

# Welcoming the Stranger



## A Toolkit

for Christian Education and Action  
on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

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*“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen  
among you; you shall love the alien as yourself,  
for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”*

—Leviticus 19:34

### DEAR FRIEND,

**I**mmigration is a deeply relevant issue for both Americans and Christians. The U.S. is a nation of immigrants, one that has been continually reshaped by new groups of people bringing diverse cultures, perspectives, and resources.

Immigration is also a core issue for Christians: the biblical story continually shows God’s concern for the migrant and the outcast. The early Hebrews were “strangers in the land of Egypt” and were asked to remember this heritage by protecting the strangers among them in the Promised Land. Similarly, throughout the New Testament, Christians are called to care for the outcast and the stranger.

The topic of immigration has also occupied a prominent and contentious place on our recent political landscape. Throughout 2006, we saw hundreds of thousands of immigrants, their families, and concerned allies take to the streets in support of our immigrant brothers and sisters. However, in 2007, the U.S. Senate caved to pressures by a vocal anti-immigrant minority and voted down an immigration compromise, shutting down the possibility for real reform for a second year in a row. The vacuum created in the wake of the federal government’s failure to produce comprehensive immigration reform legislation has spawned a myriad of local initiatives and ordinances—some supportive, but most punitive.

It was in this historical moment that a collection of denominational groups, faith leaders, and secular groups met in Washington, D.C., in December 2006 to discuss how we could work together to realize comprehensive immigration reform. A leadership team formed out of that day-long immigration dialogue and strategy session, and the fruit of that team was

the decision to create the *Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform* (CCIR) campaign. The goal of this campaign is to bring together Christians from across the political and theological spectrum in support of comprehensive immigration legislation.

We recognize that Congress will not take up comprehensive immigration legislation again until after the general election in 2008. However, *Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform* believes that our faith compels us to love and care for the stranger among us, and it is our moral duty to seize this opportunity to speak up with our immigrant neighbors in hopes of seeing humane and holistic immigration reform pass as soon as possible. We recognize the current need to engage more deeply with our fellow Christians and to counter the hateful, anti-immigrant rhetoric that is becoming commonplace in the media and is dividing our communities.

We thank you for downloading this toolkit and for your passion to welcome the stranger.

We look forward to working with you to mobilize people of faith as we dig deeper in the next two years to build broad and deep support of immigration reform. For more information about this campaign and our partner organizations, please visit our shared Web site at [www.sojo.net/immigration](http://www.sojo.net/immigration).

Blessings,

The Leadership Team of Christians for  
Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CCIR)

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# INTRODUCTION

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

## Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CCIR) STATEMENT OF SHARED PRINCIPLES

**C**hristians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform represents a coalition of Christian organizations, churches, and leaders from across the theological and political spectrum united in support of comprehensive immigration reform. Despite our differences on other issues, we are working together to see comprehensive immigration reform enacted this year because we share a set of common moral and theological principles that compel us to love and care for the stranger among us, including the following:

- We believe that all people, regardless of national origin, are made in the “image of God” and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect (Genesis 1:26-27, 9:6).
- We believe there is an undeniable biblical responsibility to love and show compassion for the stranger among us (Deuteronomy 10:18-19, Leviticus 19:33-34, Matthew 25:31-46).
- We believe that immigrants are our neighbors, both literally and figuratively, and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves and show mercy to neighbors in need (Leviticus 19:18, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:25-37).
- We believe in the rule of law, but we also believe that we are to oppose unjust laws and systems that harm and oppress people made in God’s image, especially the vulnerable (Isaiah 10:1-4, Jeremiah 7:1-7, Acts 5:29, Romans 13:1-7).

The current U.S. immigration system is broken and now is the time for a fair and compassionate solution. We think it is entirely possible to protect our borders while establishing a viable, humane, and realistic immigration system, one that is consistent with our American values and increases national security while protecting the livelihood of Americans. The biblical principles above call us to support comprehensive immigration reform legislation that includes the following elements:

- Border enforcement and protection initiatives that are consistent with humanitarian values while allowing the authorities to enforce the law and implement American immigration policy;
- Reforms in our family-based immigration system that reduce the waiting time for separated families to be safely reunited and maintain the constitutionally guaranteed rights of birthright citizenship and the ability of immigrants to earn naturalization;
- An opportunity for all immigrant workers and their families already in the U.S. to come out of the shadows and pursue the option of an earned path towards permanent legal status and citizenship upon satisfaction of specific criteria;
- A viable guest worker program that creates legal avenues for workers and their families to enter our country and work in a safe, legal, and orderly manner with their rights and due process fully protected and provides an option for workers to gain permanent status independent of an employer sponsor; and
- A framework to examine and ascertain solutions to the root causes of migration, such as economic disparities between sending and receiving nations.

Immigration reform that incorporates these elements, rejects anti-immigrant measures, and strengthens our American values will enrich the vitality of the U.S. and advance the common good. We stand together in calling the president and Congress to return to humane and holistic immigration reform as soon as possible.

# A Toolkit for Christian Education and Action on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

## ENDORRSERS

*(as of August 24, 2007)*

### Organizations

Christian Community Development Association  
Church World Service, Immigration and Refugee Program  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles  
Council on Faith in Action  
Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education  
Evangelicals for Social Action  
Hispanic Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform  
Hispanic Evangelical Ministerial Alliance of the Metroplex (Dallas/Forth Worth, TX)  
Mennonite Central Committee, Washington Office  
Mennonite Church USA  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference  
National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA  
Neighborhood Ministries, Inc. (Phoenix, AZ)  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office  
Red de Pastores and Latino Leaders of Southern California (Southern California “La Red” Network of Pastors and Latino Leaders)  
Sojourners  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
We Care America  
World Evangelical Alliance  
World Relief

### Individuals

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Rev. Michael Bohlmann, director of worship arts, Desert View Bible Church (Carefree, AZ)  
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## A Toolkit for Christian Education and Action on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

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## A Stranger at Our Gates: A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON IMMIGRATION

*Resolution adopted at General Conference, 1996 • The Evangelical Free Church of America*

**D**uring periods of rapid change and economic uncertainty, it is often the vulnerable and marginalized people who are blamed for the misfortune that everyone else experiences or expects to experience. Today a significant amount of attention and blame for a perceived threat to the American way of life is being directed at immigrants. As Christians, we must ensure that our response to the issue of immigration is directed by a world view that is shaped by biblical principles rather than secular rhetoric.

