Immigration, Asylum, Refugee and Immigrant Defense Resources

Live document with links and contacts information from all programs of the PCUSA. This resource document will be updated as needed. For a list of Spanish only resources, click here.
Last update: 12/02/2025

RELEVANT PRESBYTERIAN OFFICES & CONTACTS

Migration Accompaniment Ministries (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)
Migration Accompaniment Ministries is an office of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance that coordinate's the church's response to refugees, asylum seekers, and other forced migrants.

- Omar Salinas Chacón
  - Mission Specialist
  - omar.chacon@pcusa.org

Office of Immigration Issues
The Office of Immigration Issues helps the church in the U.S. respond to the movement of all God's people. Initially established by action of the 216th General Assembly (2004), the office provides advice and counsel to mid councils and congregations with immigration issues and resources members can use to advocate for more just immigration laws and processes.

- Amanda Craft
  - Advocacy Manager
  - Amanda.Craft@pcusa.org

Office of Public Witness
The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness is the public policy information and advocacy office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Its task is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the Presbyterian General Assembly. The church has a long history of applying these biblically and theologically-based insights to issues that affect the public — maintaining a public policy ministry in the nation's capital since 1946.

- Catherine Gordon
  - Representative for International Issues
  - catherine.gordon@pcusa.org

- Christina Crosby
  - Representative for Domestic Issues & Environmental Justice
  - christina.cosby@pcusa.org

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations
The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations works on the root causes of migration and with governments to ensure that migrants have safe transport and settlement.

- Sue Rheem
  - Representative to the United Nations
  - sue.rheem@pcusa.org

ASYLUM

Asylum, An Essential Lifeline
This blog post and accompanying video by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) illustrates what asylum is. *Available in English only.*

Preparing Welcome Discussion & Reflection Guide
Guide used to prepare congregations take in migrants. Although it was written in a time where laws were more immigrant friendly, the discussion questions are very important. *Available in English only.*

DEPORTATION DEFENSE

FAQ on New Immigration Enforcement & Safety Planning (National Immigration Project)

The National Immigration Project is a membership organization of attorneys, advocates, and community members who are driven by the belief that all people should be treated with dignity, live freely, and flourish. They produced this guide to explain what to expect under the new President's Administration and how immigrants can prepare for changes in immigration policies. *Available in English and Spanish.*

Step-by-Step Family Prepardness Plan (Immigration Legal Resource Center)
This resource is a step-by-step on what families can do proactively in case a family member is detained. *Available in English and Spanish.*

Know Your Rights Flyers (CLINIC)
Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) has put together English flyers of what to do when confronted by ICE or local and state law enforcement. *Available in English, Spanish, Creole, and French.*

Know Your Rights Cards (Immigrant Legal Resource Center)
Know your rights cards available to print in several languages. You can show these cards to law enforcement to exercise your right to remain silence. *Available in Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Karen, Korean, Pashto, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Swahili, Tagalog, Tigrinya, Ukranian, and Vietnamese*

We Have Rights (ACLU)
ACLU has put together videos available in several languages on what to do when confronted with ICE at home, in public, and the workplace. *Available in English, Spanish, Urdu, Arabic, Haitian Creole, Russian, and Mandarin.*

Private Property Notice English
Private Property Notice Spanish
One of the many things to consider in deportation defense is where and how ICE interacts with a church. Generally, if an area is accessible by the public, ICE can enter without a warrant. In areas that are considered private, ICE is not allowed in without a warrant. Please consult an attorney to learn how your specific church is affected. You can use this sign to designate the private property parts of the church. *Available in English and Spanish.*

ICE Entering Church Guidance (Evangelical Covenant Church)
The Evangelical Covenant Church has created a brief guidance document that lets congregations know how to interact with ICE if they enter a church. *Available in English and Spanish.*

ICE Policy for Churches Sample
Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky has offered this sample of an ICE policy that your session can adopt. Having a policy will help clarify what the church should do when encountering ICE at Church. *Available in English only.*

Guidance to Nonprofits Regarding Immigration Enforcement (Lawyer's Alliance for New York)
This guide offers tips on what to do if immigration agents show up at a nonprofit. *Available in English only.*

Immigrant Registration Requirement 101 (US Conference of Catholic Bishops)
As of April 11th, 2025, immigrants who are undocumented are required to register with Department of Homeland Security. This resource is a basic explainer of what the registration rule is. Please consult with an accredited immigration attorney if you want to know more about an individual case. This rule is currently subjected to several lawsuits as of May 2025.

