Call to Action
Welcoming Refugees, Immigrants & All Newcomers

November 15, 2016
Welcome & Agenda

Introduction

Opening Prayer

Greatest Fear & Greatest Hope

Protecting the Refugee Resettlement Program

Threats to Immigrants’ Rights and Taking Action

Story of Welcome & the Syrian Supper Club

Q&A and Wrap-up
Presenters

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea
Director, Refugee & Immigration Ministries
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Noel Andersen
National Grassroots Coordinator
Immigration and Refugee Program, Church World Service

Jen Smyers
Director of Policy and Advocacy
Immigration and Refugee Program, Church World Service

Rev. Dr. Ronald Degges
President, Disciples Home Missions

Bhuwan Pyakurel
Leader & Community Organizer in Bhutanese community, Columbus, OH

Kate McCaffrey,
Associate Professor of Anthropology at Montclair State University
Opening Prayer

“You shall not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor.” (Leviticus 19:16)
Fears of Loss, Hopes for Light

“Anthem” by Leonard Cohen

The birds they sang at the break of day
Start again I heard them say
Don't dwell on what has passed away
or what is yet to be.
Ah the wars they will be fought again
The holy dove--She will be caught again
bought and sold and bought again
the dove is never free.
Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.
Ring the bells that still can ring ...
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48AJBXs5dNc&sns=em

- What loss do you fear most?
- What light to build/bells to ring do you most hope for??

Refugees Welcome
Potential Threats to Refugee Resettlement & Refugee Rights

- Shutting down or temporarily pausing resettlement program
- Drastically reducing numbers of resettled refugees
- Not resettling refugees due to their religion, country of origin
- Burdensome requirements to hinder program
- Allowing communities to “veto” resettling refugees
- Cutting funding
- Mandating registration for refugees, Muslims
- Anti-refugee bills in U.S. Congress, state legislature, localities
- Hate crimes, abuse, discrimination, increased fear
Potential Threats to Immigrants’ Rights

- Drastically increase deportations and raids in homes and places of employment
- Stop the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program
- Stop processing visas for certain individuals based on religion or nationality
- Force local police to serve as immigration enforcement officers
- Militarize U.S. borders, resulting in more deaths in the desert and more human rights abuses by border patrol officials
- Deny life-saving protection to refugees fleeing Central America and turn them back to situations of exploitation and violence
What can we do?

• Immediately make your voices heard to your local, state and national elected leaders: I SUPPORT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT 1-866-940-2439 & www.usa.gov/elected-officials
• Communicate that you will stand with immigrants and refugees through upcoming challenges
• Create spaces of healing and strategizing
• Educate communities about their rights
• Report hate crimes: www.splcenter.org/report hate
• Respond in solidarity to hate: facebook.com/filmsforaction/videos/10154000910775983/
• Reach out to local, state and national policy makers NOW to let them know that refugee resettlement is a priority for you and your community, and that you’re looking to them to defend it against attacks. Ask them to declare that your community is a welcoming community.
Organizing to Protect Immigrant & Refugee Rights

• Come together and build a team with refugees, volunteers, staff, faith groups, other organizations, allies, etc. to strategize
  • Reach out to conservative groups and individuals who can demonstrate support for resettlement and urge policy makers on all levels to defend the program against attacks
  • Prepare your network to take prophetic actions, including civil disobedience, by reflecting on the need and strategic use of civil disobedience.

“If a law is unjust, a man is not only right to disobey it, he is obligated to do so.” — Thomas Jefferson
Resources

• Lift up Welcome for Refugees
  • Host a welcome dinner www.refugeesarewelcome.org
  • Invite a refugee to share their story during a worship service
  • Send us ways that your community is welcoming refugees
    www.interfaithimmigration.org/2015/12/03/welcoming-refugees-state-by-state-resources/

• Know Your Rights
  • nationalimmigrationproject.org/tools.html
  • unitedwedream.org/thank-deportation-defense-card-handy-phone

• Sanctuary Movement
  • sanctuarynotdeportation.org

• Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
  • unitedwedream.org
  • www.nilc.org/issues/daca
The Sanctuary Movement in a New Political Reality
Sanctuary as part of our faith tradition

• You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”
  -Psalm 91:1-2

• As the faith community, we are called to accompany our community members, congregants and neighbors facing deportation.
Sanctuary Movement 2014-2016

• Since the 1980’s, the Sanctuary Movement has taken up the call to welcome the stranger by providing safe haven to immigrants and refugees in need. Since 2014, 13 churches in 9 cities have provided Sanctuary to 15 individuals seeking to remain in their communities. This new campaign has mobilized 400 congregations to stop deportations calls on all congregations to open their doors and provide refuge for immigrants who are singled out for deportation. Congregations also welcome anyone who has been victimized by discrimination or hate crimes into these sacred safe spaces to bring the community together around love, respect and dignity for all.
Hilda Wins Her Case
Shift in Strategy