A number of themes relevant to immigration run through the Bible. The first theme is that we ourselves, as Christians, are aliens on this earth. "...And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth" (Heb. 11:13). Our status as aliens and strangers forms the basis for our attitudes and responses towards those people who live outside our society.

A second theme is that our material possessions do not really belong to us. The Promised Land belonged to the Israelites only in the sense that as host, God allowed the Israelites to dwell in the Promised Land as His guests (Lev. 25:23). Similarly, as aliens and strangers in the world, the material resources of the world do not belong to us. We have what we have because God, as host, has distributed material resources to us, His guests. As recipients of God's graciousness and generosity, we need to guard against selfishness and possessiveness which would cloud our attitude toward immigrants.

A third theme is protection for the alien. As non-citizens working in their country of residence, aliens exist outside the social and political network of the society they are residing in; thus, they are rendered powerless. Aliens are very vulnerable to exploitation. As Christians, we should recall our roots as aliens and, thus, identify with their plight (Ex. 23:9).

A fourth theme is that, for Christians, no one is

ever to really be considered an outsider. "...The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself..." (Lev. 19:33-34). The Great Commandment is to apply to the alien, because he or she is our neighbor.

A fifth theme is that, in serving the outsiders of society, we encounter Jesus. Because Christ identified with the stranger, we are to extend the same treatment to the alien and stranger that we would extend toward Jesus (Matt. 25:35).

Historically, immigration policies of the United States appear to be directed more by racism and economic self-interest than compassion. Immigration quotas favored people groups already established in the United States (western and northern Europe) while limiting immigrants from Asia and Africa.<sup>1</sup> Sometimes certain people groups were allowed to immigrate only when they were needed as menial labor for a specific task, e.g., Chinese railroad builders. Today immigration policy favors those who bring technical expertise or financial resources with them.<sup>2</sup>

The present debate over immigration policy and immigrants is often based on stereotypical falsehoods. Immigrants do not displace American workers. They usually fill a shortage of skilled labor or do the menial task that citizens refuse to do.<sup>3</sup> Immigrants' rate of employment is higher than the general population, and they work longer hours.<sup>4</sup> They receive less general assistance than the general population.<sup>5</sup> Immigrants pay more in taxes than the social services they receive.<sup>6</sup> The reason state governments are financially burdened by immigrants is that only one-third of the federal income tax paid by immigrants is returned to the state governments who provide public services such as education and emergency medical care.<sup>7</sup>

As we engage in our society's debate on immigration through forums such as the voting booth, community discussion groups, political parties and church in light of the preceding discussion, we need to raise the following issues:



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**A.** To what extent are our attitudes towards immigration shaped by racism? To what extent do we assume that American culture is identified with northern and western European culture; and are we attempting to protect those cultural roots of America from corruption by “foreign” cultures? Are we afraid that this existing cultural dominance will be overcome by the “strangeness” of strangers? Are we denying that other cultures bring gifts that add to rather than detract from our society’s culture? Does our cultural identity take precedence over our Christian identity so that we fail to recognize that we are fellow aliens with these immigrants?

**B.** To what extent are our attitudes towards immigrants shaped by materialism? As aliens and strangers in this world, what is the theological basis for acting as though America were our property and we can hence deny access to it? Are we being overly possessive of our lifestyle or standard of living?

**C.** Is the fear of running out of limited resources justifiable? How can we say that there is not enough to go around in America? Are we more concerned with the pursuit of affluence than meeting the basic human needs of all human beings?

**D.** What are the implications of Proposition 187-type legislation (as in the state of California)? Does denying or reducing “safety net” and other public benefits to illegal immigrants and their American born children imply that in our society some groups of people are not regarded as being equally human as others even though they participate in the economic functioning of our society? Are some groups of people not deemed worthy to receive the minimal goods and services we consider essential for a very basic level of human existence?

**E.** What about immigration policy? To what extent are we responsible for the living conditions in other countries that motivate people to emigrate? Do the policies of the U.S. government and the U.S. transnational companies contribute to pressures on people to emigrate to the U.S.? Does an immigration policy that favors the immigration of

highly skilled people drain other countries of the skills necessary to improve their standard of living and hence reduce the pressure to emigrate to America?

As evangelicals, we are called by God to aid the vulnerable. Therefore, we must see the alien and the stranger as individuals made in the image of God, the object of Christ’s love and as people of intrinsic worth who are in need of our affirmation and support. ■

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1Tim Stafford, “Here Comes the World,” *Christianity Today*, (May 15, 1995), 20.

2Diane Drachman, “Immigration Statuses and Their Influence on Service Provision, Access and Use,” *Social Work* 40, no. 2 (March 1995), 190.

3Stafford, 21.

4Frank Sharry, “Myths, Realities, and Solutions,” *Spectrum: The Journal of State Government* 67, no. 1 (Winter 1994), 23.

5Ibid.

6Ibid, 24

7Ibid.

# EDUCATE!

## Comprehensive Reform of Our Immigration Laws

### Introduction: Symptoms of a Broken System

**A**ny look at the nation's immigration policy reveals a system greatly in need of reform. Outdated policies keep American families separated from loved ones in other countries. Employers, faced with an insufficient pool of legal workers, increasingly rely on hard-working but unauthorized workers. Immigrants trekking through remote desert territory to gain entry to the U.S. die from the heat and lack of water. The rights of American workers are undermined when unscrupulous employers have their way with unauthorized workers who risk deportation if they stand up for their rights. Our enforcement personnel, who should be focused on security threats and criminals, are burdened with the task of chasing farmworkers, busboys, and nannies. States and communities, in the absence of federal action to fix the broken system, must figure out on their own how to deal with a growing undocumented population. The frustration of the American people grows as politicians, rather than solving the problem, play politics with the issue.

For more than two decades, American policy makers have taken the approach of spending ever greater sums of money trying to enforce our broken immigration laws. This approach simply has not worked. It has been the failure to face economic and social realities, not failure to provide enforcement resources, that has led to the current chaotic, deadly system. We need a new approach to managing migration, one that recognizes reality and regulates it effectively; an approach that will make the immigration flow safe, orderly, and legal instead of deadly, chaotic, and operating outside the bounds of the law.

