals to enter the United States. It would triple the length of time a refugee must wait before applying for lawful permanent residency from one year to three years, which would be a significant barrier to integration and family reunification which we support. In addition, allowing state and local governments who “disapprove” of refugees to stop resettlement in their localities would violate anti-discrimination laws and infringe on the federal government’s jurisdiction over immigration policy set forth in the U.S. Constitution.

Overall, the deceptively titled *Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act* undermines the very principles this nation was built upon and dishonors our shared humanity. As we all seek ways to meaningfully respond to the global refugee crisis, FAN urges all members of the House Judiciary Committee to oppose H.R. 4731 and any proposal that would reduce access to protection for refugees. In the words of Pope Francis, “We must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories.”

#####END#####

*Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus, and the example of Saints Francis and Clare, the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is a collective Franciscan voice seeking to transform United States public policy related to peace making, care for creation, poverty, and human rights. For more information: <https://franciscanaction.org/>*



April 13, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

As a 70-year old humanitarian organization representing 37 Protestant, Anglican, and Orthodox communions and 33 refugee resettlement offices, Church World Service urges the U.S. Congress to welcome refugees seeking protection, stand in solidarity with people of all faiths, and protect families and unaccompanied children fleeing violence. It is our collective moral responsibility to welcome and protect these vulnerable populations, in line with our values of compassion, hospitality and unity with our fellow human beings.

CWS urges all Members of Congress to welcome refugees and to oppose any proposal that would reduce access to protection for refugees or otherwise obstruct, pause, or dismantle the U.S. refugee resettlement program. Refugee resettlement is a longstanding, life-saving American tradition that has recently become unjustly maligned and politicized. For example, H.R.4731, "The Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act" would drastically reduce refugee admissions, place refugees under continual surveillance, and create new procedures that would significantly and potentially indefinitely delay resettlement for many refugees whose lives are in danger. At a time when the humanitarian community is facing the worst displacement crisis since World War II, reducing refugee admissions would only take our country backward. The United States leverages refugee resettlement to ensure that other countries keep their doors open to refugees, which is critical to regional stability. Legislation that would curb U.S. refugee admissions would sour U.S. foreign policy objectives and create a downward spiral in how refugees are treated worldwide.

CWS also urges all Members of Congress to stand in solidarity with people of all faiths by denouncing hateful rhetoric and policies that would discriminate against our Muslim brothers and sisters. Under the guise of prioritizing religious minorities from countries of particular concern, H.R.4731 and similar legislation would effectively prevent many Muslim refugees from being resettled. More than 600 religious leaders around the United States have already [written](#) Congress in opposition to such proposals. It is paramount that the U.S. refugee program stay true to its mission to resettle the most vulnerable individuals who face persecution due to any of the five grounds: race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. We must extend welcome to refugees fleeing violence and persecution, regardless of their religious backgrounds. To do otherwise would be a direct contradiction of the values we hold regarding freedom of religion and respect for all religions. We urge legislators to condemn political rhetoric discriminating against refugees on the basis of religion or country of origin.

In regard to children and families fleeing violence, gang conscription, and human trafficking in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, CWS urges all Members of Congress to recognize the importance of access to protection in saving lives and to strongly oppose any legislation that would weaken or eliminate provisions in the 2008 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. The TVPRA provides important procedural protections for unaccompanied children in order to accurately determine if they are eligible for relief as victims of trafficking or persecution.<sup>1</sup> Laws governing asylum should not be weakened when more children and families are in need of their protection. It is important to note that individuals seeking asylum in the United States are complying with U.S. law, as they have the right to seek protection from persecution and violence.<sup>2</sup> The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the agency responsible for the care of unaccompanied children, has faced chronic underfunding, which has led to devastating consequences for unaccompanied children. CWS urges all Members of Congress to provide robust funding for ORR to meet the needs of unaccompanied children and all populations in ORR's care.

The faith community has a proud history of standing with the vulnerable and protecting the persecuted. Legislation that would reduce protections for refugees from Syria, Central America and beyond, and proposals that would discriminate against people based on their religion fly in the face of the very principles this nation was built upon and dishonor our shared humanity. We call on all Members of Congress to uphold our collective responsibility to provide welcome to refugees of all ages and of all faiths.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erol Kekic'.

Erol Kekic  
Director, Immigration and Refugee Program  
Church World Service

<sup>1</sup> William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA) § 235. <<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/laws/113178.htm>>.

<sup>2</sup> Article 14, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. <[www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml#a14](http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml#a14)>; U.S. Code Title 8: Aliens and Nationality, Chapter 12: Immigration and Nationality, Section 1158: Asylum. <<http://uscode.house.gov>>.



**Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.**

April 14, 2016

Dear Member of Congress:

For over 130 years, HIAS has helped refugees—millions of people from all over the world forced to flee their homes because of who they are and what they believe. Today, as the world’s oldest and only Jewish refugee resettlement organization, we help refugees find ways to live in safety and with dignity and support policies that maintain America’s proud history of offering safe haven to the world’s persecuted and the Jewish tradition of “welcoming the stranger.”

For the relatively small number of the world’s 60 million displaced people that the U.S. government selects for admission to the U.S. as refugees, resettlement provides an opportunity to restart their lives in safety. Refugees who come to the U.S. enrich our communities with their skills and talents by starting new businesses and revitalizing neighborhoods. The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is a critical tool for achieving our humanitarian goals, promoting our economic interests, and enhancing our national security.

It is important to note that resettlement —to the U.S. or anywhere else—is often the last resort for refugees who may never be able to return to their countries or have any access to a productive future in the country to which they first fled. Refugees selected for resettlement in the U.S. have been thoroughly vetted by our national security agencies and arrive in the U.S. wanting the same things we all want—peace, safety, and opportunities for themselves and their children.

Next week, Jews in America and around the world will gather with their families to celebrate Passover. During this holiday, we retell the story of our ancestors’ biblical journey from slavery to freedom. Jews know what it is like to be the subject of xenophobia and suspicion, even here in America: a 1939 poll from the American Institute of Public Opinion found that more than 60% of Americans opposed bringing Jewish refugees to the U.S. in the midst of World War II. Guided by our values and history, we stand with [over 1,200 American rabbis](#) who urge you to keep our doors open to refugees and to oppose any legislation that aims to halt, pause, or defund refugee resettlement in the U.S.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Melanie Nezer".

Melanie Nezer  
Vice President, Policy and Advocacy



## LETTER TO CONGRESS

### A Faithful Call to Love the Stranger

The Christian faith teaches the love of neighbor and the love of the stranger, not sentimental love but rather real, life-giving love. Think of Jesus's parable where the Good Samaritan saw an injured man and helped him--without regard to race or religion. Jesus simply saw a person in dire need. Christianity, however, is not the only faith that speaks of willful love. Every major world religion has at its core a commitment to caring for humanity: the orphan, the widow and the stranger.

Unfortunately, this election season has caused a collision between the call to love and welcome and anger and hate. We hear of political rallies that result in violence against people of color and those who disagree with the speakers. We hear politicians sowing fear of immigrants by calling them rapists and then offering a giant wall as a solution to our broken immigration system. We see the current administration choosing to hold immigrants in for-profit detention centers and deporting parents, leaving their children behind to fend for themselves, which is no solution either.

In the midst of all this, we are reminded of Pope Francis's visit to Washington, DC less than seven months ago when he asked Members of Congress to remember the Golden Rule. "This rule points us in a clear direction. Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities."

We write to call on all elected officials and candidates to shun the politics of exclusion and to join the courageous witness of persons of faith and love. We ask that you reflect on Pope Francis's call to respond to immigrant and refugees in a way that is "always humane, just and fraternal."

