**April 5th National Day of Action**

**Stop Deportations and Expand Administrative Relief from Deportation**

**Table of Contents**

1. Introduction
2. Registration and Endorsement
3. Stories of Impacted Community Members
4. Talking Points
5. Statistics / Resources on Deportations
6. Worship Resources
7. Draft Media Advisory
8. Sample Tweets
9. Petition
10. Contact Information

**Introduction**

Everyday more than 1,100 people are deported. It is predicted that in April 2 million people will have been deported under the Obama Administration.  Amid Congressional inaction, President Obama and his Administration must understand that our communities cannot continue to wait. The President can and should take concrete, bold and necessary actions TODAY to turn back the deportation dragnet.

People of faith from all denominations and traditions have been calling on congress to pass just and humane immigration reform, yet the House of Representatives continues to stall and has failed to move forward on legislative reform. Meanwhile, the deportation machinery has only become more advanced under the Obama Administration. The organizing efforts of DREAMers in 2012 pushed the administration forward with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program (DACA)which has allowed over 500,000 DREAMers to be able to travel and work legally. The time has come for President Obama to expand DACA to all undocumented people.

**Registration and Endorsement**

You can find out more information about registering your event and endorsing the April 5th National Action to stop deportations at [www.notonemoredeportation.com](http://www.notonemoredeportation.com/)

If you would like to endorse April 5th National Action to stop deportations or register your event please go to [www.notonemoredeportation.com/take-action/april-5th-day-of-action-against-deportations/](http://www.notonemoredeportation.com/take-action/april-5th-day-of-action-against-deportations/)

**Stories of Impacted Community Members**

As we work together for immigrants’ rights and administrative relief from deportations it is important to locate our organizing work in the concrete reality of impacted community members. The more we tell the stories of how this broken immigration system is tearing families apart in our community, the easier it is for people in our congregations to see why we must mobilize and organize ourselves for this cause.

Leaders from various denominations have compiled five stories of impacted community members collected from serving their communities seeing the devastating pain caused by our immigration system. We are thankful for the courage and bravery of Jamil, Leydi, Evelyn, Rosa, and Claudia to share their stories with us, to use in our outreach, education, worship and vigils.

These are 5 of almost 2 million stories that illustrate the tragic consequences of the policy of mass deportations. While the Administration claims that deportations are only being carried out against those deemed "threats to society" these stories clearly show that is not the case. There are many, many more stories as well.

We encourage you to choose 2-3 stories to read at your prayer vigil or during the worship time and to spend time in prayer. Our prayers should be for the protection of the families in the stories as well as the hundreds of thousands of families who have been torn apart and the millions of families who currently live in fear of seeing their loved ones arrested and deported.

Stories of family separation can be found at the below link.

[http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/April-No-More-Deportations-Stories-2014.pdf](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/April-No-More-Deportations-Stories-2014.pdf" \t "_blank)

**Talking Points**

*What does this have to do with your faith?*

As people of faith, our commitments are motivated by our scriptures and values that call us hundreds of times to provide refuge to the neighbor, stranger, and immigrant. As one example, Leviticus 19:33-34 urges that *“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the stranger….but the stranger …shall be to you as the citizen among you. You shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”*

Over 200 times, the Hebrew scriptures speak of “mishpat” (justice); urging equitable treatment for all, and particular care for vulnerable immigrants, the poor, oppressed, and widowed. *“Do what is just and right….Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner.”* (Jeremiah 22:3)

*Why are we demanding action of the President and not asking for a meeting with Congress?*

We see in our communities and our congregations that immigrant families are in crisis, as deportations have torn families apart and devastated congregations and entire communities. This is a crisis that could be resolved immediately by the President if he picked up his pen to stop deportations.

He has a moral responsibility (and the legal authority) to alleviate the suffering so abundant in immigrant communities right now and we have a moral responsibility to bear witness to make sure he does so.

We have met with the White House and we have advocated with our representatives but have yet to see action. We have marched and rallied but have yet to see leadership.

Today we bear public witness and many people of faith are are willing to go to jail to move the debate forward, to appeal to the President's conscience, and to shine a light on the 1,100 deportations still happening every day.

I stand with people like Pilar, whose husband in currently on a hunger strike in a detention facility in Pennsylvania, and people like Gerardo who comes from Arizona where families of detainees are started a two week long fast today.