### The Problem: Our Immigration Laws are Broken

Currently, there are estimated to be more than twelve million immigrants here without legal papers. Each year, an estimated 300,000 or more join that population. These people are coming here

to work, to join family members, or both. Many ask: why don't they just apply to come legally? Some Americans believe that good laws are being violated by bad, selfish, impatient people. That point of view, however, may come from the misunderstanding that legally immigrating to the United States is a relatively easy process. In fact, people trying to come here to work or join family find themselves caught in a hodge-podge of outdated immigration laws and a famously inept and unpredictable immigration bureaucracy. Many rational people are making the decision to risk being in the U.S. illegally in order to work and make money at abundantly available jobs in the U.S. These are not bad people violating good laws; they are rational people making difficult choices to improve their lives and assist their families.

In the decade and a half since our immigration laws were last updated, the number of immigrant visas available has remained static, while the demand has grown—from American families seeking to reunite with loved ones in other countries and from American employers seeking workers. Waits can be as long as 22 years for some categories of immigrants in the family preference system. Faced with years or decades of waiting to reunite with family members, some immigrants attempt to enter the U.S. illegally or use temporary visas for permanent immigration.

Those coming for work face similar obstacles to coming here legally. America's economy and demographic shifts demand more workers, while our economic ties to Latin America and the rest of the world provide the economy with reserves of willing workers desiring nothing more than honest work and honest pay. However, there are very few visas available for immigrants to come here and work if they don't have particular skills—only 5,000 per year. Meanwhile, our economy has been absorbing hundreds of thousands. A father seeking work so he can make a better life for his family must choose to wait in a decades-long line or risk capture, humiliation, second-class status—and even

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his own life—in order to provide for his family.

The disconnect between the need for worker and family visas on the one hand, and what our immigration system provides on the other, has serious consequences not only for immigrants, but for the country as a whole. A black market for fake documents has grown tremendously. Smuggling cartels have become big businesses, with smugglers becoming more violent as the stakes have grown. The rights of American workers are undermined when there are so many unauthorized workers in the workforce fearful of deportation, as unscrupulous employers are able to use this fear to limit the rights and undercut the wages of all workers. In the context of the threat of terrorism, policies that drive the undocumented further underground will have enormous consequences for our ability to detect and deter terrorism. If our enforcement continues to focus primarily on immigrant workers, and our economy demands more workers than we allow in legally, our ability to detect and act against terrorists will be diminished.

Immigrants want to follow the rules and would choose to immigrate legally if that were a realistic option. The question for us then becomes, should we continue to restrict immigration ineffectively or should we embrace reality, update our laws, and manage immigration effectively?

## **Solution: Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

We cannot solve our immigration problems through enforcement alone. We must step back and re-think our immigration system, and make the changes we need to effectively focus our enforcement resources on fighting terrorism and criminals, satisfy the needs of our economy for workers, and give American families the opportunity to be united with immigrant members in a timely manner.

Reform that will make our laws more realistic, so they can be effectively enforced, must adhere to the following principles:

- **It Must Provide a Path to Citizenship:** Opportunities should be provided for undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S. to receive work permits (or to access educational opportunities) and travel permission once they undergo

background and security checks. Those who choose to settle in the U.S. should eventually be eligible for permanent residence and citizenship.

- **It Must Protect Workers:** Wider legal channels must be created so needed workers can be admitted legally to fill available jobs. To avoid the exploitation and abuses of past, failed guestworker programs, a new worker program must adequately protect the wages and working conditions of U.S. and immigrant workers. It must also allow workers to change jobs, provide for adequate enforcement of both the program's rules and existing labor laws, protect law-abiding employers from unscrupulous competitors, and provide an option for workers to gain permanent status independent of an employer sponsor.

- **It Must Reunite Families:** Immigration reform will not succeed if public policy does not recognize one of the main factors driving migration: family unity. Restrictive laws and bureaucratic delays too often undermine this cornerstone of our legal immigration system. Those waiting in line should have their admission expedited, and those admitted on work visas should be able to keep their nuclear families intact. Reform should also ensure that in the future, close family members are not forced to wait years and even decades to reunite with loved ones living in the U.S.

- **It Must Restore the Rule of Law and Enhance Security:** Enforcement only works when the law is realistic and enforceable. A comprehensive overhaul will make our immigration laws more realistic, permitting an intelligent enforcement regime that should include smart inspections and screening practices, fair proceedings, efficient processing, and strategies that focus on detecting and deterring terrorists and cracking down on criminal smugglers and lawbreaking employers. Such a system will better enable the nation to know who is already here and who is coming in the future, and will bring our system back into line with our tradition as a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws.

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- **It Must Promote Citizenship and Civic Participation and Help Local Communities:**

Immigration to America works because newcomers are encouraged to become new Americans. It is time to renew our nation's commitment to the full integration of newcomers by providing adult immigrants with quality English instruction, promoting and preparing them for citizenship, and providing them with opportunities to move up the economic ladder. The system should also offer support to local communities working to welcome newcomers.

**Conclusion: Congress Has Failed to Act, Again—  
We Can No Longer Afford the Failed Status Quo**

**O**ur immigration system will continue to be troubled until our laws more closely reflect reality.

Earlier this year, an effort by the 110th Congress to fix our broken immigration system was thwarted when opposition by a majority of Republicans and a minority of Democrats killed a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform proposal in the Senate. This may have been the best chance in many years to fix our dysfunctional immigration system but, in the end, cowardice prevailed over leadership, and the defenders of the status quo prevailed. Many of our nation's leaders—including the president and key senators—who supported a comprehensive approach last spring are now caving to political pressure and supporting a punitive, enforcement-only strategy.

- The “get tough, and when that fails, get tougher” approach to driving immigrants out of the workforce has been the centerpiece of our failed immigration policy for more than a decade.
- We won't simply enforce our way out of this problem. Rather, we need a legal immigration system that accommodates growth in the economy and deals realistically with those undocumented immigrants already working here.
- It is not the case that the laws are good, the people breaking them are bad, and that all we need is ramped-up enforcement. Five percent of workers in this country (one in 20) cannot work here legally.

