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## **IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE POLICY**

### **THE EPISCOPALCHURCH**

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#### **Office of Government Relations**

Ana G White

Immigration and Refugee Policy Analyst

110 Mayland Ave. NE Suite 309

Washington DC, 20002

Phone: 202-547-7300

Fax: 202-547-4457

#### **Episcopal Migration Ministries**

815 Second Ave New York City, NY 10017

(212) 716-6000 • (800) 334-7626

[emm@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:emm@episcopalchurch.org)

[www.episcopalchurch.org/emm/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/emm/)



## **IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE POLICY**

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### **THE EPISCOPALCHURCH**



Office of Government Relations  
And  
Episcopal Migration Ministries

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH POLICY ON REFUGEES AND IMMIGRATION

### Endorse Fair Refugee/Migration Policy

- Urge the US Government to take actions to alleviate suffering and bring peace and justice to the people Haiti; to extend temporary protected status to Haitians in the U.S. (EC 025/04)
- Oppose fair 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 C033/03).
- Promote policy that Liberians temporarily in the US be granted protected status until circumstances permit their safe return. (GC D023/03).
- Affirm Refugee Rights of Palestinians (GC [B016/00](#))
- Advocate a generous program of refugee admissions. (GC D081/97)
- Support right of women fleeing female genital mutilation to be granted refugee status and asylum in the US.(GC [C017/97](#)).
- Support right of women fleeing female genital mutilation to be granted refugee status and asylum in the US. (GC [C017/97](#)).
- Urge US government to ensure that needy immigrants are not unfairly denied essential services and benefits. (GC A101/97).
- Oppose any policy that encourages school or other public officials to report individuals that they suspect are illegal immigrants (EC 2/95).
- Support redress for wartime relocation of civilians. (GC 85).

## RESOLUTION: A017-2006 "The Alien Among You"

*Resolved*, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church receive "The Alien Among You" in the Blue Book Report of the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns; and, while recognizing the duty and right of a sovereign nation to protect and defend its borders, adopt the following fundamental principles included in "The Alien Among You" as the policy of The Episcopal Church.

- Undocumented aliens should have reasonable opportunity to pursue permanent residency.
- Legal workers should be allowed to enter the United States to respond to recognized labor force needs.
- Close family members should be allowed to reunite without undue delay with individuals lawfully present in the United States.
- Fundamental U.S. principles of legal due process should be granted all persons.
- Enforcement of national borders and immigration policies should be proportional and humane;

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EXC062006.40 Support for US Immigration Reform

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, meeting in Louisville, Kentucky from June 13-16, 2005, concerned about serious flaws in the US immigration system, supports the enactment of legislation which would:

- permit the orderly entry of legal workers to the US to respond to recognized labor force needs;
- ensure that close family members be allowed to enter or be reunited with individuals legally entering the US to accept employment;
- permit undocumented migrants residing in the US at the time of the enactment of legislation to pursue legal residence and eventual citizenship if they are employed or responding to an offer of employment; and
- ensure that migrants working legally in the US be granted the rights and benefits accorded US workers, including the right to change employment.



The Episcopal Church, through the resolutions passed at General Convention and Executive Council, is committed to working to reform an immigration system that separates families, spreads fear and keeps millions living in the shadows.

Episcopalians across the country are welcoming immigrants and see everyday the challenges that they face. Our churches include immigrants and refugees from many corners of the world including Sudan, Korea, Liberia, Vietnam, Haiti, Philippines, Taiwan, and Laos. There are currently 301 Latino/Hispanic congregations among the Episcopal Church's approximately 7,200 congregations. We are blessed by their presence and the many gifts they bring. The Episcopal Church is a forceful advocate for better public policy on behalf of refugees, immigrants, and other at-risk groups. They call us to a compassionate and urgent response to the needs of the uprooted and undocumented, while considering issues of national security and fairness. Our Church is at the forefront of faith-based advocacy for and with refugees and immigrants, seeking to lift the voice of these often vulnerable groups. Comprehensive immigration reform will be good for immigrants, good for our church and other faith communities, and good for our country.

**Join us in our ongoing work!**