

# Curriculum for Use with Immigration Advocacy Webinar

## Webinar Recording:

- Slides: <http://www.slideshare.net/secret/apfk4vh8WL57P7>
- Recording: <https://vimeo.com/201202650>

This curriculum is designed for use with ages 6<sup>th</sup> grade through adult. You can use it in an adult or youth education forum or a special education and awareness night.

Consider watching the webinar in its entirety before you present it to a group. Due to the density of the content, you might want to stop the webinar at the indicated time stamps to foster conversation along the way. You can also watch the webinar through to the end and tailor the questions to the particular interests of your congregation or the individuals gathered.

Be mindful that immigration and refugee resettlement policies can be personal and may impact individuals directly, causing unexpected and powerful emotions. Consider beforehand how you want to address any pastoral concerns that may arise as well as how you will redirect strong reactions that may dominate a discussion. You may want to ask someone to serve as the chaplain – someone who people can feel free to talk to throughout your time together and someone who is not leading the event.

## How are you called to advocacy for fair immigration and refugee resettlement policies?

*(Beginning of video to 7:32)*

Through our Baptismal Covenant (The Book of Common Prayer, page 304-5) we have promised to “strive for justice and peace” and “respect the dignity of every human being.” The pursuit of a world that more closely reflects God’s dream for it – thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven – is central to basic Christian discipleship and the identity of all who are baptized.

- Why did you feel called to gather for this conversation?
- How does your understanding of the promises made at baptism call you and other Christians to the work of advocating for fair immigration and refugee policies?
- What inspires you to do this work?
- Are there particular passages in the Bible that speak to you?
- Why will you advocate? Why is advocacy an appropriate activity for Christians?

## What are Episcopal Church policies on immigration and refugee resettlement?

*(7:32 to 11:06)*

The Episcopal Church adopts policies on a range of issues related to justice and peace through its triennial General Convention. The Church then lives out these policy positions through a variety of means, including the direct engagement of government officials by the Presiding Bishop and other elected leaders of the Church; the witness of the Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations in Washington and its Office of Global Relations at the United Nations in New York City; the leadership of dioceses and congregations in each of the 16 sovereign nations in which The Episcopal Church is present; and, most fundamentally, through the grassroots witness of individual Episcopalians around the world.

Though the shape and form of our advocacy may vary based on our national or community context, we are united in our understanding that to be a people rooted in mission we must work tirelessly for justice and peace. You can reference current Episcopal policy as passed by General Convention & Executive Council on the EPPN website, Policy for Action, <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/resources>.

- Are you surprised to learn about the breadth and scope of the Episcopal Church's policy positions?
- Do any of the positions surprise you?
- Why are fair immigration and refugee resettlement policies important to you? Is it important to you that the Episcopal Church takes policy positions and engages the work of advocacy?

### **What policies have been enacted via Executive Order that impact immigration and refugee resettlement?**

*(11:06 to 21:20)*

As of February 10, Executive Orders have been issued that impact deportations and enforcement, undocumented youth, asylum protections, sanctuary cities, and refugee resettlement.

Additionally, an Order banning immigration from select predominantly Muslim countries may impact the United States position on religious freedom. While it is too early to assess the full impact of these policies, the Episcopal Church continues to monitor the impact they will have on family unity and human rights.

- Being careful to protect individual confidentiality, have you or someone you know been impacted by these policies?
- How have you felt as Executive Orders have been released?
- What has been your response?

### **How are you called to be involved as an individual?**

*(21:20 to end)*

As seekers of justice, we are called to engage in the public arena. This kind of work takes us beyond the traditional avenues of Christian charity to the work of justice – changing the systems that necessitate charity. In fact, this kind of civic participation is a tool that we can all use in forwarding humane policies at every level of government. View the Faith and Citizenship guide (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/faithcitizenship-updated.pdf>) for ideas about how you can be involved.

- Advocacy is relationship building. Are you comfortable reaching out to elected officials and building a relationship with them as an advocate? Have you done this in the past? What methods have you used? Letter writing, phone calls, emails, face-to-face meetings, advocacy days, social media, etc? What has been your experience with direct advocacy?
- What other relationships do you have in the community that you can call upon? Local business leaders, nonprofit leaders, individual activists, etc.?
- Are you a member of the Episcopal Public Policy Network? If you are, in what ways have you engaged through EPPN?

## **How is your congregation called to be involved?**

*(21:20 to end)*

Episcopal congregations can be a powerful voice for advocacy at the local, state and national level. Whether your congregation has engaged this work in the past or not, engaging in the conversation of these issues may propel your community to act in new or additional ways to ensure just immigration and refugee policies at all levels.

- Has your congregation ever engaged in advocacy activities in the past? What process do you need to have in place to move forward with advocacy as a faith community? Does your vestry or bishop's committee need to take official action?
- Is your congregation called to be involved in the Sanctuary Movement? How could you put a plan in place to discern whether to be involved? If you are not called to engage in this way, what else could your congregation do?
- In what other ways can you raise awareness in your community? Can you sponsor town hall meetings, forums, coalitions, etc?
- What other organizations could your congregation join in partnership with in this work? Local universities, businesses, nonprofits, etc.?

## **Additional Resources**

**Join Episcopal Public Policy Network and Find out more about the Office of Governmental Relations:** <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/home>

**Know Your Rights:** <https://www.informedimmigrant.com/>

### **Resources for Action:**

- Call your to elected officials (sample & number):  
<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/protectsanctuary/>
- Hold a vigil or press event:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eXNsf8rX4CqW1qHCsltIKYciYXwRBV-z2FHB1yXF77k/edit?usp=sharing>
- Report Hate: <https://www.splcenter.org/reporhate>

**Sanctuary Movement:** <http://www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org/>

### **Resources for Learning:**

- Policy for Action (all Episcopal Church policies in English)  
<http://cqrcengage.com/episcopal/file/PocEWf9Lpbq/OGR%20Policy%20for%20Action%202016.pdf> and
- Español:  
<http://cqrcengage.com/episcopal/file/2IVAMz40iOI/OGR%20Policy%20for%20Action%202016-%20Espa%C3%B1ol.pdf>
- Interfaith Immigration Coalition: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/>

### **Organizations to Connect With:**

- United We Dream <http://unitedwedream.org/>
- National Immigration Law Center <https://www.nilc.org/>
- National Farm Worker Ministry <http://nfwm.org/>
- Episcopal Farmworker Ministry <https://episcopalfarmworkerministry.org/>
- PICO National Network <http://www.piconetwork.org/>
- Episcopal Sacred Resistance-Los Angeles on Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1151723051532022/>

### **Take action to support refugees:**

- Sign a petition <http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/do-not-stop-refugee-resettle>
- Call members of Congress <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/supportrefugees/>
- Learn more about refugee resettlement <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/RefugeeAdvocacy>
- Learn more about Episcopal Migration Ministries <http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/>

**Stay in touch:**

- Dianne Aid, immigration advocate & church has declared Sanctuary, Diocese of Olympia wolfofgubbio1@gmail.com
- Episcopal Public Policy Network Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/TheEPPN/> and @TheEPPN

**Social Media:**

#FightForFamilies #RefugeesWelcome #SupportRefugees #NoBanNoWall #AmericanStories