The law needs fixing. That is the job of Congress.

- This amounts to a national experiment with the “attrition through enforcement” strategy espoused by the anti-immigration movement. We will see whether their predictions that immigrants will self-deport turn out to be true. Instead, we predict that people will burrow further underground—that as long as there is work for them to do, they will stay and work.

- Perhaps this “experiment” will force our nation to stop and think: Why do we want to drive so many of these hardworking, taxpaying people out of the country? Just how inhospitable a country do we really want to be? How do we make sure that an inhospitable environment just targets the “illegal” immigrants and not everyone else?

—Adapted from “Comprehensive Reform of Our Immigration Laws” (January 2007) and “Harsh Enforcement Measures Will Not Fix Our Broken Immigration System” (August 2007) by the National Immigration Forum.

## 10 Common Myths About Immigrants

(courtesy of Justice for Immigrants)

### IMMIGRANTS DON'T PAY TAXES

**1** Immigrants pay taxes, in the form of income, property, sales, and taxes at the federal and state level. As far as income tax payments go, sources vary in their accounts, but a range of studies find that immigrants pay between \$90 and \$140 billion a year in federal, state, and local taxes.

Undocumented immigrants pay income taxes as well, as evidenced by the Social Security Administration's "suspense file" (taxes that cannot be matched to workers' names and social security numbers), which grew by \$20 billion between 1990 and 1998.

### IMMIGRANTS COME HERE TO TAKE WELFARE

**2** Immigrants come to work and reunite with family members. Immigrant labor force participation is consistently higher than native-born, and immigrant workers make up a larger share of the U.S. labor force (12.4 percent) than they do the U.S. population (11.5 percent). Moreover, the ratio between immigrant use of public benefits and the amount of taxes they pay is consistently favorable to the U.S. In one estimate, immigrants earn about \$240 billion a year, pay about \$90 billion a year in taxes, and use about \$5 billion in public benefits. In another cut of the data, immigrant tax payments total \$20 to \$30 billion more than the amount of government services they use.

### IMMIGRANTS SEND ALL THEIR MONEY BACK TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES

**3** In addition to the consumer spending of immigrant households, immigrants and their businesses contribute \$162 billion in tax revenue to U.S. federal, state, and local governments. While it is true that immigrants remit billions of dollars a year to their home countries, this is one of the most targeted and effective forms of direct foreign investment.

### IMMIGRANTS TAKE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY AWAY FROM AMERICANS

**4** The largest wave of immigration to the U.S. since the early 1900s coincided with our lowest national unemployment rate and fastest economic growth. Immigrant entrepreneurs create jobs for U.S. and foreign workers, and foreign-born students allow many U.S. graduate programs to keep their doors open. While there has been no comprehensive study done of immigrant-owned businesses, we have countless examples: in Silicon Valley, companies begun by Chinese and Indian immigrants generated more than \$19.5 billion in sales and nearly 73,000 jobs in 2000.

### IMMIGRANTS ARE A DRAIN ON THE U.S. ECONOMY

**5** During the 1990s, half of all new workers were foreign-born, filling gaps left by native-born workers in both the high- and low-skill ends of the spectrum. Immigrants fill jobs in key sectors, start their own businesses, and contribute to a thriving economy. The net benefit of immigration to the U.S. is nearly \$10 billion annually. As Alan Greenspan points out, 70 percent of immigrants arrive in prime working age. That means we haven't spent a penny on their education, yet they are transplanted into our workforce and will contribute \$500 billion toward our social security system over the next 20 years.

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## IMMIGRANTS DON'T WANT TO LEARN ENGLISH OR BECOME AMERICANS

**6** Within 10 years of arrival, more than 75 percent of immigrants speak English well; moreover, demand for English classes at the adult level far exceeds supply. Greater than 33 percent of immigrants are naturalized citizens; given increased immigration in the 1990s, this figure will rise as more legal permanent residents become eligible for naturalization in the coming years. The number of immigrants naturalizing spiked sharply after two events: enactment of immigration and welfare reform laws in 1996, and the terrorist attacks in 2001.

## TODAY'S IMMIGRANTS ARE DIFFERENT THAN THOSE OF 100 YEARS AGO

**7** The percentage of the U.S. population that is foreign-born now stands at 11.5 percent; in the early 20th century it was approximately 15 percent. Similar to accusations about today's immigrants, those of 100 years ago initially often settled in mono-ethnic neighborhoods, spoke their native languages, and built up newspapers and businesses that catered to their fellow émigrés. They also experienced the same types of discrimination that today's immigrants face, and integrated within American culture at a similar rate. If we view history objectively, we remember that every new wave of immigrants has been met with suspicion and doubt and yet, ultimately, every past wave of immigrants has been vindicated and saluted.

## MOST IMMIGRANTS CROSS THE BORDER ILLEGALLY

**8** Around 75 percent of today's immigrants have legal permanent (immigrant) visas; of the 25 percent that are undocumented, 40 percent overstayed temporary (non-immigrant) visas.

## WEAK U.S. BORDER ENFORCEMENT HAS LED TO HIGH UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION

**9** From 1986 to 1998, the Border Patrol's budget increased six-fold and the number of agents stationed on our southwest border doubled to 8,500. The Border Patrol also toughened its enforcement strategy, heavily fortifying typical urban entry points and pushing migrants into dangerous desert areas, in hopes of deterring crossings. Instead, the undocumented immigrant population doubled in that time frame, to 8 million—despite the legalization of nearly 3 million immigrants after the enactment of the Immigration Reform and Control Act in 1986. Insufficient legal avenues for immigrants to enter the U.S., compared with the number of jobs in need of workers, has significantly contributed to this current conundrum.

## THE WAR ON TERRORISM CAN BE WON THROUGH IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS

**10** No security expert since Sept. 11 has said that restrictive immigration measures would have prevented the terrorist attacks—instead, the key is effective use of good intelligence. Most of the 9/11 hijackers were here on legal visas. Since 9/11, the myriad of measures targeting immigrants in the name of national security have netted no terrorism prosecutions. In fact, several of these measures could have the opposite effect and actually make us less safe, as targeted communities of immigrants are afraid to come forward with information.