Know Your Rights for Small Businesses
Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and the Committee on Small Business created a specific know your rights poster for small businesses. *Available in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic.*

DETENTION

Detention: Impact on Children
This resource provided by PC(USA) illustrates the impact of detention on children. *Available in English only.*

End Child Detention
This global campaign provides resources about their movement and information regarding the detention of children. *Available in English only.*

Families Held Captive
The U.S. government is holding immigrant women and children in private prisons in South Texas. This practice was especially prominent in the mid to late 2010s as a direct response to an increase in the arrival of asylum-seeking families from Central America. Persons of faith and persons of conscience organized to provide outreach to these families and to end this disturbing practice. Watch this film to learn more about how you can #EndFamilyDetention. *Available in English only.*

Locked in a Box Documentary (Counter Story Productions)
This documentary covers what happens in immigration detention centers and what human rights abuses immigration detention has. There is a study guide and poster for this film as well. *Available in English Only.*

ICE Locator
You can look up any person detained by ICE and where they are located. It is the easiest to look up someone with their A-Number and country of origin. *Available in English only.*

LEGAL RESOURCES

Nonprofit Legal Services Map (Immigration Advocates Network)
Use this virtual map to find nonprofit organizations that provide free or low-cost immigration legal services in your state. *Available in English only.*

Some providers might have a variety of languages available.

Legal Resources From Office of Immigration Issues
Link of the Office of Immigration Issues with legal resources advice, referrals, and representation information for religious workers. *Available in English only.*

Legal Services Focused on People in Detention (Vera)
These organizations are funded to provide Know Your Rights group orientations in detention centers. Most also provided asylum screening and limited representation. *Available in English only. Some providers might have a variety of languages available.*

MEDIA RESOURCES

Counter Stories Productions
Story Productions is a ministry that connects, engages and equips congregations and communities through the medium of Story. These award-winning documentary resources are available to congregations and communities to organize screenings and host conversations about important and timely issues. *Available in English only.*

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Immigrants Rising Mental Health Page
Immigrants Rising created a comprehensive mental health resource page for migrants. *This page is currently only available in English.*

NATURAL DISASTERS & IMMIGRANTS

FEMA's Role in Migrant Assistance
The American Immigration Council has created this Q&A about FEMA money being used in the Shelter and Services Program. *Available in English only.*

Deportation & Disaster

The Natural Hazards Center published an article showing how undocumented immigrants prepare for possible deportations could be a lesson in how to prepare for natural disasters. *Available in English only.*

Citizenship & Qualifying Immigrant Definitions
FEMA funds can only be given to citizenship and qualifying immigration statuses. Theses statuses include green card holders, U-visa holders, etc. *Available in several languages*.

Implications of Social and Legal Status on Immigrants' Health in Disaster Zones
This paper out of the National Institutes of Health highlights how immigrants are more likely to have negative health side effects of natural disasters. *Available in English only.*

Be A Ready Congregation
National Disaster Interfaith Network has put together a paper on what aid immigrants qualify for. Generally, any cash/funding are not available for undocumented immigrants, but in-kind resources are available. *Available in English and Spanish.*

POLITICAL ACTION & ADVOCACY

Advocacy can take the form of inquiring about programs that involve local law enforcement in enforcing federal immigration laws, contacting your legislators to urge them to take action on immigration, direct service in partnership with local immigrant communities, and education on immigration issues.

Tips for Online Meetings with Legislators
Guidelines for how to structure a meeting with elected officials online or via conference call. *Available only in English.*

Write to Your Representative
Use this website to find who is your representative. Write them a letter asking that they take action on behalf of migrant children and adults. *Available only in English.*

Write to Your Senator
Use this website to find who is your senator. Write them a letter asking that they take action on behalf of migrant children and adults. *Available only in English.*

REFUGEES & RESETTLEMENT PROCESS

The Refugee Resettlement Process (Refugee Council USA)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is responsible for coordinating the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) humanitarian response to and advocacy on behalf of refugees, asylum seekers and other forced migrants. *Available in English only.*

To Breathe Free (Counter Stories Productions)
This documentary offers a look at a refugee family fleeing Syria and how the refugee system works in the US. This also comes with a study guide and a poster. *Available in English Only*

ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION

Current State of Migration to the United States
Document created by Migration Accompaniment Ministries that talks about the state of migration. This document is updated yearly. *Available in English only.*

The Genesis of Exodus
This PCUSA film, story map, reflection guide and cited resources describe the root causes of Central American migration. *Available in English only.*

SANCTUARY

Sanctuary FAQ (ACLU)
ACLU has created this FAQ to guide congregations through sanctuary. Despite the document being

from 2018, ACLU says that is up to date except for the part that mentions the sensitive places memo. *Available in English only.*

Sanctuary Policies: An Overview
American Immigration Council 101 paper on what sanctuary cities/jurisdictions are.

