

# Current Efforts to Fight Anti-Immigrant and Anti-Refugee Policies



*we are one family under God*

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USCCB

# Migration and Refugee Services

- Serves unaccompanied children, refugees and human trafficking victims
- Implements migration policy and advocacy initiatives of the U.S. Catholic Bishops
- Derives policy goals from:
  - Catholic Social Teaching on Migration
  - Bishops' Priorities on Migration
  - MRS Programs that Serve Populations of Concern
- Works with federal government (1)Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); (2) Department of Homeland Security (DHS); (3) Department of Justice; (4) Department of State
- Oversees Justice for Immigrants (JFI)
  - National Coalition of Catholic Organizations
  - 170 dioceses throughout the country; 675 points of contact in Dioceses and Parishes

# Current State of Migration Policy in the U.S.

- EXECUTIVE
  - Migration-Related Executive Orders
- LEGISLATIVE
  - Looming Funding Issues
  - Legislative Fight on Unaccompanied Children, Border Security, Sanctuary Cities
- COMMUNITY
  - Fear in Communities
  - Raids and Enforcement Operations

# EXECUTIVE: 3 Migration-Related Executive Orders

- Executive Order on Border Security
  - Building of Another Wall on U.S./Mexico Border
  - Increase Border Patrol
  - Increase in Immigrant Detention
- Executive Order on Interior Enforcement
  - Dramatically Expands Who Is A Priority for Removal
  - Attempts to Defund “Sanctuary Jurisdictions”
- Executive Order on Refugee Resettlement and Arrivals from Certain Countries
  - Attempts to Pause Resettlement, Lower Refugee Arrivals and Ban Certain Individuals from Arriving from Certain Countries

# MRS and JFI Response to 3 Migration-Related Executive Orders

- 10 statements issued on Executive Orders; 48 Individual Bishop Statements
- Engagement of JFI- grassroots
  - 65,000 electronic postcards sent on Executive Orders
  - 52,000+ on BRIDGE ACT and protection of DREAMER youth generally
- Engagement of Administrative Leadership

## LEGISLATIVE: TAKING CUES FROM EXECUTIVE

- Congress has been less active since January but is showing signs of resurgence
- Future Issues:
  - Funding for Fiscal Year 2018
  - Enforcement Efforts- Sanctuary Cities, Enforcement-Only Bills
  - Designation of Unaccompanied Children

# LEGISLATIVE: RESPONSE

- Fighting Enforcement-Only Legislative Efforts
  - HR 2431
  - Upcoming Cornyn/McCaul
- Defending Protections for Unaccompanied Children
  - TVPA Reauthorization Efforts
  - Protection of Children Act
- Shoring up Funding for Fiscal Year 2018
  - Affirmatively for UAC, Refugee Programs
  - Denying Funding for Detention and Wall

## COMMUNITY: FEAR and APPREHENSION

- Families are concerned about living daily lives- attendance to school and Church have been down in some communities
- Cities, states evaluating whether to adopt “sanctuary city” measures
- Local service providers assisting with KYRs, screenings and family emergency custody plans



# CHURCH RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY FEAR

- Education and Self-Help and Protection
  - USCCB Videos
  - Larger Catholic Service Network
- Accompaniment
  - Church Leaders in El Paso, Las Cruces, Austin, Newark, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Northern California taking public stands on individual cases and local issues
- Engagement
  - Meeting with ICE Field Offices and local communities
- Solidarity
  - Support through public witness and acknowledgement
  - National Day of Prayer- Our Lady of Guadalupe
  - Vatican Campaign for Migration

## What is Next?

- Fight Over Funding
- Pending Litigation
- TPS Battles in the Fall
- Addressing Family Separation Due to Deportation

## How to Prepare

- (1) Funding: Eyes on the Prize-Stay Focused
- (2) Connect the Dots-Show the Damage
- (3) Include New Allies
- (4) Recognize and Appreciate the Different Elements of the Effort

# What Can You Do?

- **INDIVIDUAL:**
  - Oppose Executive Orders and Support Humane Migration Initiatives – [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)
  - Set Up & Participate in In-District Meetings on Migration Issues
  - Support Local Service Providers and Welcoming Parish Activities
  - PRAY and WELCOME NEWCOMERS
- **COMMUNITY:**
  - Read JFI’s “10 Things You Can Do to Accompany Immigrants” [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)
  - Assist and Promote Welcoming Activities in Your Parish
  - PRAY and WELCOME NEWCOMERS

# Questions?

- [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)
- Ashley Feasley- [afeasley@usccb.org](mailto:afeasley@usccb.org)