Why do we make this call? We ask because people's lives are hanging in the balance.

During NETWORK's 2015 "Nuns on the Bus" campaign to honor Pope Francis's visit to the U.S., we met 16-year-old Kathryn. After her hardworking parents were deported, Kathryn was left to care for her five younger siblings. Her 11-year-old sister, Stephanie, in her anguish, attempted suicide, believing that it would be better for her family that she not be alive. Luckily, these children were wrapped around with the love and care of their neighbors and their parish community, which continues to support them today.

We remember also, Diana, one of our NETWORK Associates, who came to the United States as a three year old child with her parents from Mexico. She is what we call a "DREAMer." In 2012 she applied for the DACA program and that fundamentally changed her life. Diana could now fully

participate in her community by getting a job, getting a driver's license and, most importantly, getting protection from deportation. DACA has given Diana opportunity and a brighter future. With a younger citizen brother, she and millions of others now wait for the Supreme Court to extend these same protections to her parents through the DAPA program.

That is why your actions matter. You have the ability to change lives – for better or worse – by the actions you take, or don't take. We pray for Congressional action to fix our broken immigration system and extend compassion to the immigrants and refugees in our nation. We pray in this Year of Mercy you receive the wisdom to, in the words of the Prophet Micah, "act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."



# Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

April 18, 2016

Dear Member of Congress:

With over 75 years of experience, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service ([LIRS](#)), the national organization founded by Lutheran churches to serve uprooted people, is committed to welcoming the sojourner with dignity, compassion and respect. As the challenges around the world change, our scope and services have evolved to meet our mission which has remained constant: to provide refuge to the world's most vulnerable individuals.

At present, LIRS is particularly disheartened with both Congress and the Administration's failure to recognize that there is a [full-scale refugee crisis in Central America](#). Take, for example, the story of seventeen year old Maria, who was violently threatened by a gang member in El Salvador. The gang member put a gun near her head and reportedly told her, "I'll give you one month for you to leave or I will kill or rape you." Gang members then attempted to rape her, but stopped because her screams were so loud. In order to save her life, Maria had no choice but to seek safe haven in the United States. However, [unaccompanied children](#) from the region are routinely denied a fair opportunity to seek permanent protection here in the United States. Likewise, children making the unsafe and difficult journey from Central America with their parents are immediately and routinely [detained in inappropriate conditions](#).

LIRS urges Congress to exercise care and compassion for refugee children whether entering our country alone or with a parent. LIRS believes immigrant and refugee children are first and foremost children. This is one reason why LIRS supports the "Fair Day in Court for Kids Act" (HR.4646/S.2450) as a positive step toward upholding our nation's moral responsibility of protecting the voiceless and our commitment to provide refuge for the world's most vulnerable. Unaccompanied children must be [provided legal counsel](#) to help them navigate complex immigration laws and ensure appearances in court. .

Similarly, LIRS believes that there is no humane way to detain mothers and their children, in particular a child with a refugee claim. [These families are detained far from relatives, without access to legal services or appropriate medical care](#). Additionally, as the numbers of family units migrating together increased, so did the instances of arbitrary and harmful [family separation](#), both before and upon reaching the U.S. border. Many of these families face arbitrary separation due to administrative failures to appropriately identify and track familial relationships or respect the principle of family unity during immigration enforcement action.

The United States has a longstanding history as a beacon of hope, a nation of promise, a dream of opportunity. Yet recent rhetoric has been that of exclusion, fear, and intolerance. Legislation introduced in the current session seeks to victimize those tired, poor and huddled masses our nation is called to protect.

I hope you have found the above information useful. A full list of resources can be found [here](#), while our policy recommendations and a statement of principles for unaccompanied children can be found in our report *[At the Crossroads for Unaccompanied Migrant Children](#)*. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

In peace,  
Jessica Jones

Policy Counsel | [jjones@lirs.org](mailto:jjones@lirs.org) | 202-626-3850  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



April 19, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

Sojourners is a Christian advocacy organization dedicated to helping Christians put their faith into action for social justice. We are called as Christians and as Americans to welcome our neighbors, and so we call on you as our representatives to reject laws and rhetoric that marginalize immigrants and refugees instead of allowing them to fully contribute to their communities.

We call on members to support President Obama's common-sense executive actions on immigration. The President's expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and his establishment of Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) help American children and their families to live in the United States without fear and to fully contribute to the economy and their communities. As exercises of prosecutorial discretion, they are in line with decades of bipartisan precedent.

We call on members to oppose legislation that would restrict or halt refugee resettlement. Our country has a long history of welcoming refugees, and we cannot turn our backs on those fleeing violence and persecution.

We call on members to explicitly call out and reject hateful rhetoric being used to demonize immigrants and refugees. Such rhetoric cannot simply be dismissed as just words—it has real consequences. It inflames and encourages hostile responses and even violence against immigrants and refugees, and it creates a climate of fear, mistrust, and anger that paralyzes attempts to promote and pass policies that would help our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters.

We are called by our faith to welcome the stranger, care for the least of these, and see immigrants and refugees as our brothers and sisters. We are called as Americans to remember that we are a nation of immigrants, and that our history of welcoming immigrants and refugees is precisely what has made us strong as a nation and a symbol of freedom to the rest of the world. We ask you as our representatives to uphold these values in the way that you speak, act, and vote with regard to our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,

Sojourners



Within our faith, this season represents a re-committal to living a life that demonstrates the difference that the resurrection made. In our sacred texts, these weeks were a time when the community was strengthened as Jesus appeared again to followers to re-gather and coach them as a community of faith. Central then was the type of message communicated again and again in the years before: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). “If you love me, feed my lambs....Tend my sheep....Feed my sheep” (John 21:15, 16, 17). In this era still, the calling to accept the challenge of “being sent” to “feed the sheep” shapes our values of how to care for the most vulnerable among us, including refugees and immigrants. As a generous nation, we applaud the welcome the U.S. has historically offered refugees, accepting over 250,000 displaced Europeans in the era of World War II, welcoming an additional 400,000 through Congress’ first refugee legislation of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, and cumulatively resettling over 3 million refugees since 1975; in annual totals ranging from 207,000 in 1980 to only 27,110 in 2002 (RCUSA). Yet while the U.S. continues to resettle refugees at a rate of approximately 1 per 6,300 persons (UNHCR Global Resettlement Statistical Report 2014), we are well aware that there are more refugees now—over 20 million—than at any point since WWII, and that every five seconds, a person is displaced, forced to leave their home in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

We believe with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres that “Resettlement is becoming a solution even more important than ever now” (The Brookings Institution, 4/6/16). Thus, we urge you to ensure the U.S. upholds its commitment to resettling at least 10,000 Syrians among 80,000 total refugees in FY2016—which is but “.2 percent of the overall Syrian refugee population of 4.8 million,” (The Washington Post, 4/17/16). Already half through FY2016, the US has resettled less than 1,300 Syrian refugees. To accept God’s challenge to “feed my sheep,” we believe the U.S. must resettle even more—and we continue to ask, as we have requested for many months, that FY2017 resettlement totals be increased to 100,000 Syrians, over and above the 70,000 additional refugees. Our refugee vetting process, with multiple security screenings, biometric tests, and multi-agency cross-checks, makes certain that refugees are the most deeply vetted of all arrivals into the United States.