Why Sanctuary and Why Now?
Today churches are providing sanctuary to people with final orders of deportation. Law-abiding parents and workers caught in the clutches of a broken immigration system are entering houses of worship to fight their orders of deportation from a safe space. Congregations are standing with families at risk of separation. *Available in English only.*

What is Section 1324?
8 U.S.C. § 1324 is a statute that bans the smuggling and harboring of undocumented immigrants. This paper created by the National Immigration Project goes into details about this section. PCUSA does not endorse one way or another these actions. This resource is for information purposes only, if you want to know about your individual case, please consult a certified immigration lawyer. *Available in English and Spanish.*

WORSHIP MATERIALS

"Abraham Journeyed to a New Country"
This hymn written by Carolyn W. Gillette has lyrics illustrating the plights of immigrant people in the Bible set to the tune of "Morning Has Broken". *Available in English only.*

Advent Devotional Guide (CEDEPCA)
2024 Advent devotional guide dedicated to migration developed by CEDEPCA. *Available in English only.*

"Beatitudes" by Rev. Alison Harrington
This prayer written by Rev. Alison Harrington (Pastor, Southside Presbyterian Church, Tucson, AZ) prays for immigrant people. *Available in English only.*

"The Children Come" by Carolyn Winfrey
A hymn written during the unaccompanied minors crisis at the border in 2014. *Available in English only.*

World Refugee Day Worship Resources
This is a list of prayers and hymns that have been compiled over the years for use in World Refugee Day remembrances. Feel free to use as written or as inspiration for your own. *Available in English only.*

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

National Visitation Network
This network led by Freedom for Immigrants helps organize visitation groups to immigrant prisons and jails. *Available in English only.*

Welcome with Dignity
The #WelcomeWithDignity Campaign brings together organizations, activists, asylum-seekers, advocates, and the larger community to transform the way the United States receives and protects people forced to flee their homes to ensure they are treated humanely and fairly. *Available in English only.*

Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)
ASAP is led by asylum seekers for asylum seekers, providing resources and organizing together to protect their rights. *Available in English only.*

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)
The NNIRR works to defend and expand the rights of all immigrants and refugees, regardless of immigration status. Since its founding in 1986, the organization has drawn membership from diverse immigrant communities and actively builds alliances with social and economic justice partners around the country. As part of a global movement for social and economic justice, NNIRR is

committed to human rights as essential to securing healthy, safe and peaceful lives for all. *Available in English only.*

Mijente
Mijente is a digital and grassroots hub for Latinx organizing and movement building. This organization seeks to contribute to a Latinx social movement that is pro-Black, pro-immigrant, pro-planet, pro-worker, pro-indigenous because Latinx people are part of all these communities. Emerging from the #not1more deportation campaign, Mijente believes in the power of organizing campaigns and direct action rooted in community, with leadership of those directly affected by issues Mijente addresses. *Website in English, some resources available in Spanish.*

Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
CISPES is a grassroots solidarity organization that has been supporting the Salvadoran people's struggle for social and economic justice since 1980. CISPES organize strategic campaigns against US government and corporate intervention in El Salvador and accompany the Salvadoran popular movement in its work to realize an inspiring vision of participatory democracy and economic justice. *Available in English and Spanish.*

National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)
NDLON fosters safer, more humane environments for day laborers, both men and women, to earn a living, contribute to society, and integrate into the community. *Available in English only.*

Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
BSJI educates and engages African American and black immigrant communities to organize and advocate for racial, social and economic justice. *Available in English only.*

Movimiento Cosecha
Movimiento Cosecha is a nonviolent movement fighting for permanent protection, dignity, and respect for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. Movimiento Cosecha's name, "harvest" in Spanish, honors the long tradition of farmworker organizing and the present-day pain of the thousands of undocumented workers whose labor continues to feed the country. Committed to winning real victories for immigrant community, Cosecha believes in using non-cooperation to leverage the power of immigrant labor and consumption and force a meaningful shift in public opinion. *Available in English and Spanish.*

National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)
The National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) works to win respect, recognition, and labor rights and protections for the nearly 2.5 million nannies, housecleaners, and homecare workers who do the essential work of caring for our loved ones and our homes. Every day, domestic workers do the work that makes all other work possible. They are the nannies that care for our children, the house cleaners that bring order to our home, and the care workers that ensure our loved ones can live with dignity and independence. The majority of domestic workers sit at the center of some of our nation's most decisive issues because of who they are and what they do: they are women – mostly women of color, immigrants, mothers, and low-wage workers. They are impacted by almost every policy affecting the future of our economy, democracy and country. *Available in English and Spanish.*

SOCIAL MEDIA

Presbyterians for Just Immigration Facebook Group
Available in English only.

Presbyterian Disaster Asistance Facebook Page
Available in English only.

NEWSLETTERS

Subscribe to the PDA blog *Available in English only.*

Presbyterians for Just Immigration Newsletter
Available in English only.

Sign up to Receive the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness' Action Alerts *Available in English only.*