

Migrants present a particular challenge for me, since I am the pastor of a Church without frontiers, a Church which considers herself mother to all. For this reason, I exhort all countries to a generous openness... rather than fearing the loss of local identity.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium

We are called by our many faith traditions to ensure that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. Border security policies should reflect these values and protect human life, tribal sovereignty, sacred sites, and public lands. Respect for human and civil rights in border enforcement policies is essential to safeguarding the integrity of our society. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) must be prepared to engage communities with respect and professionalism. Over the past twenty years, the federal government has dramatically militarized the U.S.-Mexico border, negatively impacting the civil and human rights of border residents, encouraging racial profiling, and sowing distrust and fear between communities and the law enforcement entities they rely upon for protection. Gone largely unchecked, these operations have stifled the economic vitality and overall well-being of U.S. border communities.

Core values

- Treat all individuals and border communities with dignity
- Increase accountability and transparency
- End unsafe deportation practices
- Choose border security strategies that respect the environment, landowners and human rights

Current enforcement practices are devastating our communities and congregations, contributing to the deaths of thousands of migrants traveling in remote desert regions, and violating the rights of U.S. citizens and migrants alike. We recommend that Congress and the Administration radically shift federal priorities for and implementation of border security policies.



The face of immigration

Ignacia was eight months pregnant when she entered the United States near Douglas, Arizona in December. She had been walking a few hours when she fell in the desert and sprained her ankle. She continued to attempt to walk in spite of the pain and was apprehended by Border Patrol agents that same evening. When apprehended, she informed the agents that she was pregnant. However, upon arrival at the Border Patrol Station she was not given any medical attention for either her pregnancy or her sprained ankle. She was only given seemingly undercooked burritos and crackers to eat approximately every six hours. This food was insufficient to

stave off her hunger because of her pregnancy. She requested additional food but the Border Patrol agents did not provide her with more meals or snacks. She also asked to speak with the Mexican consulate but was not given an opportunity. She was deported two days later and arrived in Nogales still in pain from her injured ankle.

Kino Border Initiative filed a complaint on behalf of Ignacia, but the local station found it to be unsubstantiated. According to the Border Patrol station manager, he spoke with the agents who had contact with Ignacia and they said that she did not request medical attention, they did not notice that she was pregnant, and that she did not request additional food. As far as KBI is aware, no other entity of DHS investigated the complaint.

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How do our faith principles inform our policy recommendations?

We call on Congress and the Administration to:

Recognize the border as a dynamic home to bi-national communities.

Department of Homeland Security officials should institutionalize engagement with community stakeholders when developing border and enforcement policies and support accountability and oversight mechanisms for CBP and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Abandon increasing barriers and militarization along our southern border in the name of “border security.” Overwhelmingly, border communities have said that border wall or fencing does not help their condition; it does not stem the flow of forced migration, meet critical humanitarian protection needs, or help people navigate a legal system that has not been meaningfully updated in more than 30 years.

Ensure human rights protections at the border. We recommend Congress pass legislation that strengthens oversight, transparency, and accountability measures to ensure CBP officers adhere to law enforcement best practices. Deportation policies must also be reformed to prioritize family unity and ensure safe repatriation.

Protect the civil liberties of border communities. Rein in the 100-mile zone in which CBP currently operates to no more than 25 miles and halt community sweeps, checkpoints, and roadblocks. Furthermore, CBP should be required to establish probable cause before apprehension. Searches of private property and federal lands, including tribal lands, should require a warrant. We recommend regular public reports on CBP activities and regular assessments of CBP activities for efficacy, weighing the impacts on border communities.

Ensure due process for and protection of migrants. Halt the criminal prosecution of migrants for entry and re-entry (formerly known as Operation Streamline), which has led to serious human rights and civil rights violations. Improper entry and re-entry are now the most prosecuted federal offenses in the United States, swelling the ranks of federal prisons and taxing an already overburdened justice system. The Administration should also create a strategy to prevent migrant deaths and improve rescue and recovery efforts along the U.S. Mexico border.

INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION COALITION

African American Ministers in Action ◦ American Baptist Home Mission Societies of the American Baptist Churches, USA ◦ American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) ◦ American Jewish Committee (AJC) ◦ Bread for the World ◦ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Refugee and Immigration Ministries ◦ Christian Community Development Association ◦ Christian Reformed Church ◦ Church of the Brethren ◦ Church World Service (CWS) ◦ CLINIC | Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. ◦ Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach ◦ Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) ◦ Daughters of Charity ◦ The Episcopal Church ◦ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ◦ Franciscan Action Network ◦ Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) ◦ HIAS ◦ Ignatian Solidarity Network (ISN) ◦ Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) ◦ Irish Apostolate USA ◦ Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States ◦ Jesuit Refugee Service ◦ Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) ◦ Leadership Conference of Women Religious ◦ Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) ◦ Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns ◦ Mennonite Central Committee U.S. ◦ Muslim Public Affairs Council ◦ National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd ◦ National Council of Churches ◦ National Council of Jewish Women ◦ National Justice for Our Neighbors ◦ NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice ◦ Pax Christi USA ◦ PICO National Network ◦ Presbyterian Church USA, Immigration Issues Offices ◦ Scalabrinian International Migration Network (SIMN)/Center for Migration Studies (CMS) ◦ Sisters of Mercy of the Americas ◦ Sojourners ◦ T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights ◦ Union for Reform Judaism ◦ Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) ◦ Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) ◦ United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries ◦ United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society ◦ UNITED SIKHS ◦ World Relief ◦ interfaithimmigration.org 2017

\$19 BILLION

Immigration enforcement
spending annually

46 FATAL SHOOTINGS

By CBP agents with no
known consequences

**6,300+ MIGRANT
DEATHS**

Along the U.S.-Mexico
border since 1998

**ADDRESS ROOT
CAUSES OF
MIGRATION**

“Push” factors: violent conflict,
natural disasters, economic distress,
persecution, trade policies

“Pull” factors: family, safety,
employment, opportunity