In alliance with you, our congregations and communities continue to demonstrate great willingness to welcome refugees through robust public-private partnerships that characterize the best of U.S. refugee resettlement practices. We have just worked with other national faith and refugee partners to launch a new initiative called “Refugees Welcome” to support communities around the U.S. in welcoming and integrating refugees, and we invite you to see more at: [refugeesarewelcome.org](http://refugeesarewelcome.org). This effort also continues to strengthen interfaith relationships, as we remain committed to the U.S. welcoming refugees of all backgrounds. To that end, we strongly oppose the passage of any anti-refugee legislation, of a type such as H.R. 4731 or any similar bill that threatens to undermine the U.S. refugee program, to prevent the resettlement of Muslim refugees, to potentially delay resettlement for many refugees whose lives are in danger (including also Central Americans, Syrians, and Iraqis), to allow states and localities the opportunity to prohibit resettlement, and to delay integration and freedoms to refugees following their resettlement.

Likewise, God’s call to “tend my lambs” motivates us to encourage strong support for children and others who are seeking protection from violence and human trafficking. We call upon you to therefore support efforts such as The Fair Day in Court for Kids Act, identified as S. 2540 and H.R. 4646, which would provide children and other vulnerable populations with disabilities or experiences of torture, violence, and mental illness, to have legal representation in court which enables their ability to present their protection needs most adequately in court, and to have heightened court appearance rates. Further, our U.S. asylum protections must be kept intact, and thousands of our Disciples Women and others continue to resist efforts to rollback any provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act; so desperately needed to provide families the opportunity to escape violence at the hands of gangs, pervasive traffickers, and druglords. And, we continue to urge you, together with us, to ask the Administration to END FAMILY DETENTION through its abhorrent practices of detaining mothers and children (including currently 20 infants and very young toddlers who are detained in Dilley, Texas!) Our Disciples voices stand in strong opposition to such policies, and continue to act to seek to change these policies that are so damaging to human rights of persons seeking protection.

Finally, among the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, we seek support for them, and for refugees and others in poverty, offered by maintaining sensible projects such as the CTC (Child Tax Credit) and EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit). These programs continue to help our lowest income meet basic needs, even as they pay taxes with every purchase made. We continue to grieve the separation endured by families pulled apart daily by detention and deportations, and remain convicted that the best fix to our nation’s outdated immigration laws will be comprehensive immigration reform. However, in the absence of such action, we ask you to join with our faith voices in supporting the extension of DACA, and implementation of DAPA programs, and to enact true and lasting relief for families. Eligible families include our pastors, our church leaders, and our neighbors, as outlined in our recently submitted faith Amicus brief to the Supreme Court in support of the President’s Executive Action. We seek your wisdom, and your leadership, in helping full immigration reform to happen soon, and we are ready to be your partners in each of the above ways that “tend the sheep” of God in our nation.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ronald J. Degges, President,  
Disciples Home Missions

Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries

Rev. Ken Brooker-Langston, Director  
Disciples Center for Public Witness



## COLUMBAN CENTER FOR ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

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April 21, 2016

Dear Member of Congress,

As the national advocacy office representing the Missionary Society of St. Columban in the U.S. region, the [Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach](#) stands in solidarity with marginalized people whom Columban missionaries serve in 15 countries throughout the world, including the United States.

As missionary disciples of Jesus, we are called to heal, reconcile, build bridges, and create mutual understanding through prophetic dialogue. Our commitment to interculturality, interfaith dialogue, and solidarity with marginalized people and the exploited earth are ways we participate in God's mission. Our proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus challenges us to build communities of peace.<sup>1</sup>

It is through this mission to build communities of peace that we call upon members of Congress to legislate through compassion and respect rather than exclusion and fear. We urge all Members of Congress to reject proposals that separate migrant families, remove critical protections for those seeking refuge, discriminate based on religious affiliation, and criminalize our migrant brothers and sisters.

For these reasons, we join others in the faith community in unanimously opposing legislation that would roll back the vital protections for children and families provided by the bipartisan 2008 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, and other efforts that reduce access to protection for migrants and refugees such as H.R. 4731, the "Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act".

We urge you to reject legislation that will adversely affect immigrant and refugee communities in your states and districts and around the world, and instead to support policies such as community-based alternatives to immigrant detention, legal representation for unaccompanied children, and protections for women, children and other vulnerable migrant groups.

[In his recent, historic mass at the U.S.-Mexico border](#), Pope Francis called us to "weep over injustice, cry over corruption, cry over oppression" so that we may be able to live out mercy in practice and in policy. We echo Pope Francis' appeal for "open hearts" so that we see our brothers and sisters in the faces of migrants and refugees.

Since our founding as a Catholic missionary society nearly 100 years ago, we have been called to welcome the newcomer. Columbans all over the world offer hospitality and welcome to migrants and refugees, in accordance with Scripture, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). We now call upon Congress to do the same and create an atmosphere of welcome for all who seek shelter and refuge on our shores.

Sincerely,

Scott Wright  
Director, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

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<sup>1</sup> Missionary Society of St. Columban, General Assembly 2012



April 22, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Institute Justice Team urges you to show compassion for the most vulnerable people in our world today including immigrants, refugees, and people of the Muslim faith. The Sisters of Mercy is an international community of Roman Catholic women who dedicate their lives to God through vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service. They sponsor and serve in more than 200 organizations – such as schools and hospitals – that address those needs.

**We urge members of Congress to renounce any policies that would hinder refugee resettlement in the United States.** Since 1843 we have ministered to the needs of immigrant persons in response to the Gospel's call to welcome the stranger and to live in communion with others. Through our ministries, our sisters and associates have borne witness to the extreme hardships faced by refugees. We strongly oppose H.R. 4731, "Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act of 2016," which would severely reduce refugee admissions and effectively prevent Muslim refugees from seeking safe haven in the United States. The United States has a history of providing safety for refugees and we ask you to uphold this longstanding policy.

**We urge members of Congress to publicly support deferred action for families while working to enact comprehensive immigration reform.** These desperately needed reforms would stay the deportations of many immigrants with close family ties and relationships in the U.S. Above all, it would protect and keep families together. On World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2015, Pope Francis stated, "The Church without frontiers, Mother to all, spreads throughout the world a culture of acceptance and solidarity, in which no one is seen as useless, out of place, or disposable." We reverence the dignity of each person and work to end policies that tear families apart and treat people as disposable.

**We urge members of Congress to end the raids on Central American children and families and provide adequate legal representation to this vulnerable population.** These children and adults are at risk of extreme violence and even death if they are forced to return. Worse, the majority of these families have been stripped of their right to a fair hearing on their asylum-related claims. Raids are the wrong response to the humanitarian crisis in Central America. These families warrant our protection, not persecution. And many of these families are eligible for asylum under U.S. law. As such, this vulnerable group should be given adequate legal counsel and a genuine opportunity to seek humanitarian relief before a judge. We therefore strongly support The Fair Day in Court for Kids Act, introduced as S. 2540 by Senator Reid (D-NV) and H.R. 4646 by Representative Lofgren (CA-19), which would ensure access to counsel, legal orientation programs, and post-release services for children and other vulnerable individuals while they are in immigration court proceedings.

**We urge members of Congress to dismantle the harmful family detention system.** The government's aggressive stance on undocumented immigrants has devastated and separated many children from their families. It is our duty to welcome these children, not imprison them. Every man, woman, and child should be treated

with dignity and respect. The Sisters of Mercy joins many other religious organizations calling on you to end family detention immediately.

**We urge members of Congress to be in solidarity with Muslim Americans.** Hateful rhetoric against Muslim Americans has saturated our culture, media, even our elections. This hate breeds mistrust, fear and hurt that contribute to violence throughout our society. Practicing nonviolence calls us to infuse our own communities with peace and justice both in words and action. Please be a voice against hate and welcome everyone as a brother and sister, not degrade people based on their race, religion or country of origin. The vile rhetoric is not only damaging to the people it is aimed at but to our children and society as a whole. We ask you to disavow crimes against Muslim Americans and reject the false stereotype of Muslims as terrorists.