• Open congregations doors to vulnerable communities being targeted by administration
• Work to protect Prosecutorial Discretion and Sensitive Locations so that we can still win cases- this remains a question about next administration.
• Defend DACA, push back against border wall or mandatory minimums for unlawful reentry
• Working with evangelicals on outreach to the administration
Expanding Sanctuary

- Faith communities are also supporting those willing to answer the call to provide sanctuary at schools, hospitals, college campuses, community centers and family homes. At this press conference faith leaders commit to work with partner immigrants rights organizations to create sacred space of sanctuary wherever it is needed.
- Working with partners like Cosecha Movement, Showing Up for Racial Justice and PICO
KYR & Protection Network Model

- The **purpose** of a Protection Network is a mutual aid support network whose members unite to support one another to have a family and community plan of action in case of a raid, detention and/or deportation.
  - **Power of Attorney Forms/Action Plan**
  - **Trainings**
  - **Pro-bono legal support**
  - **Rapid Response System**
  - **Visitations & Letter-writing**
  - **Defense Fund**
  - **Advocacy & Community Organizing**
Legal Questions

• Everyone always wants to know - are we breaking the law? Law is a lot like scripture - its up to your interpretation.
• If its transparent and ICE knows about it, then no one is being concealed, so is it harboring?
• Field experience: No congregation has been prosecuted
Bhuwan Pyakurel

Leader in the Bhutanese community and organizer in the refugee community to help with community organizing efforts of Columbus, Ohio.
Refugee Leaders Mobilize Community to Vote in Ohio 2016 Election
Faith Communities Welcome

“Syrian Supper Club” in Montclair, N.J.

See story aired by CNN at:

Building relationships, resisting rhetoric, growing hope, living faith
Faith Community Resources

FY2016 Reception and Placement Program Affiliate Sites
December, 2015

Refugees Welcome

INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION COALITION
Faith Community Resources

Refugee Resettlement Offices Around US:

Refugees Welcome Resources:  www.refugeesarewelcome.org

Refugee Council USA Updated Congressional Toolkit:
http://www.rcusa.org/blog/updated-2016-rcusa-local-congressional-visit-toolkit-focus-on-november-december-actions

Know Your Rights: nationalimmigrationproject.org/tools.html  &  unitedwedream.org/thank-deportation-defense-card-handy-phone

Sanctuary Movement: sanctuarynotdeportation.org

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: unitedwedream.org  &  www.nilc.org/issues/daca

Faith Community Resettlement Support:
Contact your denominational representatives, and local offices!
African American Ministers in Action: Leslie Malachi, lmalachi@pfaw.org
American Baptist Home Mission Societies of the American Baptist Churches, USA: Brenda Halliburton, brenda.halliburton@abhms.org
American Friends Service Committee: Kathryn Johnson, kjohnson@afsc.org
American Jewish Committee: Richard Foltin, foltinr@ajc.org
Bread for the World Institute: Marco Grimaldo, mgrimaldo@bread.org
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Sharon Stanley, sstanley@dhm.disciples.org
Christian Reformed Church: Kelsey Herbert, kherbert@crcna.org
Church of the Brethren: Nate Hosler, nhosler@brethren.org
Church World Service: Jen Smyers, jsmyers@cwsglobal.org
CLINIC: Michelle Sardone, msardone@cliniclegal.org
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach: Rebecca Eastwood, reastwood@columban.org
Conference of Major Superiors of Men: Eli McCarthy, emccarthy@cmsm.org
Daughters of Charity: Mary Ellen Lacy, maryellen.lacy@doc.org
Episcopal Church: Lacy Broemel, lbroemel@episcopalchurch.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Alaide Vilchis Ibarra, Alaide.Ibarra@elca.org
Franciscan Action Network: Marie Lucey, lucey@franciscanaction.org
Friends Committee on National Legislation: Hannah Evans, hannah@fcnl.org
HIAS: Liza Lieberman, liza.lieberman@hias.org
Ignatian Solidarity Network: Christopher Kerr, ckkerr@ignatiansolidarity.net
Interfaith Worker Justice: Laura Barrett Ibarrett@iwj.org
Irish Apostolate USA: Marie Prefontaine, coordinator@usairish.org
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the U.S.: Kristen Lionetti, klionetti@jesuits.org
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA: Guilia McPherson, gmperson@jesuits.org
Jewish Council for Public Affairs: Krissy Roth, kroth@thejcpa.org