*Sources for this information are available at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).*

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## Responses to Three Common Arguments Against Comprehensive Immigration Reform

(courtesy of Justice for Immigrants)

**ARGUMENT:** They broke the law; thus, they should not be rewarded by allowing them to stay.

**RESPONSE:** Opponents of immigration use the argument, “they broke the law,” as a way of combating any proposals that provide legal status to undocumented immigrants. They also say that the United States should not be “rewarding lawbreakers,” and use such phrases as “what part of illegal do you not understand?” Their intent is to stop any discussion of *why* these persons are outside the law, what *consequences or harm* come to the United States because of this circumstance, and whether the law they broke is just or in the best interest of the United States and should be changed. In using these arguments, they also imply that undocumented immigrants, being outside the law, are criminals.

The first response is to answer the *why* and *harm* questions. Migrants and their families generally enter the United States to survive by finding jobs. Once they cross the U.S.-Mexico border, 80 percent find employment. Their intent is not to *harm* the United States, but simply to work; by doing so, they help our country and the economy. So, because they come here to work and they help our nation by doing so, we must ask whether current immigration law, which causes them to hide in the shadows and offers them no protections, is *just* in the first place.

Moreover, the availability of visas to enter the country through legal channels to either work or reunite with family members are severely limited and do not come close to meeting labor market demands. While the Church supports the rule of law, there are times when laws should be examined through a justice lens and be changed. In many ways, the current immigration system is broken and contributes to the abuse, exploitation, and even deaths of migrants who otherwise contribute their

work and talents to our nation. While undocumented immigrants are indeed outside the law, and thus “break” the law, the unjust, outdated, and inadequate law also breaks them. Our nation cannot have it both ways.

Moreover, undocumented immigrants are not criminals—they have not broken a criminal law. They have only violated civil law, as we do when we violate a traffic ordinance. The United States Supreme Court has held that “a deportation proceeding is a purely civil action to determine the eligibility to remain in this country, not to punish an unlawful entry. ... The purpose of deportation is not to punish past transgressions, but to put an end to a continuing violation of immigration laws.”

**ARGUMENT:** My relatives (grandfather, great-grandfather, etc.) came here legally and so should these new immigrants.

**RESPONSE:** In the history of the United States, immigration law was developed relatively late, in the middle and late stages of the 20th century. For the first 153 years of our nation, there was no general law barring entry into the United States, unless it was targeted to certain convicts or prostitutes. The Alien Sedition Act, passed early in our history, was seldom enforced. Entering the United States did not become a violation until Congress passed a law on March 4, 1929. Because of the lack of funding, Congress did not authorize or appropriate funds to enforce the law until the late 1940s.

The beginning of our current immigration code, the Immigration and Nationality Act, was enacted in 1965. The INA began imposing limits on categories of immigration and establishing an immigration enforcement regime which we adhere to, in part, today.

Today, our immigration system is ill-equipped to handle the current demand for immigrant labor in our country. According to the 2005 *Economic*

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*Report of the President*, “one of the most pervasive features of undocumented immigration is that it is overwhelmingly driven by supply and demand: immigrants want to work in the United States and American employers want to hire them.” However, current legal limits on both temporary and permanent immigration remain largely unresponsive to changes in labor demand as a result of arbitrary numerical limits. Only 66,000 visas per year are available to low-skilled, nonagricultural workers to enter the country legally and work. The H-2A program for agricultural workers brings in about 30,000 workers a year, yet hundreds of thousands of jobs per year in these sectors are filled with immigrant labor, including undocumented immigrants.

**ARGUMENT: Providing legal status to undocumented immigrants will penalize immigrants who play by the rules and wait in line.**

**RESPONSE:** The current proposal endorsed by the U.S. Catholic bishops, the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, requires that undocumented workers work six years before applying for permanent resident status. This places them “at the back of the line,” behind immigrants who have petitioned for a green card through an employment-based or family-based petition. In addition the proposal reduces backlogs in family categories so that waiting times are reduced to six months or less in all categories by 2011.

Furthermore, many of the undocumented who are here and immigrants waiting in line are the same people. Because of the long backlogs for family visas and other employment-related visas, many decide not to wait and enter through unauthorized means. By fixing the system, through expanding the number of visas available to work and reunite with families, the incentive to migrate without proper visas will be mitigated.

*Sources for this information are available at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).*



## Making Your Voice Count

One of the main shortcomings in our work to pass compassionate immigration reform in 2007 was that members of Congress were hearing primarily from those who opposed comprehensive reform. In fact, some staff members estimated the ratio was 10 anti-immigrant calls for every pro-immigrant call! Nearly every poll shows restrictionists to be in the minority, but they have been loud, vocal, and organized. Consequently, it is all the more imperative that our elected officials hear from the majority in the faith community who support humane, compassionate, and sensible reform.

If we hope to pass strong legislation, the groundwork must be laid now even if the next opportunity doesn't come until 2009. The religious community can provide leadership and encouragement to our elected officials by prioritizing this agenda and making clear that we stand behind them. It is important to tell our elected officials that the faith community supports comprehensive immigration reform more than ever and to educate them about what elements we insist be included in any acceptable comprehensive immigration bill.

There are many ways to get this message to your elected officials, but nothing is better than simply telling them directly!

—Adapted from resources by *Sojourners and Justice for Immigrants*.

## I. Communicating to Members of Congress and the Administration

Communicating with your members of Congress and administration officials is the most important advocacy step you can take. It takes just minutes to pick up the phone, put pen to paper, or log onto e-mail and let your representatives in Washington, D.C., know how you feel about the issue you care about. While this communication is often used to ask them to support policy or defeat harmful legislation, also remember to thank legislators when they act on your wishes or take a position you agree with.

Some elected officials have consistent anti-immigrant policy positions, or don't communicate much on these issues. It is important to contact these officials, and let them know that his/her constituents are supportive of immigrants' rights. While you may not be successful in convincing them that your position is correct, it is important to create the space for dialogue and for him/her to hear your perspective. Education and politics can, over time, change people's minds.