We call on you to recognize the human dignity of each person and to work with us for a future when our country will again welcome those who are different from ourselves and those seeking refuge and a better life for themselves and their families.

Sincerely,

The Institute Justice Team  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Elizabeth Holtz, Organizing Coordinator  
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## American Friends Service Committee

1501 Cherry Street · Philadelphia, PA 19102 · 215-241-7000 · afsc.org

*April 25, 2016*

LETTER TO CONGRESS:

# Stand against xenophobia

SINCE 1917, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has worked with war refugees and displaced persons worldwide, grounded in Quaker beliefs respecting the dignity and worth of every person. With 100 years of experience with the healing power of peaceful engagement, we are greatly concerned by a rising political discourse riddled with fear and hatred, with many legislative proposals now before Congress that will only serve to increase tensions and global insecurity.

AFSC staff in our offices in the Middle East and Central America have seen firsthand that both regions are suffering from an unprecedented degree of violence and instability. The United States has an opportunity to act as a leader in the face of the global refugee crisis that has resulted. Instead, most of the debate in Congress has centered on proposals that increase tensions and roll back legal protections for those who are most vulnerable.

Based on our experience with immigrant and refugee communities in the U.S. and our peacebuilding work abroad, we call on lawmakers to advance policies that are inclusive and welcoming of immigrants, and that strengthen legal protections for refugees and victims of trafficking. Ample evidence has shown that such policies are much more effective at building the wellbeing of all people than punitive, exclusive approaches that destroy lives and fuel division.

AFSC urges members of Congress to stand in solidarity with all immigrants and condemn Islamophobia and xenophobia. In the wake of the Paris and Brussels attacks, the American Muslim community has faced an increase in hate crimes and public officials and politicians have used Islamophobic language and approaches with alarming ease. Similarly, there has been an increase in nativist and xenophobic rhetoric against migrants fleeing from extreme violence and poverty in Central America.

By creating a climate that is full of fear and hate, our leaders invite actions that are exclusionary. There have been repeated attempts both at the state and federal levels to prevent the resettlement of Muslim refugees. And the Department of Homeland Security has resorted to expediting deportations to Central America where asylum seekers may face persecution. Our country will never have humane and compassionate laws

governing migration as long as the political climate is rife with nativism and hate speech. We call upon all members of Congress to unequivocally denounce Islamophobia and xenophobia.

AFSC urges Congress to stop pursuing policies that obstruct refugee resettlement. Refugees are the most scrutinized group of migrants in the United States, undergoing intense background checks, medical screenings, and interviews. Screening is taken extremely seriously within the refugee resettlement program to ensure the program is used for those who need protection. We strongly oppose H.R. 4731, "Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act of 2016," which would drastically reduce and cap refugee admissions, place refugees under continual surveillance after arrival, and could effectively prevent many Muslim refugees from being resettled in the United States.

Refugee resettlement has been a successful and longstanding process in the United States. For decades, local faith groups have successfully partnered with officials to welcome, support, and sponsor refugees. We are called to welcome refugees who are fleeing violence and insecurity in their home country.

AFSC urges Congress to keep in place legal protections for asylum seekers and victims of trafficking. Proposed legislation, such as S. 2561, "Protection of Children Act," or H.R. 4720, "Expedited Family Reunification Act," are misleading attempts to curb the efficacy of our asylum and parole processes. Our asylum laws provide a legal recourse to people who have come to the U.S. and fear persecution in their home country. Attempts to undermine the asylum process should be rejected.

In addition, we must not roll back the 2008 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), which protects children from being returned to the hands of traffickers, gangs, and others who seek to exploit them. Rather than wasting time and resources attacking programs that provide critical legal protections to children and individuals who are at risk of persecution and exploitation, Congress should seek opportunities to strengthen and improve upon the minimum standard of legal protections afforded to asylum seekers and victims of trafficking.

The attacks in Paris and Brussels, along with the current refugee crisis unfolding in the Middle East and Central America, present an opportunity for all of us to come together to build stronger communities. It shows a severe lack of leadership to instead turn to fear and nativism.

We call upon Congress to demonstrate leadership and reject irresponsible bills. Peaceful and safe communities are built on foundations of cohesion and inclusion, not reactionary xenophobia.



Shan Cretin,  
AFSC General Secretary



# Church of the Brethren

April 26, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

The Church of the Brethren is a historic peace church with a long history of engaging and supporting those who are oppressed and displaced. Our peace stance springs from the call to love our neighbor and the recognition that each person is a treasured child of God. This belief in the inherent worth of every person impels us to speak out against rhetoric that seeks to demonize our refugee and Muslim neighbors. We urge you to support these vulnerable populations through responsible, welcoming legislation and by rejecting speech and policy that deride these communities.

Refugees are the most vulnerable population to enter the United States, and barriers created through negative rhetoric and obstructive policies add to the existing trauma of fleeing from one's home. We are particularly sympathetic to persons forcibly displaced because of our Brethren sisters and brothers fleeing the devastation caused by Boko Haram in Nigeria. These people, like the many displaced in Syria, Central America, and elsewhere, leave their homes out of desperation and with no guarantee for a better future or safe return.

As people of faith, we are called to welcome the stranger and provide for those in need, especially refugees coping with tragedy. The U.S. has consistently been a world leader in refugee resettlement, but many proposed pieces of legislation like H.R. 4731, "Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act of 2016," restrict the capacity to aid this vulnerable population and add little to no benefit to national security. Refugees are the most vetted population to enter the U.S., receiving comprehensive screenings, including biometric tests and interviews, from UNHCR, the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Department of Defense, and other intelligence agencies. Fomenting fear for refugees ignores the very real needs of people fleeing violence and disaster.

This call to care for refugees and displaced persons cannot be deflated by restrictions based on religion. Like many Protestant denominations, the early Brethren fled persecution in Europe and found refuge in the U.S. because of its commitment to religious freedom. Legislation that restricts persons from entering the U.S. based on religion and the fear-mongering that accompanies it threatens this tradition of inclusivity and endangers the lives of persons fleeing violence.

We urge you to preserve these foundational values by denouncing discriminatory legislation and rhetoric that places fear before human need. In doing this, may this nation honor the words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Sincerely,

Nathan Hosler  
Director  
Office of Public Witness  
Church of the Brethren

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

April 27, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the largest Lutheran denomination in the U.S. with more than 3.7 million members and 9,300 congregations nationwide. We believe and teach that all people are children of God and made in the divine image. We are accountable to God by our actions to respect and uphold the dignity and worth of all human beings. As anti-immigrant rhetoric continues to criminalize migrants and refugees who are some of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, we ask that you join communities of faith as we work to center the national conversation instead on God's welcome and love for all.

**We hope that you continue to focus on long-term solutions for bettering the conditions that cause Central American children and families to flee, while also ensuring the immediate protection of children, families and other targeted men and women.** Abroad, this includes providing funding to international organizations like the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen protection systems in the region and ensuring that funding for Mexico has strong human rights protections for migrants and asylum seekers. Domestically, it means strengthening laws in the U.S. that ensure all migrant children are properly screened for trafficking, receive needed protections, and are accorded legal representation.