Leadership Conference of Women Religious: Anscholz, SSND ascholz@lcwr.org
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service: McKayla Eskilson, meskilson@lirs.org
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns: Judy Coode, jcoode@maryknoll.org
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.: Tammy Alexander, TammyAlexander@mcc.org
Muslim Public Affairs Council: Hoda Elshishtawy, hoda@mpac.org
Sisters of the Good Shepherd: Larry Couch, lclobbyist@gsadvocacy.org
National Council of Churches: Russell Meyer, rmeyer@floridachurches.org
National Council of Jewish Women: Faith Fried, Faith@ncjwdc.org
National Justice for Our Neighbors: Rob Rutland-Brown, rob@njfon.org
NETWORK Lobby: Laura Peralta-Schulte, LPeralta@networklobby.org
Pax Christi: Anne-Louise Nadeau, anadeau@paxchristiusa.org
PICO: Rich Morales rmorales@piconetwork.org
Presbyterian Church, USA: Teresa Waggener, Terresa.Waggener@pcusa.org
Scalibrinian International Migration Network/Center for Migration Studies: Kevin Appleby, kappleby@cmsny.org
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas: Jean Stokan, jstokan@sistersofmercy.org
Sojourners: Michael Mershon mmershon@sojo.net
T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights: Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, rkahntroster@truah.org
Union for Reform Judaism: Shelby Friedman, sefriedman@rac.org
Unitarian Universalist Association: Susan Leslie, SLeslie@uua.org
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: Hannah Hafter, hhafter@uusc.org
United Church of Christ: Jason Carson Wilson, wilsonj@ucc.org
United Methodist Church: Jeania Ree Moore, jmoore@umc-gbcs.org
UNITED SIKHS: Anisha Singh, anisha.singh@unitedsikhs.org
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: Todd Scribner, tscribner@usccb.org
World Relief: Jenny Hwang, jhwang@worldrelief.org
Questions?
African American Ministers in Action: Leslie Malachi, lmalachi@pfaw.org
American Baptist Home Mission Societies of the American Baptist Churches, USA: Brenda Halliburton, brenda.halliburton@abhms.org
American Friends Service Committee: Kathryn Johnson, kjohnson@afsc.org
American Jewish Committee: Richard Foltin, foltinr@ajc.org
Bread for the World Institute: Marco Grimaldo, mgrimaldo@bread.org
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Sharon Stanley, sstanley@dcm.disciples.org
Christian Reformed Church: Kelsey Herbert, kherbert@crcna.org
Church of the Brethren: Nate Hosler, nhosler@brethren.org
Church World Service: Jen Smyers, jsmyers@cwsglobal.org
CLINIC: Michelle Sardone, msardone@cliniclegal.org
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach: Rebecca Eastwood, reastwood@columban.org
Conference of Major Superiors of Men: Eli McCarthy, emccarthy@cmsm.org
Daughters of Charity: Mary Ellen Lacy, maryellen.lacy@doc.org
Episcopal Church: Lacy Broemel, lbroemel@episcopalchurch.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Alaide Vilchis Ibarra, aibarra@elca.org
Franciscan Action Network: Marie Lucey, lucey@franciscanaction.org
Friends Committee on National Legislation: Hannah Evans, hannah@fcnl.org
HIAS: Liza Lieberman, liza.lieberman@hias.org
Ignatian Solidarity Network: Christopher Kerr, cker@ignatiansolidarity.net
Interfaith Worker Justice: Laura Barrett Ibarrett@iwj.org
Irish Apostolate USA: Marie Prefontaine, coordinator@usairish.org
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the U.S.: Kristen Lionetti, klionetti@jesuits.org
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA: Guilia McPherson, gmchperson@jesuits.org
Jewish Council for Public Affairs: Krissy Roth, kroth@thejcpa.org
Leadership Conference of Women Religious: Ann Scholz, SSND ascholz@lcwr.org
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service: McKayla Eskilson, meskilson@lirs.org
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns: Judy Coode, jcoode@maryknoll.org
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.: Tammy Alexander, TammyAlexander@mcc.org
Muslim Public Affairs Council: Hoda Elshishtawy, hoda@mpac.org
Sisters of the Good Shepherd: Larry Couch, lclobbyist@gsadvocacy.org
National Council of Churches: Russell Meyer, rmeyer@floridachurches.org
National Council of Jewish Women: Faith Fried, Faith@ncjwdc.org
National Justice for Our Neighbors: Rob Rutland-Brown, rob@njfon.org
NETWORK Lobby: Laura Peralta-Schulte, LPeralta@networklobby.org
Pax Christi: Anne-Louise Nadeau, anadeau@paxchristiusa.org
PICO: Rich Morales rmorales@piconetwork.org
Presbyterian Church, USA: Teresa Waggener, Teresa.Waggener@pcusa.org
Scalabrinian International Migration Network/Center for Migration Studies: Kevin Appleby, kappleby@cmsny.org
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas: Jean Stokan, jstokan@sistersofmercy.org
Sojourners: Michael Mershon mmershon@sojo.net
T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights: Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, rkahntroster@truah.org
Union for Reform Judaism: Shelby Friedman, sefriedman@rac.org
Unitarian Universalist Association: Susan Leslie, SLeslie@uua.org
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: Hannah Hafter, hhafter@uusc.org
United Church of Christ: Jason Carson Wilson, wilsonj@ucc.org
United Methodist Church: Jeania Ree Moore, jmoore@umc-gbcs.org
UNITED SIKHS: Anisha Singh, anisha.singh@unitedsikhs.org
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: Todd Scribner, tscribner@usccb.org
World Relief: Jenny Hwang, jhwang@worldrelief.org