



## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH POLICY ON IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES ISSUES

### Endorse Fair Immigration Policy

- ⇒ Urge the US Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform to give undocumented persons who have established roots in the United States a pathway to legalization and full social and economic integration into the United States. (GC 09)
- ⇒ Urge the US government to terminate any program that allows or funds local law enforcement agencies enforcement of immigration law, thereby allowing immigrant victims of crime to report it without fear of deportation. (GC 09)
- ⇒ Urge the US government to establish a moratorium on roadside checkpoints and raids carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that tear families apart. (GC 09)
- ⇒ Urge the US government to ensure that undocumented immigrant detainees are provided with humane treatment, adequate food and medical care and sanitary conditions. (GC 09)
- ⇒ Urge the US government to consider alternatives to a costly prison-like detention system for immigrants. (GC 09)
- ⇒ Urge the US government to allow undocumented youth who arrive as infants or children to pursue higher education and/or serve in the military in order to contribute to their communities and become citizens. (GC 09)
- ⇒ Urge Congress to provide immigration equality for same-sex couples by permitting a citizen or permanent resident alien to sponsor an immigrant partner for permanent residence in the United States. (GC 09)
- ⇒ Adopt fundamental principles of the basic rights of undocumented persons and undertake a campaign to educate Episcopalians on the plight of refugees, immigrants and migrants. (GC 06)
- ⇒ Declare strong opposition to any legislation that would make it unlawful for faith based or humanitarian organizations to act to relieve the suffering of undocumented immigrants in response to the Gospel mandate to serve the least among us and our Baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons and calls upon the people of the Episcopal Church to act on their baptismal covenant without regard to such unjust legislation. (EC 3/06)
- ⇒ Express concern for serious flaws in US immigration policy and support enactment of legislation that would remedy these flaws. (EC 6/05)
- ⇒ Oppose unfair and unjust treatment of racial and ethnic minorities, and that the whole Church at every level collaborate with other faith bodies, communions, and immigrant rights and human rights organizations to redress these concerns. (EC 4/03)
- ⇒ Urge Congress to enact legislation to expand the temporary workers' programs to include all persons in the US in meaningful labor, as well as overseas workers offered employment in the US (GC 03)
- ⇒ Urge US government to ensure that needy immigrants are not unfairly denied essential services and benefits. (GC 97)
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- ⇒ Oppose any policy that encourages school or other public officials to report individuals that they suspect are illegal immigrants (EC 2/95)
- ⇒ Support a welfare system that does not discriminate on the basis of marital status, age, legal immigrant status or ability to identify other parent. (EC 2/95)
- ⇒ Condemn widespread racist and unjust treatment of immigrants in political discourse and direct provinces and dioceses to develop programs to counteract violations of civil rights. (GC 94)

- ⇒ Call the US Congress to enact immigration legislation that recognizes the human realities of undocumented people in this country and that provides asylum for those fleeing political repression. (GC 85)

### **Endorse Fair Refugee Policy**

- ⇒ Urge the US to commence a program of resettlement for refugees who cannot return to Colombia because their lives are in danger or they cannot integrate or remain in Ecuador. (EC 2/10)
- ⇒ Advocate that the US Government take certain actions to address the severe humanitarian crisis of refugees and others being displaced by the ongoing violence resulting from the war in Iraq. (EC 3/07)
- ⇒ Oppose the overly broad interpretation of the “material support” provisions of the USA Patriot Act, which allows for the refusal of admission into the US to certain refugees, and recommend an interpretation of these provisions that pertains only to formally designated foreign terrorist organizations and does not apply to those who have resisted regimes which denied them basic human rights or those who, under duress, unwittingly associate with a terrorist organization. (EC 11/06)
- ⇒ Urge continued advocacy on the provision of Temporary Protected Status to Haitians residing in the US who are in danger of deportation to Haiti. (EC 6/05)
- ⇒ Urge the US government to extend the protection of asylum to vulnerable peoples, especially women fleeing mutilation or cultural practices that deny their full humanity. (EC 2/04)
- ⇒ Reaffirm the historic commitment of the Episcopal Church to the protection of refugees and asylum seeker. (2/04)
- ⇒ Promote policy that Liberians temporarily in the US be granted protected status until circumstances permit their safe return. (GC 03)
- ⇒ Call upon the President of the United States to declare the situation in Haiti to be of "special humanitarian concern" to the United States of America, to adopt a humanitarian method to expedite the immigration of Haitians to the United States, and to accelerate the procedure for admitting Haitian refugees by extending the number of processing centers in Haiti into rural areas where they would be accessible to bona fide applicants for asylum. (EC 2/93)
- ⇒ Advocate a generous program of refugee admissions. (GC 97)
- ⇒ Support the right of women fleeing female genital mutilation to be granted refugee status and asylum in the US. (GC 97)
- ⇒ Advocate a just system of asylum for persecuted persons. (GC 97)
- ⇒ Urge the US government to apply its refugee policies in a uniform and equitable manner without regard to the nationality, race or creed of those seeking refugee status. (GC 94)
- ⇒ Encourages the US administration to grant permanent residency status to all Salvadorans who are now covered under temporary status. (GC 94)
- ⇒ Call upon the UN to pressure the governments of Iraq and Kuwait to release financial assets of Palestinians and refugees of the Gulf crisis. (GC 91)
- ⇒ Urge assistance and ministry to Hong Kong refugee camps and calls the governments of the U.S. and Great Britain to reconsider their policy. (GC 88)
- ⇒ Support redress for wartime relocation of civilians. (GC 85)
- ⇒ Reaffirm the call for the US to offer safe haven to Central Americans seeking temporary refuge in our nation from civil strife in their home countries. (GC 85)
- ⇒ Commend efforts to resettle refugees and encourages Episcopalians to accept refugees in their communities. It urges fair treatment of Salvadoran and Haitian refugees and permanent status for political and economic refugees. (GC 82)