The ELCA has strong ties to young people and families from Central America who are facing a humanitarian crisis and, in many cases, are forced to flee their homes. We are proud to accompany Lutheran churches and other faith communities in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, as they start new congregations, expand theological education, and pursue justice and peace locally. **Because of our work together with churches in communities that face hunger, conflict and lack of opportunities, and because of the experience of many in our own denomination as refugees, Lutherans are deeply concerned when migrants and refugees are spoken of as national security threats.**

As a church and as Christians, we are called to love our neighbors whether they live on our block or outside our nation's borders. We encourage you to stand with people of faith in our commitment to support foreign policies that ensure people are able to live safe and prosperous lives in their communities while also supporting domestic policies that welcome migrants who must travel to the United States in search of hope and a new life. We pray for God to give you strength to uphold the rights of all marginalized communities.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Amy E. Reumann

Director, Advocacy

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# National Network for Arab American Communities

*A project of ACCESS*

April 28, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

The National Network for Arab Americans (NNAAC) is a national consortium of 24 independent Arab American community-based organizations from 11 states across the nation. Our network powers the Campaign to TAKE ON HATE, a multi-year, grassroots campaign to challenge this country's growing prejudice and persistent misconception of Arab and Muslim Americans, including refugees of Arab and Muslim descent. We write to you today as representatives from NNAAC and TAKE ON HATE to urge you to speak out in support of immigrants, refugees, and people of the Arab decent, and Muslim faith and reject all derogatory, inflammatory, and fear-mongering rhetoric that seeks to divide our communities.

**We are strongest as a nation when we stand together and lift up those most vulnerable in our society.**

We are disheartened by the decision by some members of Congress to tear down bridges between all people—respect for human and civil rights is essential to safeguarding the integrity of our diverse society and the inherent dignity of all human beings. We further embrace the faith principle of welcoming the stranger, and believe the United States' historic tradition of welcoming refugees and immigrants should be restored.

**NNAAC and TAKE ON HATE urge members of Congress to reject any proposals that would stop, pause, or obstruct refugee resettlement in the United States.** We therefore strongly oppose H.R. 4731, "Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act of 2016," which would drastically reduce and cap refugee admissions to 60,000 refugees per year, place refugees under continual surveillance after arrival, and could effectively prevent many Muslim refugees from being resettled in the United States. The United States has the most secure, vetted, and robust refugee screening process in the world, which involves the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Department of Defense and multiple intelligence agencies. The United States has a history of welcoming refugees and immigrants, having successfully resettled more than 3 million refugees since 1975.

**NNAAC and TAKE ON HATE urge members of Congress to stand in solidarity with Arab and Muslim Americans.** Muslims came to this country even before it established its independence. Around 30-40 percent of African slaves that were brought to this nation were Muslims. They are as much of a part of

the fabric of this nation as any other religious or ethnic group. Hate crimes against Arab, and Muslim communities and individuals are at an all-time high in the United States. We urge legislators to denounce these crimes and any conflation of Muslims with terrorism.

**NNAAC and TAKE ON HATE urge members of Congress to speak out in support of deferred action for families and pursue lasting legislative solutions;** without the implementation of deferred action for parents of Americans and expanded deferred action for childhood arrivals, immigrant families are being unjustly torn apart by deportation and immigrant detention on a daily basis. In the absence of any congressional movement on immigration reform, our immigration system continues to be unfair and unsuitable. Immigrant families are being subjected to family hardships through separation. We look to Congress to enact lasting solutions for immigrant families and to support the temporary relief provided by DAPA/DACA.

It is our responsibility as Americans to continue welcoming those most in need; legislative proposals that seek to further divide our nation have no place in response to any humanitarian crisis. We are called as representatives of the Arab American community, an ethnic minority to work with our greater American community- we ask Congress do the same and welcome our neighbors with open hearts and minds.

**Higher walls do not make our communities safe or thriving; building stronger bridges does.**

Sincerely,



**Nadia El-Zein Tordova**

Director

National Network for Arab American Communities  
& TAKE ON HATE Projects of ACCESS



**Shoulder to Shoulder**  
Standing with American Muslims; Upholding American Values

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

Shoulder to Shoulder is a campaign of 32 national faith denominations and organizations that came together in 2010 to make a united religious stand against anti-Muslim bigotry in the United States. Today, we write to ask you to uphold our national tradition of religious freedom by standing against anti-Muslim bigotry. As Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and Muslims, we know all too well that discrimination against one faith community impacts all faiths and erodes the American ideal of religious liberty.

The cherished freedom to practice one's chosen religion predates our Declaration of Independence. Discrimination and bigotry against certain Christian denominations in the early days of America's national formation helped others see the need for the Constitution's First Amendment, which reads in part, "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...*" The Colonies' early experiments with religious freedom and the writings of the Founding Fathers (and likely some Founding Mothers) helped birth the United States of America with a keen sense of guaranteeing freedom of religious expression, and of living out values of compassion and hospitality. That guarantee is at risk in the current political climate.

**Shoulder to Shoulder urges members of Congress to speak out against derogatory rhetoric and discriminatory legislation that targets members of the American Muslim community.** Divisive rhetoric against religious minorities is antithetical to our tradition of free exercise and our earnest historical attempts to enshrine the United States as a place where one's faith doesn't determine one's worth. We join a growing chorus of voices, religious and secular, past and present, who call for an end to inflammatory speech against honest, hardworking American Muslims. They are our neighbors, friends, co-workers, doctors, elected officials, teachers, and our police and armed forces. They are us, and as Americans, we are intimately bound to each other under the promise of "E pluribus, unum."

Our nation, and the individuals and communities that compose it, is most strong and secure when all its members are valued as equal citizens. As diverse religious groups, we know this to be true, and we ask that you - our elected officials - prove your commitment to this truth as well.

Sincerely,

Reverend Ron Stief  
Chair, Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign

Catherine Orsborn  
Director, Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign  
202.544.8989  
Catherine.Orsborn@s2scampaign.org

[www.ShouldertoShoulderCampaign.org](http://www.ShouldertoShoulderCampaign.org)



May 2, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives:

The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) is a coalition of 35 national Asian American and Pacific Islander organizations that provides a national voice and serves to represent the interests of our communities.

The month of May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM)—a time to recognize the Asian American and Pacific Islander history, diversity and contributions to our nation. This year, NCAPA also is renewing its stand for and with the Muslim, Sikh, Arab and South Asian American communities--many of whom are themselves Asian American. As part of a growing coalition to end hate, NCAPA is deeply concerned about hateful, discriminatory and xenophobic rhetoric and policies directed toward these communities, and we call upon you—as our elected leaders—to condemn this divisive rhetoric and to support our communities when they are faced with bigotry and discrimination.

Every day, American Muslims, and those perceived to be Muslim, face fear, suspicion, verbal aggression, and attacks in the country they call home. Hateful rhetoric and bigotry against American Muslims have been on the rise. Policies based on fear have been proposed, including blocking the resettlement of refugees from Syria and Iraq, banning Muslims from entering the United States based solely on their religion, and profiling or “patrolling” American Muslims. Some measures—such as the discriminatory changes to the Visa Waiver Program—have even been enacted.

As we celebrate APAHM, we also reflect on the darker chapters of Asian American history—when our nation succumbed to fear and prejudice, and rhetoric gave way to discriminatory policies against Asian Americans. In 1882, the federal government passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, the first law to exclude a specific ethnic group from immigrating to the United States. During World War II, 120,000 loyal Japanese Americans were incarcerated in detention camps, even though none was ever charged with a crime. And since 9/11, American Muslims have been profiled and placed under government surveillance.

The same arguments used against our communities in the past are being heard again today—some have even positively invoked the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. But such rhetoric is unworthy of our political discourse and policy debate.

NCAPA urges you to join with us in standing against the anti-Muslim hate, xenophobia, and bigotry undermining our nation’s values and ideals. As you commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we hope that you will not only celebrate Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, but that you also will show your solidarity with those Asian Americans who are Muslim, Sikh, Arab and South Asian American by lifting up the discourse, rejecting the hate, and opposing discriminatory policies.