In addition, you may also want to voice your opinion to Congressional leadership and key committee members. These leaders are responsible for setting national policy and should be responsive to a broader sampling of public opinion. The committee with jurisdiction over many immigration issues is the Judiciary Committee (in both the House and Senate) and, by extension, the Immigration Subcommittee of the Judiciary.

### Letter-Writing Tips

- State your purpose for writing in the first sentence of the letter. For example: "As your constituent, I am writing to urge your support for increased funding for health care."
- If your letter pertains to a specific piece of legislation, identify it. And make sure that you are referencing the correct legislation to the correct body of Congress. House bills are H.R.\_\_\_\_; Senate bills are designated as S.\_\_\_\_. It is also important to know the status of the bill.

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- Be courteous.
- If appropriate, include personal information about why the issue matters to you to make your point.
- Address only one issue in each e-mail.
- Close your letter with a restatement of your purpose and indicate the response that you expect.
- You should fax the letter to the representative's Washington, D.C., office and also fax and mail it to his or her closest district office. (Office addresses and fax numbers are available on each member's Web page, found through [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)).

## Phone Calling Tips

- Telephone calls are usually taken by a staff member, not the member of Congress. Ask to speak with the aide who handles the issue about which you wish to comment.
- After identifying yourself as a constituent, tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message, such as: "Please tell Senator/Representative [Name] that I support/oppose [S.\_\_\_\_/H.R.\_\_\_\_]."
- Briefly state your reasons for your support or opposition to the bill, including your personal faith. Then ask for your senators' or representative's position on the bill. You may also request a written response to your telephone call.

## 2. Meeting with Members of Congress and the Administration

Face-to-face meetings are the most effective way to influence policymakers. You can meet with them either in their district offices or in Washington, D.C. If you are unable to see policymakers in person, you should still meet with their staffers.

### Arranging the Appointment

To meet with your senators and/or representatives, call the legislator's office (either in Washington, D.C. or at home). Identify yourself as a constituent (if you are) and ask to speak to the staffer who is responsible for immigration. Generally, members of Congress are in Washington, D.C., Tuesday through Thursday, and are frequently in their home state Friday through Monday and when Congress is not in session.

### Advocacy

#### Preparing for the Meeting

- **DO YOUR HOMEWORK!** Know exactly what you want to say and carefully review your messages.
- If possible, compile information about the impact of specific immigration issues on the members of Congress' district/state. Do not compile a long list of statistics: your elected officials will not remember them and they will lose their impact. Prepare a few dramatic numbers or anecdotes to illustrate your points. Collect recent local news articles that illustrate the issue. Or, consider including in your meeting individuals who would be affected by the policy change.
- To encourage policymakers to support a specific immigration issue, present materials that clearly articulate your position, using specific case examples when possible.
- Know the counter-arguments and be ready to respectfully answer any questions or disagreements.
- Make sure everyone in your group is prepared. Brief everyone attending the meeting and make

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sure they have any written materials to review well ahead of time.

- Be organized. Agree ahead of time the role each participant will take, who discusses what, and in what order participants will speak.
- If you are going as part of a larger coalition, meet ahead of time. It is unwise to have an internal debate or conversation in front of your elected official. Be certain everyone agrees on your group's central message and what you want to ask the legislator to do for you.
- Prepare a packet to leave behind that could include background information, fact sheets, and/or newspaper clippings. Attach your card or contact information to the packet.

## Making the Presentation

- Be on time! Allow extra time to clear security, especially at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and in busy federal office buildings.
- Begin by introducing yourselves.
- Explain to the legislator/staffer why you asked for the meeting.
- Present your concerns simply and directly. Get to your "bottom line" immediately. Be brief, direct, courteous and positive. Presentation of each topic roughly should follow this outline:
  - **Background:** Explain the issue in the simplest possible terms.
  - **Impact:** Explain how the issue directly affects your community or the group you represent.
  - **Recommendation:** Indicate what you would like the policymaker to do.
- Do not fight with the policymaker or staff members. Politely answer questions and concerns, but if you disagree, make your point and move on. Remember, you are meeting with the member or staff person to inform him/her about your positions on issues and encouraging their support.
- If you do not know the answer to a question, say so, and promise to get back with the answer. Be sure to follow up with your answer as quickly as possible after the meeting.
- Make sure you do not do all of the talking! Give

the policymaker opportunities to ask questions or state his or her opinion. Members and staff will appreciate the chance to be heard, and you will learn much more by listening. Also, ask questions.

- Stay away from jargon and acronyms. Remember that the policymaker deals with dozens, if not hundreds, of issues each week, each with its own "language."
- Thank the policymaker if he or she has been supportive. They receive thanks far less than they get criticized. They will appreciate your recognition.
- Be sure to ask for the policymaker's support. If he or she is already very supportive, ask him or her to cosponsor the relevant bill and/or take a leadership role in moving the bill through the process, getting additional cosponsors, or other ways.

## Following-up After the Meeting

- Send a note thanking the member or staff person for meeting with you. Briefly summarize the main points of the meeting.
- Remember to follow up with responses to any questions the member or staff person asked but you could not answer at the time.
- Do not think of the meeting as an isolated event. Think of other ways to maintain the relationship you have initiated.

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## Sample Letter to Your Senator/Representative

[Date]  
The Honorable Josiah Bartlet  
**ATTN: Scheduler**  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Senator Bartlet:

As a (fill in your position/title – i.e. member, pastor, lay leader, etc.) of (fill in your church or organization), I write to urge you to resume work on comprehensive immigration reform legislation as soon as possible.

Congress has failed in its responsibility to show leadership on this issue that affects the entire nation. As a result, state and local authorities are filling the void with piecemeal ordinances, which are difficult to enforce and often deepen divisions in our communities. Our current immigration system continues to reveal serious flaws and must be repaired. Migrants continue to be subject to exploitation, discrimination, and brutal separations from their families.

