



Solidarity with Refugees & Immigrants

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Today, more refugees are fleeing wars and persecutions than ever on record. According to UN data 2015 saw the highest levels of displaced people in history, with 51% of this number being children. Closer to home data for the same year saw an increase in Central American migrants, especially women, children, and families fleeing their homes and attempting to cross the U.S. border due to community-level violence, threats from street gangs, and drug traffickers. The current broken immigration system requires compassion and comprehensive solutions to address this problem.

Missionary Oblates in the United States have a long history of serving immigrant communities. We appreciate the rich contributions immigrants and refugees make as members of church and society. As people of faith, we cannot stand by while immigrant families are separated from loved ones and refugees turned away and not welcomed.

Reflection

Pope Francis, speaking this month to participants in Rome at the *Sixth International Forum on Migration* said it is a “moral imperative” to protect migrant workers. Our shared response would be articulated by four verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate, “In the face of tragedies, which take the lives of so many migrants and refugees – conflicts, persecutions, forms of abuse, violence, death – expressions of empathy and compassion cannot help but spontaneously well-up. “Where is your brother” (Gen 4:9): this question which God asks of man since his origins, involves us, especially today with regard to our brothers and sisters who are migrating: “This is not a question directed to others; it is a question directed *to me, to you, to each of us.*”

TAKE ACTION

On January 27, the Trump administration signed an executive order that would:

- Suspend the refugee resettlement program for 120 days
- Bar the entrance of Syrian refugees indefinitely
- Reduce the number of refugees the U.S. resettles to the lowest number ever
- Prioritize the admittance of certain religious minorities

With some sixty-five million people worldwide displaced from their homes due to war and other forms of violence, the U.S. has a moral responsibility to remain a safe haven for children, women, and men fleeing persecution and possible death.

As a Catholic Priest, Religious Sister, Brother, or Deacon we invite you to sign your name to this statement showing Catholic commitment to refugees and vulnerable migrants. The statement urges our political leaders to broadly support the United States’ refugee resettlement program. Take action, add your name by **March 3, 2017**:

<https://catholicsforimmigrants.org/>

The BRIDGE ACT and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are bills to protect young people brought here as children. Please go to Justice for Immigrants’ website to send an alert: <http://justiceforimmigrants.org/action-alerts/let-support-known-bridge-act/>

Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), a leadership association of men in religious and apostolic institutes in the United States issued a media statement that calls for an immigration policy respectful of places of worship and ministry. View the statement on CMSM’s website. <https://cmsm.org>.