Deporting people today who could be citizens tomorrow is not just wrong, it's cruel and immoral.

To be clear, Speaker Boehner has control over whether or not there's a vote for genuine, solution-based reform in the House but President Obama has control over whether our loved ones are deported or if our families are kept together.

We want the President to do what's in his power and to do so immediately. Immigrant families shouldn't have to wait for relief any longer and if the President hears our call, they won't have to.

**On April 5th, We Say to President Obama, Don't Be the President to Deport Two Million People, Turn Back Your Policies and Bring Relief to Immigrant Families**

**Activities**

Groups across the country are already in motion.  Here are a few examples of events that are being planned:

* Community forums and training sessions with community members telling their story and to provide information on how the President can stop deportations
* Marches, walks and community runs
* Mural painting and photo exhibits
* Direct action and non-violent civil disobedience
* Vigils and rallies- [Interfaith Immigration Toolkit on Vigils](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/IIC_Prayer_Vigil_Toolkit_01.18.13.pdf)
* Worship services where time is spent reading the stories of families split apart by deportation and praying for them and for a stop to this policy
* Integrate education on stopping deportations to congregational activities and sermons (See worship resources below)

Where are groups holding these types of events?

* Local ICE offices
* Community centers, parks, etc.
* Detention centers
* Local law enforcement agencies
* City Halls
* Places of worship

**Statistics and Resources on Deportations**

The Obama Administration is responsible for 2 million deportations under the Obama Administration, more than any other President in History. In the last two years over 200,000 parents of U.S. Citizens have been deported. One of the ways this administration has racked up such high numbers is through the expansion of the “Secure Communities” This collaboration between ICE and local police compromises community policing efforts and causes victims and witnesses to fear reporting crimes, which jeopardizes community safety. States and localities should not be required to participate in immigration enforcement programs, including the forwarding of fingerprints and other biometric information to DHS. Immigrant communities and law enforcement have warned that this makes immigrant communities vulnerable to being the targets of crimes. Laws that encourage racial profiling and discrimination feed xenophobia, reduce community safety, and send an undeniable message to immigrant communities that they are not welcome.

# *Misplaced Priorities: Most Immigrants Deported by ICE in 2013 Were a Threat to No One*

Four-fifths of all deportations did not fall within ICE’s definition of a “Level 1” priority.

* In FY 2013, ICE carried out 368,644 “removals” of immigrants from the United States.
* One-in-five of these deportees qualified as “Level 1” as defined by ICE: immigrants convicted of an “aggravated felony” or at least two felonies (Figure 1).
* One-in-eight deportees fit the definition of “Level 2” (immigrants convicted of a felony or three misdemeanors), while just over one-quarter were “Level 3” (convicted of no more than two misdemeanors) (Figure 1).
* Just under one-in-five of those deported had been previously removed from the United States. Another one-in-five were removed for some other, non-criminal immigration violation. And two percent were immigrants with outstanding removal orders (Figure 1).

# [http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/misplaced-priorities-most-immigrants-deported-ice-2013-were-threat-no-one](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/misplaced-priorities-most-immigrants-deported-ice-2013-were-threat-no-one" \t "_blank)

*Statistics for Immigration and Customs Enforcement*

* Removal Numbers through Fiscal Year 2012

[http://www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/ero/pdf/ero-removals1.pdf](http://www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/ero/pdf/ero-removals1.pdf" \t "_blank)

* Removal Numbers through Fiscal Year 2012

[http://www.ice.gov/removal-statistics/](http://www.ice.gov/removal-statistics/" \t "_blank)

**Worship Resources**

**Opening Prayer**

God of dignity and life, we pray for the 1,100 people deported every day tearing families apart. We pray for our country as we approach a shocking 2 million immigrants deported over the last five years. As we prepare spiritually for Easter and Passover, let us repent from the structural sin that is our broken immigration system, causing daily separation of thousands of families and children left without parents. Together let us pray for full integration and inclusion to welcome our immigrant brothers and sisters into our communities and congregations.

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 58:1-12, Jeremiah 22:3, Micah 6:8, Leviticus 19:33, 1 Timothy 5:8

**Songs**

[We Shall Overcome/Nosotros Venceremos](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cC0danGgeo), [Marching in the Light of God](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--BQ0PZSXpY), [Lift Every Voice and Sing](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya7Bn7kPkLo)

**Call to Worship**

*Leader*

As people of faith, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and Neighbor.

