

COVID at the margins

A discussion series by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Immigration

Hear from members and the Office of Immigration Issues,
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self Development of
People of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Stay in Touch with our Offices

- Office of Immigration Issues: Teresa.Waggener@pcusa.org
Amanda.Craft@pcusa.org
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Susan.Krehbiel@pcusa.org
- Self Development of People: Clara.Nunez@pcusa.org

Let us Pray

Lament for a Racist Nation

Written and Read by
Natalie Cushman and
Cindy Cushman

How fractured is the nation,
that once boasted its harmony.
How elusive has become “the Dream,”
that once made anything seem possible.
She that once called for the tired, the poor,
and the huddled masses yearning to be free,
has become a false idol.

But how was there ever harmony
when she was given to a people selectively labeled
human?

And the dream was denied to those not swaddled
in layers of comfort and privilege

And the call for the tired, the poor and the huddled masses,
was meant only for those hailing from the white Western world.

**For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;
for a comforter is far from me.**

Her origins were rooted in the sin of slavery,
with no thought to the road of dead bodies left behind.

Her evil was in the God complex
that justified humanity blanketly denied

“Oh Lord, look at my shame,
for I have made an enemy of myself.”

The deep veins of racism
in this enemy of our own creation
continues to disallow free breaths.

The safe places for black and brown bodies
keep dropping like flies,
as they are being killed in schools, killed in worship,
killed in the streets, killed in their homes.

**For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;
for a comforter is far from me.**

Strangers have crawled, hands and knees,
toward all her promised possibilities.

She has heard the cries, refusing them her sanctuary,
these whom we greet with bars and cages.

**For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;
for a comforter is far from me.**

See, O Lord, how distressed I am;
my stomach churns,
my heart is wrung within me,
because I have been very callous.

In the street the people bleed; in the home they face
their death.

**Let all my evildoing come before you;
and deal with me
as I have dealt with many,
because of all my transgressions;
for my groans are many
and my heart is faint**

DACA recipient and church member

Maria Isabel Vanegas

Watch the video at

<https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/item/50717/>



Hagar

But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.
Genesis 16:6
(NRSV)

DACA Recipients

2001- Senator Orrin Hatch (R) introduces first DREAM Act.

2012- DACA announced.

2014- DAPA announced.

2017- Attempt to rescind DACA.

2020 – DACA recipients providing essential services during COVID while the end of DACA looms.

2020- SCOTUS rules the attempt to rescind DACA was in violation of the APA.

Asylum Seekers

2014- Central American Families detained indefinitely in family detention centers.

Flores – Court rules that indefinite family detention is in violation of settlement agreement.

2018- Zero Tolerance - parents separated from children at border. All detained.

2018 – Border metering

2019- Migrant Protection Protocols (Remain in Mexico)

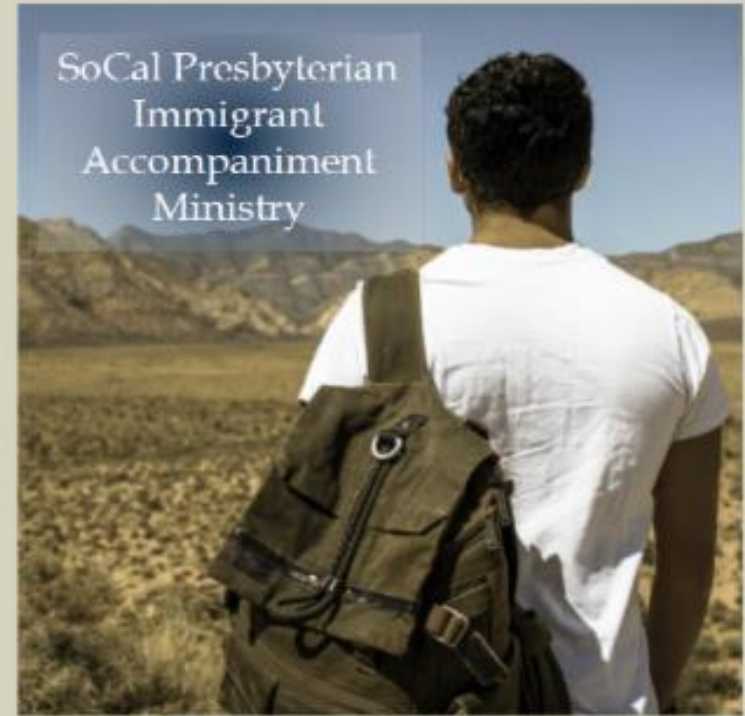
2020- 41,000 turned away in 3 months under new COVID measures. As of June 6 - 929 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among 24,713 total detained population.

Asylum Seekers
&
Accompaniment

Irma

San Gabriel & Pacific Presbyteries

SoCal Presbyterian
Immigrant
Accompaniment
Ministry



I was a stranger and you welcomed me...

SoCal Presbyterian Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry is a growing network of Presbyterians around Southern California, in ecumenical collaboration with the Matthew 25/ Mateo 25 SoCal Movement, striving to follow Christ's call to **welcome the stranger** by opening our churches, homes, and hearts to sisters and brothers seeking asylum.

Our mission is to strengthen and expand a faith-rooted, compassionate response to immigrants and refugees in our communities by equipping, empowering, and supporting congregations and individuals to joyfully and faithfully engage in accompaniment and advocacy.

Asylum
Advocacy Days
July 14-16

Legislative meetings with an accompanying training -- RSVP by Friday, June 26th

We will be demanding that Congress:

1. **Defund unlawful anti-asylum policies** (such as the asylum bans) and safeguard any USCIS appropriation
2. **Restore asylum protections** and end immigrant detention, deportations.
3. **Cosponsor pro-asylum legislation**, such as the Refugee Protection Act (S.2936 / H.R.5210) and Asylum Seeker Protection Act (H.R. 2662).



FUERZA LABORAL

POWER OF WORKERS



Fuerza Laboral, COVID 19
community response with
Heiny Maldonado

SDOP Grant recipients

Fuerza Laboral – Power of Workers

Providence, RI

<https://www.fuerza-laboral.org/>



Ways to Engage

Welcome Action Guide -

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/choose-welcome-action-guide/>

Office of Public Witness Action Alert – tell your members of Congress to pass the Dream Act - <https://www.voterve.net/PCUSA/Campaigns/75229/Respond>

Office of Immigration Issues Advocacy Page – ways to engage your elected officials on immigration issues – <https://www.pcusa.org/immigrationadvocacy/>

PDA **Toolkit for Congregations to Faithfully Accompany People Seeking Asylum** and **Guidance** during Covid-19

Detention Visitation Resources - <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/>

Interfaith **#Faith4Asylum** - Sign-up for Virtual Advocacy Days July 14-16 – <https://www.voterve.net/PCUSA/campaigns/75342/respond>

Self-Development of People – supporting immigrant-led community organizations - <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop/>

Fuerza Laboral – to learn more about their community organizing efforts with the immigrant communities in RI - <https://www.fuerza-laboral.org/>



Questions