It is important, however, that any legislation considered contains the multiple elements necessary to solve our immigration crisis. In this regard, any just and humane legislation should include the following components endorsed by the *Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform* campaign:

- Border enforcement and protection initiatives that are consistent with humanitarian values while allowing the authorities to enforce the law and implement American immigration policy;
- Reforms in our family-based immigration system that reduce the waiting time for separated families to be safely reunited and maintain the constitutionally guaranteed rights of birthright citizenship and the ability of immigrants to earn naturalization;
- An opportunity for all immigrant workers and their families already in the U.S. to come out of the shadows and pursue the option of an earned path towards permanent legal status and citizenship upon satisfaction of specific criteria;
- A viable guest worker program that creates legal avenues for workers and their families to enter our country and work in a safe, legal, and orderly manner with their rights and due process fully protected and provides an option for workers to gain permanent status independent of an employer sponsor; and
- A framework to examine and ascertain solutions to the root causes of migration, such as economic disparities between sending and receiving nations.

Legislation that encompasses these elements will help address the problem of illegal immigration to our nation in a fair and pragmatic manner. It also would enhance national security by bringing the large undocumented population “out of the shadows” to identify themselves to the government.

I ask that you support a comprehensive immigration reform bill consistent with these elements and work toward its enactment in the near future. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,  
C. J. Craig  
New Hampshire XXX

## Use Media to Spread the Word!

### 1. Writing a Letter-to-the-Editor or Op-Ed

**Y**our words, stories, and personal experiences regarding immigration issues are the most effective and newsworthy articles.

Start by crafting what you want your main message to be. Papers look for clear, concise, and passionate opinions. Combine your personal stories with tangible facts on how you have seen a particular issue affect the community. Identify who you are, why you are writing, what the issue is, how it affects the community, and what others can do about it. See the sample op-ed on page 23. Feel free to use this as a template to adapt to local events and make your own.

### 2. Planning an Event

**P**lanning an event, rally, or march can draw attention to the immigration issue and create energy for comprehensive immigration reform. Gaining press coverage for your local event is an important part of advancing comprehensive immigration reform. Events should be planned and executed with a goal of catching the media's attention. We have learned three basic rules for planning a media event.

**Frame Your Message.** The CCIR Statement of Shared Principles offers a very clear and unifying message for comprehensive immigration reform. It not only provides vision but also articulates talking points to guide your message for a successful and newsworthy event. Personal testimony from those directly affected by Congress' continued failure to address our broken immigration system is very effective (if deemed safe for those sharing their stories).

**Timing is Everything.** When is the best time to hold your event? We can tell you the worst time. In most cities, unless you are breaking news, the worse time to plan an event is during the evening news hour and when newspaper reporters are usually writing stories. Thus, do not plan an event between 4 and 7 p.m. The best time for a press

conference or news event is from mid-morning to mid-afternoon on weekdays. Give adequate notice to reporters on your media list but do so within seven days of the event. If you only have 24 hours to organize a press event, you diminish your chances for full coverage by numerous news outlets. Plan ahead.

**Keep it Simple.** TV and print photographers will make a decision to cover an event based on the compelling images they are likely to capture. So think visually and plan for an action to be captured on camera. Make sure your event is short, with just the right amount of speakers. A press conference should generally last no longer than 30 minutes. Be creative, keep it simple, and stay on message.

**Conduct Media Research.** Find out what your local media outlets are saying about immigration generally and comprehensive immigration reform in particular. Conduct this research on three fronts: print, radio, and television. A quick and easy way to find lists of media in your city is to go to [Congress.org](http://Congress.org) and type in your zip code under "Browse Media Guide."

After you have identified which outlets you are interested in contacting, go to their Web sites and find out what they have been writing or saying about immigration. How have the issues been covered in the news recently? Have the outlets taken a particular stand on the issue editorially? The more knowledgeable you are, the more credible you are. Back issues of newspapers can be reviewed at their offices, in the library, or at a local college or university library. Your subject matter search should cover the past six months to a year. With this information, you will have a much clearer picture of the news outlet's thoughts on your topic.

**Assemble a List.** The next step is to identify specific reporters, producers, and columnists who cover immigration-related issues for your local news outlets. There are several ways to do this. First, go to their Web site and see which reporters or columnists have written stories, columns, or op-eds on the issue. (Be aware that online newspaper

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archives usually go back only seven days.) Some news Web sites will even list reporters by department. You can also call the newspaper's main switchboard and ask the operator for information about who covers economics, politics, and domestic issues. Once you have names and contact information, use a spreadsheet tool like Microsoft Excel to compile a list. Be sure to include the reporter's name, media outlet, e-mail address, and telephone number.

**Using the List.** Once you have a list compiled, you can use the mail merge feature to send press releases, media advisories, or other information via e-mail. Prepare your document to send, send it, and then follow up with phone calls and/or personal e-mails to a few key reporters. Keep the list updated with current e-mails and telephone numbers and add and remove names as appropriate.

### 3. Writing a Press Advisory

**P**ress advisories should be succinct and be marked clearly with the words "Press Advisory." The first paragraph should include the who, what, where, why, and when of the event. If a speaker is making a presentation, include that information as well. See the sample press advisory on page 24. Feel free to use this as a template to adapt to local events and make your own.

The second paragraph of a press advisory should include a deeper description of the purpose of the event and how it was organized or more detail about the issue. Do not assume the reader will understand the need for a public event. You might want to include a quote from a spokesperson of the organization in charge of the public event. Make it clear and to the point. At the end of the advisory, type "#". Print it on the letterhead of hosting organizations. For more information on working with the media, including samples and writing a longer press release on the day of your event to encourage further coverage, see [http://www.actionforchange.org/launch\\_guide/reaching\\_out.html](http://www.actionforchange.org/launch_guide/reaching_out.html).

# USE MEDIA!

## Sample Op-Ed

### Immigration: A Crisis for the Church

Many of us in the faith community were hopeful that this would be the year Congress would stand up and fix our broken immigration system. Unfortunately, we were wrong. **[In (Home Town/State)],** we are now dealing with the consequences of what this failure means for millions of immigrant families living in fear, and what it means for the church.

Each day we feel this failure on a more intimate level—in our congregations, service ministries, health-care facilities, and schools. We see and hear the suffering of immigrant families who have lost loved ones to death in the desert or have seen family members uprooted from their community and deported back to a country where they no longer have ties. For our immigrant neighbors who desperately hoped for the chance to become forthright members of our society, this failure amounts to growing insecurity—both emotionally, as they feel more alienated from their communities, and economically, as their ability to support their families is increasingly threatened.