Sincerely,

Christopher Kang  
National Director

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*General Counsel*  
Steven C. Sheinberg  
**National Director Emeritus**  
Abraham H. Foxman  
**Anti-Defamation League  
Foundation**  
*President*  
Glen S. Levy



May 3, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives:

As a civil rights and human relations organization founded in 1913 with a mission “to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment for all,” the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has always promoted fair and humane immigration policies. Through legislative advocacy, litigation, and public awareness campaigns, ADL has helped expose anti-immigrant rhetoric and called for a responsible public debate that will honor America’s history as a nation of immigrants. Mindful of the role that xenophobia has played in hindering progress toward sound policy solutions, ADL works to support fair and equal treatment of all and exposes the dangers of stereotyping.

### **Encouraging Congress to Stand Up Against Hate**

Over the past year, anti-immigrant – and by extension anti-Latino and anti-Muslim – rhetoric has reached a fever pitch. Since November 2015, more than half of U.S. governors have said that they either will not accept Syrian refugees in their state or they will ask the administration to close the borders to Syrian refugees. In 2016, immigrants have been smeared as “killers” and “rapists.” They have been accused of bringing drugs, crime and terrorism. There have been calls to seal the borders to Muslim immigrants, to build a wall between the United States and Mexico, and many threats have been made against Muslims. A radio talk show host in Iowa called for enslavement of undocumented immigrants if they do not leave within 60 days. There have been calls to repeal the 14th Amendment’s guarantee of citizenship to people born in the United States, with allegations that many people come here to have so-called “anchor babies.” And the terms “illegal aliens” and “illegals” – which many mainstream news sources wisely rejected years ago because they dehumanize and stigmatize people – have resurfaced.

We strongly believe that placing blame on entire communities for crime and violence is unconstructive and misguided. For instance, the climate of bias and hostility against immigrants that pervades the immigration debate demonizes communities and hurts our country by obstructing the reform Americans desperately need to fix the broken immigration system. **We encourage all Members of Congress to stand united with our neighbors and friends in the American Muslim community, the immigrant community, as well as other vulnerable and oft-targeted communities.**

### **Supporting a Strong U.S. Refugee Program**

With sixty million people forcibly displaced from their homes, today the world faces the worst refugee crisis since World War II. Around the world, one in every 122 people is currently a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum. ADL continues to follow the developments in Congress, throughout the country, and around the world in the wake of the horrific terror attacks in Paris, San Bernardino, and Brussels. These were outrageous, cowardly and premeditated assaults not just on the people of these particular cities, but on all freedom-loving people around the world. The United States must not react by giving in to fear or bias and turning its back on our nation’s fundamental commitment to refugee protection and human rights. **ADL opposes legislation that undermines the U.S. as a global leader and urges Congress to oppose any rollbacks to America’s refugee resettlement program. ADL also opposes proposals that**

**Imagine a World Without Hate®**

Anti-Defamation League, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158-3560 T 212.885.7700 F 212.867.0779 www.adl.org

**would disqualify refugees from protection based on their nationality or religion, negating the very principles upon which this nation was built.**

The possibility of future terrorist attacks of course raises fear and anxiety, but America has put up the highest hurdles in the world for refugees seeking entry. In fact, refugee status is the single most difficult way to enter the United States and safeguards in the refugee process are already exceedingly robust. Refugees must pass difficult and thorough screenings by the U.S. Department of State, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, international intelligence agencies, and the United Nations. Refugees are not terrorists. As a rule, refugees are victims of terrorism, not perpetrators of terrorism. It is imperative that we are able to tell the difference and help those who have suffered. They are people fleeing the very same brutality we fear.

At this critical moment, we must protect refugees and asylum seekers, not scapegoat them. **This is not an *either/or* situation: The United States can continue to welcome refugees while also ensuring national security. We can and must do both.**

ADL supports a strong refugee program and opposes any legislative proposals that aim to halt U.S. resettlement efforts or restrict funding for any groups of refugees, including Syrian refugees.

#### **Exposing Bigoted and Xenophobic Rhetoric**

ADL has taken a lead role in exposing the virulent anti-refugee, anti-Muslim, and xenophobic rhetoric that has risen to the surface and is promoted by anti-immigration activists and extremists. The League monitors, analyzes, and exposes the full range of domestic extremist groups and international terrorist organizations, and maintains comprehensive, frequently-updated informational resources for law enforcement personnel engaged in combating extremism and criminal activity. In particular, ADL exposes the crossover that exists between mainstream and extreme groups that are behind anti-refugee, anti-Muslim, and anti-immigrant rhetoric and activity in various locales around the country. ADL informs the public, policymakers and the media about its research through [blog posts](#), [reports](#), and [articles](#).

Reasonable people can differ about how we should stop terrorism, address the refugee crisis, or fix our broken immigration system, but **stereotypes, slurs, smears and insults should have no place in the debate**. The words that people use on the campaign trail, in Committee rooms and on the floor of Congress, on the nightly news, and in their living rooms all have consequences. They impact our ability to sustain a society that strives to ensure dignity and equality for all.

The climate of bias and hostility against refugees, immigrants, and Muslims that pervades the public debate demonizes communities and hurts our country by obstructing the reform Americans desperately need. Instead of stereotyping and fear mongering, we must have a respectful policy conversation that upholds America's best ideals of ensuring dignity for all and that honors America's history of welcoming immigrants.

Sincerely,



Stacy Burdett  
Vice President  
Government Relations, Advocacy, & Community Engagement



May 4, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a non-sectarian international human rights organization grounded in Unitarian Universalist principles. We strive for a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize our full human rights. We urge you to play a vital constructive role in today's troubling political climate. Specifically, we invite you to remind your constituents and colleagues about our deepest values and our highest selves by speaking out in support of immigrants, refugees, and people of the Muslim faith. We also ask you to add your voice to ours in rejecting the derogatory, inflammatory, and fear-mongering rhetoric that seeks to divide our communities.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee was founded by Martha and Waitstill Sharp. In 1939, they accepted a mission to war-torn Europe to help thousands of people escape the Nazis, including Jews, dissidents, and unaccompanied children. In that same year, the Wagner-Rogers Bill, which would have saved the lives of 10,000 refugee children, was defeated in Congress. When more than 900 Jewish refugees aboard the *MS St. Louis* arrived at U.S. shores, they were turned away and sent back to Europe—many of them to their deaths.

**UUSC urges all members of Congress to take practical measures to counter Islamophobia and to support bills such as the “Freedom of Religion Act,” which codify acceptance of religious diversity among immigrants and refugees into law.** The “Freedom of Religion Act,” to be introduced by Don Beyer (U.S. Representative, Virginia 8<sup>th</sup> District) and seven co-sponsors on Wednesday, May 11, would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit the denial of admission to the United States based on an individual's religion. Our Unitarian Universalist principles guide us to embrace religious diversity and respect every human being's search for truth and meaning. We urge members of the House of Representatives to sign on as co-sponsors, and ask members of the Senate to introduce parallel legislation.

**UUSC urges members of Congress to reject H.R. 4731 and any other proposal that would limit or obstruct refugee resettlement in the United States.** We strongly oppose H.R. 4731, the “Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act of 2016,” which would drastically reduce and cap refugee admissions to 60,000 people per year, place refugees under continual surveillance after arrival, and effectively prevent many Muslim refugees from resettling in the United States. The United States has a proud history of welcoming refugees and immigrants, and has successfully resettled more than 3 million refugees since 1975. The United States also has the most secure, vetted, and robust refugee screening process in the world; it includes the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Department of Defense, and multiple intelligence agencies.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

689 Massachusetts Avenue • Cambridge, MA 02139-3302 • 617-868-6600 • fax: 617-868-7102 [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)



**UUSC urges members of Congress to recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all immigrants and refugees, and to condemn xenophobia in all its forms.** In the wake of the Paris and Brussels attacks, the American Muslim community has faced an increase in hate crimes. Public officials and politicians have fanned the flames of religious bigotry with alarming ease. Similarly, there has been an increase in nativist and xenophobic rhetoric against migrants fleeing extreme violence and poverty in Central America. We urge legislators to denounce hate crimes, and recognize the right of all individuals and families to seek asylum and escape danger.

