



Immigrant & Refugee Services Committee: Mission in Action

St. John - St. Paul Collaborative

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Overview

- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston
- Top Immigration Issues
- Catholics Respond!

Our History



Archbishop John J. Williams of Boston, began Catholic Charities in **1903**. He envisioned an agency that would provide **assistance and hope** to families in need after witnessing the appalling conditions of Boston's **immigrant** and predominantly Catholic population.

Today, Catholic Charities...

- serves all those who are in need with compassion and dignity; “we don’t ask if you are Catholic”
- welcomes all people regardless of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, immigration status, orientation
- offers 75 distinct programs in 26 locations that help over 185,000 people each year



Immigration Legal Services (ILS)

- Immigration Attorneys; DOJ Accredited Reps
- Affordable, reputable legal consultation and representation
- Comprehensive humanitarian & family-based legal services for immigrants

People Served

- Unaccompanied Children
- Survivors of domestic violence, crime, & human trafficking
- Temporary Protected Status holders
- Families separated from loved ones
- Immigrants who want to become U.S. citizens





Top Immigration Issues

Global Realities

- 3.2% of the GLOBAL population of 7.2 billion are immigrants
- USA is NOT among the top 10 countries of destination for migrants
- 68.5 million people are in need of protection
- 86% of displaced people live in developing countries
- 25.8 million people are designated as refugees
- 51% of refugees are children
- >1% of 25.8 million refugees are resettled in USA



Attack on Families

Administration's policies on various immigration issues = attack on families

Public Charge	Forcible separation at border
Termination of Temporary Protected Status	Refugee Ban
Increased enforcement: detention, removal	Termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Critical Need for Advocacy! Raise Our Voices! Speak Up for Families!

“Public Charge”

Regulation change published on 10/10/18 in Federal Register

SNAP/Food Stamps, Medicare Part D, public housing added to list of benefits that can have negative impact on ability to adjust

Current or projected income of the applicant weighted heavily/negative impact on workers = wealthy people preferred over working people

Not all immigrants affected—refugees, Asylees, domestic violence survivors

Interested in making your voice heard? Submit a comment to the Federal Register **before December 10, 2018**

Temporary Protected Status (TPS)



- TPS: temporary (legal) immigration status granted to eligible nationals of designated countries
- DHS designates countries based on: ongoing armed conflict (e.g. civil war); environmental disaster (e.g. earthquake, hurricane), or an epidemic (e.g. Ebola); or other extraordinary and temporary condition
- TPS **terminated** for: Sudan, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, El Salvador, Nepal
- 10/3/18: **Injunction** by District Court; Administration appealing

Termination of TPS Impact

National Impact

437,000 individuals from 10 countries

Top 3: El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti

270,000 U.S. citizen children of TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras & Haiti

\$967M in costs to businesses in turnover costs

MA Impact

18,180-12,300 est. individuals

El Salvador: 6,058; Haiti: 4,735; Honduras: 834

7,035 U.S. children of TPS holders

TPS holders work in Health Care, Janitorial Services

TPS Termination for Haiti Impact

National Impact	MA Impact
59,000 individuals	4,735 individuals
31,860 U.S. born children	2,557 U.S. born children
81% or 47,790 in labor force	81% or 3,835 work in the Commonwealth
38,320 own a home	2,273 own a home in MA
\$84.9 million in remittances in 2017	\$6.8 million in remittances in 2017

Termination of DACA

Administration terminates DACA on September 5, 2017

Various DREAMER bills in Congress, majority party will not bring any to vote

Legal Challenges: multiple, pending

January 10, 2018: Partial Victory

- NO new applications
- DACA applications for renewal must be accepted

2017 Executive Orders

- January, March 2017
- Border Security, Interior Enforcement, Refugees and Travelers
- EOs are NOT Laws
- Multiple Legal Challenges



Enforcement EOs in Action

Decrease Use of Discretion

- Termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): 800K people
- Termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS): 430K+ people
- Limit access to Asylum

Expand Priorities for Arrest and Detention

- FY17 43% increase in arrests; highest # in 3 years
- 28K+ NON-criminal violators arrested; 300% increase from FY16

Enhanced Enforcement

- Arrests at USCIS offices, ICE check-ins, Courts
- Separation of children from parents at the border



Catholics Respond!

Pope Francis: *"A person's dignity does not depend on them being a citizen, a migrant, or a refugee," "Saving the life of someone fleeing war and poverty is an act of humanity."*

Catholics Respond!

Advocacy

- USCCB Justice For Immigrants network:
<https://justiceforimmigrants.org/take-action/join-us/>
- Join with CCAB on specific issues
- Consider forming sub-committee; speak at local parishes
- Comments in the Federal Register

Accompaniment

- Episcopal City Mission: bear witness, take people to ICE check-ins

Direct Services

- Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR)
- Other ideas?



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