

OTOC Immigration Action Team Next Steps

1. **Legislative Action –Call your unicameral member to**
 - support LB 947—Nebraska professional and commercial licenses for DACA young people and other qualified immigrants—Priority Bill of Sen. Hansen
 - support LB 1032—Transitional Health Insurance Program—Priority Bill of HHS Committee
2. **TPS for Central Americans:** Write or call President Obama, ask him to grant Temporary Protective Status to those fleeing violence in Central American
http://www.immigrantjustice.org/press_releases/TPS-letter-Northern-Triangle
3. **Visit Detainees:** Become a visitor of immigrants and refugees who are detained in the Douglas County Jail on immigration charges. Information about IDAP visitation program is available.
4. **Write an Op ed:** or public pulse celebrating how Nebraska is a welcoming and diverse state, calling for Comprehension Immigration Reform, or asking all our community members to respect the dignity of all - especially refugees and immigrants who are an integral part of our Omaha community
5. Ask your congregation to consider sponsoring a new refugee family coming to Omaha (work with Lutheran Family Services or Refugee Empowerment Center)
6. **Volunteer as an English tutor**, at the Juan Diego pantry, Augustana, REC or Yates Community Center
7. **Write or call the Nebraska elected officials** to let them know you are disappointed about their votes for the SAFE Act this winter
8. Find actions from **your own faith community:**
 - o Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
https://secure2.convio.net/lirs/site/SPageServer/?jsessionid=DA9A9EB4F76BEAE46C6F10CC73C2BE74.app263a?pagename=action_home#.VtBIFfkrKHt
 - o Methodist <http://www.greatplainsumc.org/immigrationresources>
 - o Church World Service <http://cwsrdu.org/advocates/>
 - o Catholic (adapted from- could also be made to be interfaith)
<http://ignatiansolidarity.net/ifam/>

Sample letter to members of Congress

Dear Member of Congress:

We write to you today as members of a Catholic congregation, inspired by Pope Francis's prophetic global leadership.

Pope Francis recently made his first official trip to Mexico, which includes an historic visit to the U.S.- Mexico border. His presence there will highlight the violence, extreme poverty and human rights violations that have forced so many people to flee their homes on a perilous search for safety and freedom abroad. The Pope's visit to the border served to remind the U.S. of the inherent dignity of the 11 million humans living in our country without documentation. These are our neighbors—people who make invaluable contributions to our communities and economy, but who are nonetheless forced to live in the shadows of society. In solidarity with Pope Francis, we ask that you commit to humane policies that respond to the realities of our hemisphere. We urge you to support legislative actions that:

- **Use U.S. influence for good in Mexico and Central America** by insisting on the protection of human rights, accountability, good governance, anti-corruption mechanisms, and fair trade and labor standards;
- Ensure that U.S. policy **respects the right to family unity**, which would mark a major step toward overhauling our broken immigration system;
- **End U.S. support for Mexico's interceptions of Central Americans fleeing violence** and require Mexico to uphold its international and domestic legal obligations to refugees;
- **End border militarization and inhumane immigration enforcement actions**, including the recent nationwide raids conducted by the Obama Administration that have harmed vulnerable children and families.

In the Catholic tradition of serving those in need, we call on you to respond to Pope Francis's historic action by working for migration policies that respect the rights and dignity of both immigrants and refugees.

Your Name and Contact Information you want to include