**UUSC urges members of Congress to keep in place asylum processes and protections for victims of human trafficking, ensuring the continuing right to due process for each individual.** We must not curb the efficacy of our asylum and parole processes in the ways that the misnamed bills S. 2561, "Protection of Children Act," or H.R. 4720, "Expedited Family Reunification Act," propose. Rolling back protections outlined in the bi-partisan "Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act" (TVPPRA) would result in children being returned to the traffickers, gangs, and others who seek to exploit them.

Today, the world is experiencing the largest refugee crisis since World War II, with millions of people being forced from their homes by the ongoing Syrian civil war, conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq, and gang violence in Central America. Now is the time for our elected officials to demonstrate moral courage and leadership. We cannot repeat the shameful policies and failures of leadership of the late 1930s and early 1940s. Instead, we can take steps forward to create what Rev. Dr. Martin Luther Jr. called "the Beloved Community." Strong, healthy democracies are not created through politics of division, but through politics of inclusion. Let us work together to build a strong, vibrant, unified nation.

Sincerely,

Pamela Sparr  
Associate Director for Justice-Building  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

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American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

May 6, 2016

Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), the country's largest Arab-American organization. ADC is a non-secular, non-profit grassroots organization. Founded in 1980 by U.S. Senator James Abourezk, ADC consists of members from all 50 states and has multiple chapters nationwide. ADC has defended the Arab-American community for over thirty five years against civil rights violations, discrimination, racism, and stereotyping.

**We must not sacrifice our American values of being a safe haven for victims and defending human rights.**

We strongly oppose the SAFE Act, H.R. 4083. This bill and similar anti-refugee bills are actually counterproductive to an already robust security vetting system. H.R. 4083 specifically signals out refugees coming from Syria or Iraq based on their identity alone, and requires unanimous certification by the Secretary of DHS, the Director of the FBI, and the Direction of National Intelligence. This is clearly an attempt by Congressional members to add additional burdens to elongate, and prevent refugee resettlement, and to create more bureaucratic loopholes and hurdles. There are 6 million Syrian refugees and we must do more to increase U.S. admittance numbers beyond the Obama Administration commitment of 10,000.

**We must not sacrifice our American values of welcoming immigrants and embracing diversity.**

We strongly oppose the Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act H.R. 4731. The bill impermissibly authorizes the mass surveillance of refugees based solely on the fact that they were admitted to the U.S. as a refugee. Criminal suspicion should not be flagged on refugees based solely on their immigration status. Refugee status is granted and/or extended to provide temporary protection in the U.S. for all persons subjected to persecution or in fear of persecution based on a protected characteristic including religion and national origin. The United States cannot pick and choose based upon a person's race, national origin, or religion whether to grant refugee status. How can we single out and treat people differently who are seeking protection for their very lives for the exact same reason? All refugee lives must be protected and are worth saving, both Muslims and Christians.

**We must defend the Constitution, and stand against profiling and surveillance.**

We strongly urge you to oppose the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) bills, and specifically the Countering Online Recruitment of Violent Extremists Act (S.2418) and Community Partnership Act (S.2522). These bills link the definition of CVE and violent extremism to the terms radicalization and ideological motivated acts. Terms which are also ill-defined, as the time and manner of what constitutes radicalization and when it has actually occurred cannot be specifically determined. CVE and these bills do not satisfy the probable cause standard and actually criminalize individuals when they have not committed a crime. There are serious concerns that these bills will also silence and chill First Amendment Protected Speech. Persons will refrain from speech on particular ideas and speech that may reveal identifying immutable characteristics (national origin, religion) out of fear of being identified. We also must be aware of the larger impact of these bills, where private and government entities may use an individual's speech as a coercion tactic.

The fatally flawed Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) pilot programs, the "Don't Be a Puppet" web-based program aimed at students, and the Shared Responsibility Committee's (SRCs) continue to target Arabs and Muslims under the premise that they are inherently predisposed to committing acts of violence, acts of terror. This is racial and religious profiling, and targeting of individuals without individual assessment and satisfying the legal burden of probable cause.



American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

The CVE program's identified risk factors for radicalization and/or susceptibility to engage in violent extremism are broad and over inclusive, and not grounded in science. Disturbingly, the decision to implement the CVE program from the initial pilot cities (Boston, Los Angeles, and Minnesota) to across the country was made without any substantive review. CVE has largely been operated in secret, with little to no transparency, but masking as a community engagement initiative. The criminalization of communities and 1st Amendment Protected speech including political speech is unlawful. CVE is a surveillance tool, that has not only been used to monitor our communities but also has served as an entrapment tool and divided communities. These programs perpetuate hate and discrimination, as evident in the rise of hate crimes, bullying and cyber-bullying against Arabs and Muslims, and anti-Arab sentiment, xenophobia, and Islamophobia rhetoric.

**We must eradicate discrimination in all forms.**

Please support and co-sponsor The Equal Protection in Travel Act of 2016 (EPTA) H.R. 4380 and S.2449. The EPTA would repeal recent dual nationality restrictions to the Visa Waiver Program that discriminate on the basis of national origin or family heritage. Persons whom have never stepped foot in the designated countries are treated differently based solely on their identity. The reciprocal nature of the Visa Waiver Program could prohibit nearly 740,000 Americans from traveling under the program. Further, this act has been written in recognition that restrictions based on national heritage do not protect our national security and that in fact, they are contrary to our core American values of justice and equality under law.

**We must fight for justice and accountability for all hate crimes.**

We strongly urge you to require funding to be tied to state and local law enforcement reporting of hate crimes under the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. The 1990 Hate Crime Statistics Act (HCSA) authorized the collection of hate crime data across the country in an effort to combat the commission of bias-motivated crimes based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and national origin among other vulnerable groups. The purpose of HCSA was to also have the necessary data and proof to address and identify hate crime spikes and trends on a state and local level. However, over 80 cities with populations over 100,000 either do not report hate crime to the FBI or they affirmatively reported 0 hate crimes. The incomplete, under-reporting and even non-reporting by a large number of law enforcement agencies, namely in large urban cities, undermines the purpose of the HCSA. If combating hate crimes is truly a priority, comprehensive participation by all law enforcement agencies in the HCSA is required.

On October 11, 1985, terrorists tried to silence, instill fear, and gut the hope of the Arab-American community. As Alex Odeh turned the key to ADC's office in Santa Ana, CA a pipe-bomb rigged to the door knob exploded and ripped through his body. Think about how you would feel if for 30 years police officers and the government repeatedly told you "there is an ongoing investigation" but nothing more. That is what the U.S. government, Department of Justice, and the FBI have forced the Odeh family to endure. Following Mr. Odeh's assassination in 1985, the FBI classified the bombing as an act of domestic terrorism and designated the investigation into the case as the highest national priority. However, despite solid leads, advancements in technology and forensics which should have aided in the investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators, the FBI has yet to resolve the case. We demand a Congressional inquiry and answers as to what the alleged FBI investigation has found or not found.

**Protecting civil rights, promoting mutual understanding, and preserving the Arab cultural heritage.**

Sincerely,

Yolanda Rondon, Esq.  
ADC Staff Attorney



Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner  
Director

Isabel P. Dunst, Chair  
Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism

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May 6, 2016

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, whose over 900 congregations encompass 1.5 million Jews across North America, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, which represents over 2,000 Reform rabbis, I urge you to speak in support of a just refugee program, and against inflammatory and divisive rhetoric targeting those fleeing persecution abroad.