**[Concrete example from community.]**

The alienation we see in our communities does not merely have consequences for immigrants. With a growing number of states, and even cities, taking immigration matters into their own hands, the result is growing polarization. Local officials in some areas are responding as much to fears of changing demographics and rapidly growing Latino populations as to the actual consequences of residents with illegal status. In addition to creating a patchwork of laws that are difficult to enforce, these efforts are leading to deepening divisions in our communities, as well as increased fear and distrust. **[You may want to localize this whole paragraph if relevant to your area, or just give a short example here at the end.]**

This is where as the church we see and feel the real impact of the lack of comprehensive immigration reform. The church is both a symbol of welcome and a real-life actor in reaching out to serve “the least of these.” **[You may want to include an example here, too.]** This role reaches its deepest expression when the church facilitates joining brothers and sisters in faith together as one family. As Christian leaders, we most regret how the continued instability of our immigration policy and the vulnerability of immigrants hinders our most important work.

We urge our elected officials to re-engage the immigration reform debate in a civil and respectful manner, mindful not to indiscriminately blame immigrants for our social and economic ills. We ask our policymakers to pursue policies that secure our borders, unite broken families, and uphold the human dignity of each person. We pray that these changes come as soon as possible, because a crisis of immigration policy that results in divided communities and families is also a crisis of the church.

## Sample Press Advisory

(courtesy of the National Immigration Forum)

### *Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform Press Advisory*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact: Name  
[Date] [Phone Number]

#### **The Failure of National Immigration Reform Has Disastrous Local Impacts [State Org] Calls on [Target or “Congress”] Candidates to Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

City, State – Today, [Group] calls on congressional and presidential candidates to address the continued need for comprehensive immigration reform. Congress has failed to pass this important legislation two years in a row because of partisan political games. As a result, state and local officials are moving ahead with a patchwork of ordinances that are difficult to enforce and divide our communities. As we enter election season, Americans across the country [Coloradoans across the state] are demanding that candidates from all parties take a stand to support family unity and economic security by publicly supporting comprehensive immigration reform.

We cannot solve our immigration problems through enforcement alone. Congress must find a realistic way of dealing with the 12 million undocumented immigrants who are currently living and working in this country and give American families the opportunity to be united with immigrant family members in a timely manner. At the same time, Congress must make the changes needed to satisfy the needs of our economy for workers and effectively focus scarce enforcement resources on fighting genuine threats to our country.

“If Washington is listening, they are hearing Americans from every corner of the country and every walk of life [If TARGETS are listening, they are hearing Coloradoans from every corner of the state and every walk of life] calling for a return of comprehensive immigration reform. Our leaders must address the treatment of immigrants who are already here and those who will come in the future. Immigrant workers and families are desperate for real reform. So are decent employers who want a legal workforce and American workers who want a level playing field. And we are tired of partisan posturing and finger pointing. We will not rest until Congress acts on comprehensive immigration reform. We want our leaders to lead, to solve tough problems on a bipartisan basis, and to come up with results, not excuses,” said XXX, spokesperson for [XXX].

Workable comprehensive immigration reform means a combination of components that work together:

- Reform Must Be Comprehensive
- Provide a Path to Citizenship
- Protect Workers
- Reunite Families
- Restore the Rule of Law and Enhance Security
- Promote Citizenship and Civic Participation and Help Local Communities

###



# A Toolkit for Christian Education and Action on RESOURCES Comprehensive Immigration Reform

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**A**s people of faith and advocates, we bear the responsibility to become and remain educated about the situation affecting our immigrant brothers and sisters. The following Web sites and organizations are good resources for credible and current information. Visit them online to learn more about immigration, the latest legislative updates, and what you can do to make a difference.

### **Sojourners**

[www.soj.net](http://www.soj.net)

Our mission is to articulate the biblical call to social justice, inspiring hope and building a movement to transform individuals, communities, the church, and the world. Download Sojourners' free Spanish language discussion guide on immigration at [www.soj.net/index.cfm?action=resources.item&item=070814\\_immigracion\\_form](http://www.soj.net/index.cfm?action=resources.item&item=070814_immigracion_form).

### **Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CCIR)**

[www.soj.net/immigration](http://www.soj.net/immigration)

We represent a coalition of Christian organizations, churches, and leaders from across the theological and political spectrum united in support of comprehensive immigration reform. Despite our differences on other issues, we are working together to see comprehensive immigration reform enacted because we share a set of common moral and theological principles that compel us to love and care for the stranger among us.

### **Justice for Immigrants: The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform**

[www.justiceforimmigrants.com](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.com)

This Web site is hosted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which in cooperation with other Catholic organizations with national networks has launched a campaign to mobilize Catholic institutions, individuals, and other persons of good faith in support of a broad legalization program and comprehensive immigration reform.

### **Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

[www.cirnow.org](http://www.cirnow.org)

The mission and central purpose of the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform is to get progressive, comprehensive immigration reform legislation enacted.

### **National Immigration Forum**

[www.immigrationforum.org](http://www.immigrationforum.org)

The Forum advocates and builds public support for public policies that welcome immigrants and refugees and are fair to and supportive of newcomers to our country. The Forum serves as the lead convener of hundreds of associate organizations and other national groups on a range of immigration policy issues, and has been the driving force behind many immigration policy victories. The Forum also works closely with local advocates and service providers across the country.

### **Religious and Faith-Based Resolutions, Letters, Statements, and Ads in Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

[www.cirnow.org/content/en/religiousresolutions\\_012607.htm](http://www.cirnow.org/content/en/religiousresolutions_012607.htm)

This page, on the Web site of the New American Opportunity Campaign, contains links to give a perspective on the wide variety of faith-based organizations that have called on their members to support comprehensive immigration reform.

### **Essential Workers Immigration Coalition - Letters from our Members on Comprehensive Reform**

[www.ewic.org](http://www.ewic.org)

The Essential Worker Immigration Coalition (EWIC) is a coalition of businesses, trade associations, and other organizations supporting reform of U.S. immigration policy to facilitate a sustainable workforce for the American economy while ensuring our national security and prosperity.

### **Detention Watch Network**

[www.detentionwatchnetwork.org](http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org)

Detention Watch Network focuses on immigration detention issues. They post information pertaining to due process-related concerns in proposed comprehensive reform legislation.