**People**

**We let our system of laws take advantage of immigrants, using their labor for our benefit, while not fully including them in our community and society. We have betrayed our neighbor by worshiping human made laws over the commandments of God.**

Leader

We pray for our decision makers that they will make the moral choice and find compassion in their hearts for the struggles immigrants face of family separation as we together work to stop the needless deportations.

**People**

**O God, bless this struggle for human rights. Let the indifference of our President end here and now, as we pray for him to expand the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to all undocumented people.**

**Benediction**

Just as the prophets spoke truth to power, so must we also raise the moral urgency of the crisis immigrants face in this country and pray that all people, regardless of origin or nationality, should be treated as equals. Bless our movement O God to stop the deportations and keep families together.

**Sample Bulletin Announcement**

People of faith are joining activities on April 5th, {*city*}(time) (place) to Rally on the National Day of Action for Deportation Relief from President Obama. As the administration nears two million deportations, community groups and faith communities are urging the White House to take action. (Contact person) More information at http://www.notonemoredeportation.com/

**Draft Media Advisory**

**On April 5th, {*city*} to Rally on National Day of Action**

**for Deportation Relief from President Obama**

*As Administration Nears Two Million Deportations,*

*Groups Say “Not One More,” Urge White House Action*

People of faith throughout the country are joining the efforts to stop deportations, calling on President Obama to expand administrative relief for our community members. *{insert activity: ex: rally, host a community forum, march to the county jail where local residents are transferred to ICE for deportation.}*

The (event) is prompted by the record deportations under the Obama administration which are anticipated to hit the milestone of two million removals since he took office. Faith leaders say their communities can’t wait for relief and that the President doesn’t have to wait for Congress to use his executive authority to stop the suffering. He could expand the deferred action program he created for immigrant youth and suspend deportations immediately.

“ Too many families have been separated, this is a moral issue and we want President Obama to do the ethically right thing and stop the unneeded deportations,” explains **{*name*}**, one of the event organizers. “He can give us relief with the stroke of a pen.”

*{insert locally relevant information: ex: The group cites the Secure Communities (S-Comm) deportation quota program, first activated in parts of Washington State in April of 2012, as an engine behind separating local families who could benefit from eventual reform. Since its activation, S-Comm deported more than 2,600 Washington State residents.}*

To stop those deportations, groups across the country are making April 5th a national day of action under the banner “Two Million Too Many,” saying that the President’s approach on immigration needs to change.

**What:** *{event description. Ex: Immigrant Rights Rally at County Jail on Nat’l Day of Action}*

**When:** {*time},* Saturday, April 5th,  2014

**Where:** *{location details}*

**Who:** *{notable attendees and sponsoring organizations}*

**Visuals:** *{What will it look like on camera? Ex: Hundreds of people with banners reading “Mr. President, Yes You Can Stop Deportations”}*

*More information on activities across the nation can be found at:* [*http://bit.ly/april5n1m*](http://bit.ly/april5n1m)

*###*

**Sample Tweets**

Faith leaders say: President @BarackObama, it’s time to expand #DACA and stop deportations #2million2many #not1more <http://bit.ly/april5n1m>

People of Faith say [~~#~~2Million2Many](https://twitter.com/search?q=%232Million2Many) path to citizenship starts with a STOP to deportations [~~@~~barackobama](https://twitter.com/barackobama) [~~#~~Not1More](https://twitter.com/search?q=%23Not1More)  http://april5n1m

It’s a moral issue: #Not1More deportation. @barackobama pick up your pen. #2Million2Many <http://bit.ly/april5n1m>

**Petition**

The National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON), together with individual petitioners, has submitted a rule making petition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seeking a temporary suspension of deportations for the millions of undocumented immigrants who would likely benefit from near–term congressional action on immigration.

*Support the Rulemaking Petition*

Register your name and a statement of support in the comment box and NDLON will compile all responses and submit them as a supplement to add all the interested individuals and organizations as petitioners.

Sign On Here [www.notonemoredeportation.com/resources/rulemaking/](http://www.notonemoredeportation.com/resources/rulemaking/)

**More Questions?**

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