The Jewish community just finished observing Passover, a time of reflection and celebration of our deliverance from slavery in Egypt. During the holiday we read in the Hagaddah that we are obligated to tell the story of our ancestors' Exodus not as if it happened just in Biblical times, but as if we experienced it ourselves. As we think about the journey from oppression to liberation, we cannot ignore the plight of the over 60 million people worldwide whose exodus is still ongoing.

The world is currently facing the largest refugee crisis since World War II. Now is the time to ensure the United States refugee system remains accessible to those who are fleeing danger, regardless of their religious background. It is deeply disappointing that since November 2015, more than half of the governors across the United States have called for an end to refugee resettlement in their states, and over 40 pieces of anti-refugee legislation have been introduced on the state and federal levels. A nation built by refugees fleeing political and religious persecution must not turn its back on refugees facing the same suffering today.

The increase in anti-refugee, anti-immigrant and particularly anti-Muslim rhetoric in the United States defies our values of religious freedom and pluralism. We urge you to speak out against this divisive rhetoric and instead respond with compassion. The lengthy and rigorous vetting of refugee applications helps ensure our national security while upholding our historic role as a place of refuge. We cannot let fear overshadow our values.

We urge you to oppose the Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act of 2016 (H.R.4731) and similar legislation aimed at creating more barriers for refugees fleeing violence and persecution. In this time of moral urgency, we cannot lose sight of our nation's core values.

Sincerely,

Barbara Weinstein  
Director, Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism



*The Religious Action Center pursues social justice and religious liberty by mobilizing the Reform Jewish community and serving as its advocate in Washington, D.C. The Center is led by the Commission on Social Action of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism (and its affiliates) and is supported by the congregations of the Union.*



# God is still speaking

God is still speaking,  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



Dear Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives,

*Officers of the Church*

The United Church of Christ works to offer an extravagant welcome to all of God's children regardless of their national origin or citizenship status. Many of our congregations are working to become Immigrant Welcoming Congregations because we understand we have a moral imperative to welcome the most vulnerable in our midst.

**Rev. John C. Dorhauer**  
General Minister and President

**Rev. Traci D. Blackmon**  
Justice and Witness Ministries

**Rev. J. Bennett Guess**  
Local Church Ministries

**Rev. James A. Moos**  
Wider Church Ministries

**We urge all members of Congress to speak out in support of deferred action for families and pursue commonsense immigration reform.** The United Church of Christ (UCC) has passed resolution after resolution, year after year at our General Synods in support of humane and compassionate immigration reform.<sup>1</sup> True immigration reform based on real solutions must create a pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million undocumented people living in the United States. Given the absence of congressional action, we ask you to support expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA+) and the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) that will provide relief from deportation and family separation for over 4 million people.

**Tell the Administration to stop the raids and end Operation Border Guardian.** The UCC has significantly invested in Central American asylum seekers to help them rebuild their lives in safety. We remain very disappointed by the Obama Administration's decision to plant fear throughout the immigrant community through the recent raids, starting January 2nd of this year, designed to send people back to the most dangerous countries in the world. These raids are an inhumane and unjust response to the humanitarian crisis that has caused thousands to flee the horrific realities of brutal violence and extreme poverty in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Instead of deporting families seeking safety, the Administration should see that they are provided adequate representation to seek asylum. We urge members of Congress to tell the Administration to stop the raids and end Operation Border Guardian that has targeted unaccompanied children for deportation and has left people in fear of being separated from their families.

**We call on Congress to respect current U.S. asylum law, honor existing protections for victims of human trafficking, and expand legal assistance.** We must ensure the right to due process for each individual; we cannot roll back protections outlined in the bi-partisan Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPR) of 2008 that would result in children being returned back into the hands of traffickers, gangs, and others who seek to exploit them. The 2008 TVPR provides the lifesaving process to identify and protect unaccompanied children who are victims of trafficking or persecution.<sup>2</sup> This process is strong and should be expanded to cover unaccompanied children from Mexico, as well. We urge all members of Congress to support the "Fair Day in Court for Kids Act" (S. 2540/H.R. 4646) that will provide legal assistance to unaccompanied children to assist them in their asylum application processes. Special attention should be given to transgender asylum seekers, who are often fleeing violence

<sup>1</sup> Resolution Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants, <http://uccfiles.com/pdf/gs29-14.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPR) § 235, <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/laws/113178.htm>.

on account of their gender identity and who should not be held in detention, where abuses against the transgender population are rampant while awaiting adjudication of their cases.

**Congress should tell the Administration to cease Operation Streamline and the prosecution of immigrants for unlawful entry or reentry.**<sup>3</sup> Congress should urge the Obama Administration to stop Border Patrol referrals to prosecute unlawful entry or reentry cases. Congress should also tell Attorney General Lynch to halt Operation Streamline because it is inhumane, ineffective, and a waste of taxpayer dollars. International courts have found it to be a violation of human rights and international law. The Office of Inspector General<sup>4</sup> has found that there is no factual evidence to indicate that Operation Streamline is an effective deterrent; rather, it may be in violation of international treaties. This surge of prosecutions has led to over-criminalization and mass incarceration of migrant workers and even asylum seekers, which has cost taxpayers over \$5 billion in the last five years at a profit of \$90 million each year to the private prison industry.

**All members of Congress should join together and put a stop to the bed quota.** The United States has the largest immigrant detention infrastructure in the world with over 400,000 individuals passing through detention each year. The expansion of the system is in part due to an arbitrary quota from Congress that requires the incarceration of 34,000 immigrants in detention at any given time in private prison facilities.<sup>5</sup> Sixty-two percent of immigration detention beds are operated by private prison companies. This policy, known as the “detention bed quota,” is unprecedented; no other law enforcement agency operates on a quota system. The detention bed quota creates a strong incentive to support and expand mass incarceration, at taxpayers’ expense, while private prison companies earn exorbitant profits at the expense of immigrants’ safety and their lives. We call on all members of Congress to eliminate the detention bed quota and end this perverse practice.

**Congress should pressure Border Patrol to stop the excessive use of force to carry out their duties.** There have been 50 killings from Border Patrol since 2010, and only one agent has been charged. The lack of accountability or effective training to stop excessive use of force by Border Patrol agents has led to an increase in the abuse of immigrants across the country. Recently, the Department of Homeland Security integrity advisory panel released a report, which highlighted the ways in which Border Patrol ignores or downplays abuses by agents and officers.<sup>6</sup> Abuses range from shootings of unarmed people to the unnecessary escalation of force. U.S. Congress should pressure the Department of Homeland Security to increase effective use of force training, to improve transparency and access to information within Customs and Border Protection, and to ensure Border Patrol agents are held to account for the abuses they commit.

As the United Church of Christ and people of faith, we are committed to defending the rights and dignity of all people. We look to our elected officials to show moral leadership in welcoming the immigrant in our midst. Please consider these concerns as you develop real policy solutions that reform our broken and outdated immigration system.

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<sup>3</sup> 8 U.S.C. sec. 1325-26.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, Streamline: Measuring Its Effect on Illegal Border Crossing, May 15, 2015, [https://www.oig.dhs.gov/assets/Mgmt/2015/OIG\\_15-95\\_May15.pdf](https://www.oig.dhs.gov/assets/Mgmt/2015/OIG_15-95_May15.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Public Law 114–4, Mar. 4, 2015, <https://www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ4/PLAW-114publ4.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Brian Bennett, *Report finds little progress at curbing Border Patrol abuses*, The Los Angeles Times, Mar. 14, 2016, <http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-na-border-patrol-abuses-20160314-story.html>.