



Opportunities to Educate and Foster Meaningful Dialogue About Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Immigration

FILM RESOURCES & STUDY GUIDES FROM PCUSA

Facing the Human Tragedy in Syria (12 minutes) contains interviews with our sister churches in Syria and Lebanon about the war and their humanitarian response along with interviews with PCUSA members and staff on the need for advocacy to find a peaceful solution.

<http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/facing-the-human-tragedy-in-syria/>

Locked in a Box: Immigration Detention (24 mins.) is an award-winning short documentary that follows the stories of individuals held in the U.S. Immigration detention system and those who visit them. The film traces the lives of individuals who fled their homelands in search of safety and freedom only to end up in U.S. prisons under a system run by Immigration Customs & Enforcement (ICE). <http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/video-immigration-detention/>

To Breathe Free (16 mins.), a 2017 award winning documentary, captures the intersection of individual narratives from a family fleeing the Vietnam War in 1970, to the Syrian Conflict, to the families who help create a new home in our nation's capital, giving voice to our common humanity and the struggle that binds people together. <http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/to-breathe-free/>

The Genesis of Exodus: The Roots of Central American Migration (49 mins.) contains interviews with people living in Guatemala and El Salvador about the root causes of recent migration to the U.S. along with interviews with several PCUSA leaders. Resources also include an interactive website "story map" and reflection guide to go further in depth and to encourage action. <http://storymap.genesisofexodusfilm.com/index.html>

Families Held Captive (23 mins.) covers the opening of family detention centers in Texas in 2014 in response to the Central American families seeking asylum in the U.S. The film also features advocacy efforts by people of faith to end family detention. This film is still relevant as the use of family detention continues and is expected to expand. <https://vimeo.com/130391925>

OTHER FILMS

This is Home: A Refugee Story (91 mins.) follows four Syrian families who have left their country and are taking their first steps towards a new future in Baltimore. Commercially released.

<http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/tih.html>

Which Way Home is an academy award winning documentary about youth from Central America who came to the U.S. The whole film is available for download as well as clips from different segments listed by topic. <http://whichwayhome.net/>

OTHER RESOURCE MATERIALS

Bring the Sky: A Detention Visitation Guide was specifically written for local congregations and is available for free from Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service.

<http://lirs.org/act/visitation/launch-a-visitation-ministry/>

Organized by Church World Service, the **GreaterAs1** website is a repository of background information on refugee and immigration policy and Fact Sheets that can be easily shared.

<https://greateras1.org/learn/information-materials/>

PCUSA OFFICES

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is a ministry of relief and response to national and international disasters, aid to refugees and displaced persons, refugee resettlement and efforts toward development. PDA partners with Mid Councils and local congregations in the U.S. and with church partners and faith-based relief organizations internationally.

Web: <http://pda.pcusa.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PDACARES/>

General inquiries: pda@pcusa.org

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The **Office of Immigration Issues** was established in 2004 to provide legal advice and counsel to mid-councils and congregations regarding immigration issues. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has expanded the work of the Office to coordinate advocacy and education efforts and create worship materials on immigration.

Web: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/>

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Office of Public Witness is the public policy information and advocacy office. Its task is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the Presbyterian General Assembly. Read their blog for the most recent news:

Web: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PCUSAWashington/>

The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, *Director*

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PCUSA NETWORK

Presbyterians For Just Immigration (PFJI) is a network of Presbyterians interested in addressing the crisis caused by a broken immigration system. PFJI is committed to fostering discussion, sharing resources, promoting advocacy, and writing liturgy on various immigration topics. PFJI hopes to empower Presbyterians to share vision, best practices, resources, and a passionate concern for those coming to the United States to live and work so that we can become the church God is calling us to be, together. <https://www.facebook.com/Presbyterians-for-Just-Immigration-354161945856/>



Opportunities to Act

IMMEDIATE REFUGEE (ASYLUM SEEKERS) MINISTRY

There are places that frequently need out-of-town volunteers. PDA can assist you if you have a group of 3 or more volunteers. Information is also available for individual volunteers to make their own arrangements. Please contact the **PDA Call Center** by email (PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org) or call toll-free, 866.732.6121. Training is provided.

The Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, TX needs volunteers to greet and assist persons from Central America and South America brought to the Welcome Center by the US Border Patrol. Contact the PDA Call Center for more information.

- Adult groups and inter-generational groups are welcome, minimum age for volunteers is 14
- Maximum team size is 15
- Spanish language skills are helpful but not essential

The Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy/Texas Impact invites groups of 2 to 8 persons to spend two days observing the proceedings in a federal criminal court and sharing your findings with ACLU and other attorneys. Observers learn about the immigration system, potentially encouraging asylum seekers and learn how to share their experience with others. To register your group please email erica@texasimpact.org. <http://texasimpact.org/project/courts-ports/>

University Presbyterian Church, El Paso, is hosting volunteer work teams and partnering with The Annunciation House and Grace Presbyterian Church to provide shelter related services. Contact the [PDA Call Center](#) at (866) 732-6121 for more information.

- Minimum commitment is 2 weeks
- Adult groups and inter-generational groups are welcome, minimum age for volunteers is 16
- <https://annunciationhouse.org/>
- Maximum team size is 15
- Spanish language skills are helpful but not essential

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Freedom for Immigrants (formerly known as CIVIC), based in California, provides resources for detention visitation, including a national map of detention centers and established visitation programs, and advocacy resources. <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/>

Detention Watch Network (DWN) is a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to expose and challenge the injustices of the U.S. immigration detention and deportation system and advocate for profound change that promotes the rights and dignity of all persons. <http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/>

Immigo is an App from iTunes that provides relevant information and news updates for practitioners working in the immigrant integration space, including an up-to-date directory of immigration legal service providers.

Refugee Resettlement: There are 9 national organizations who work with the US Department of State to coordinate the initial reception of newly resettled refugees with a combined network of approximately 200 local offices. For the most up to date information, you can contact PDA or visit one of the websites found on this contact list: <http://www.wrapsnet.org/rp-agency-contacts/>

LOCAL/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The state by state list below focuses on organizations which are known to have a relationship with Presbyterians or a history of Presbyterian connections. **For information on other locations, contact: pda@pcusa.org.**

Arizona

The Inn Project (Tucson): <https://b-m.facebook.com/theinnprojecttucson/>

Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project (Florence, Eloy): <https://firrp.org/>

Casa Mariposa Visitation Project (Tucson): <https://www.facebook.com/cmvisitation/>

California

CLUE-LA (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice): <http://www.cluejustice.org/>

Matthew 25 So Cal (LA area and south): <https://www.matthew25socal.org/>

Colorado

Casa de Paz (Denver area): www.CasadePazColorado.org

Georgia

El Refugio (Stewart): <https://www.elrefugiostewart.org>

Illinois

Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (Chicago): <http://www.icdichicago.org/>

Michigan

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center (Detroit & Pontiac):
<http://www.detimmigrantcenter.com/>

Minnesota

The Advocates for Human Rights (Minneapolis): <http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/>
Conversations With Friends (Edina):

<http://www.endisolation.org/conversations-with-friends/>

New Jersey

First Friends of New Jersey and New York: <http://www.firstfriendsnjny.org/>

Texas

American Gateways (Austin): <http://www.americangateways.org/>

Annunciation House (El Paso): <https://annunciationhouse.org/>

Casa Marianella (Austin): <http://www.casamarianella.org/>

Interfaith Welcome Coalition (San Antonio): www.interfaithwelcomecoalition.org

Washington

Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (Tacoma): <http://aidnw.org/>

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (Seattle): <https://www.nwirp.org/>

GIVE

To support these and other Presbyterian-connected ministries, donate to US Refugee Emergencies (<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000095/>). You can also donate items to The Inn (<http://a.co/7D6j0IV>) or IWC Backpack Ministry (<https://pda.pcusa.org/page/soh-backpacks-iwc-san-antonio/>)—the organizations are listed above.