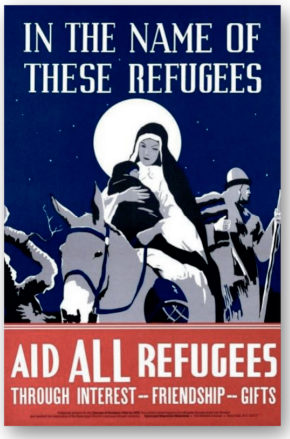
Episcopal Church Policy

on Immigration and Refugee Issues



The Episcopal Church has been actively concerned with the rights of refugees and migrants since the United States opened its borders to the first waves of immigrants from war-torn countries in the 1930s. Episcopal Migration Ministries traces its origin to this time, when the Episcopal Church began to advocate for migrants and to raise money to purchase steamship passage for refugees fleeing Nazi Europe.



In the decades since, the Episcopal Church has been involved in direct service, community organizing, and public policy advocacy for the rights of voluntary migrants and immigrants, as well as forcibly displaced refugees, asylum seekers, and other populations. To learn more about the Church's direct service work through Episcopal Migration Ministries, please visit www.episcopalmigrationministries.org.

The Episcopal Church's public policy positions are determined through resolutions of the governing bodies of the Church: the General Convention and the Executive Council.

These resolutions are informed by the local ministry and advocacy priorities of dioceses, congregations, and their members, and can be categorized into thematic groups:

- Upholding international human rights law for migrants and displaced persons
- Upholding refugee and asylum law for individuals seeking protection
- Upholding family unity in immigration and refugee policy
- Support for comprehensive immigration reform in the United States
- Support for humane alternatives to immigrant detention
- Support for individuals fleeing specific conflicts
- Supporting Episcopal Migration Ministries' refugee resettlement and asylum programs, as well as its church engagement work to network migration ministries across the Church, and to educate and inspire local congregations to welcome newcomers

"God has called us as Christians to love and serve one another. Sometimes we have to step out of our comfort zone to do that, but with God's help we can do it.

The St. Matthews/St. Andrews Partnership, to me, is like a reflection of God's plans for us. We care about love, and support each other. And that opens us up to join in the voice, heart, and spirit of all who demand to live with respect, justice, and peace, in order to contribute to making this world a better place for all."

- Marta Humphreys, St. Andrew's Pentecost Church on Community Sponsorship

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Mt.25:35)

"Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"

"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

"I will, with God's help."

(Book of Common Prayer, p.305)





"The refugee program gave me the opportunity to resettle in the US with my son Edelbys, where from the beginning we were supported by the very professional assistance of EMM. Like everything in life, the process is challenging, but we are making progress, we have hope, and we feel free. Our ideas and our human rights are respected no matter what our political views are.

The refugee program and EMM's support have fundamentally changed and improved our lives. It has also helped us understand and value the real possibilities and the respect for freedom that exist in this great country."

- Eduardo Jesus Veliz Fernandez
Country of Origin: Cuba



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The work of the Presiding Bishop's staff, including The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations in Washington, D.C., and Episcopal Migration Ministries, is informed, undergirded, and supported by General Convention and Executive Council resolutions. Many dioceses and congregations derive their own policies and ministry priorities from these resolutions.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER LEARNING ABOUT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S MIGRATION POLICY POSITIONS:

- Office of Government Relations: Migration, Refugees, & Immigration https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/migration-refugees-immigration/
- Summary: Episcopal Church Policy on Immigration and Refugee Issues https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr/summary-episcopal-church-policy-on-immigration-and-refugee-issues/
- Archives of The Episcopal Church Research Report: Policy Advocacy for Immigrants and Refugees https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/07/ogr_immigration_and_refugees_policy_advocacy_archives.pdf
- Archives of The Episcopal Church Research Report: Policy Advocacy for Families and Young People https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/07/ogr_immigration_and_youth_policy_advocacy_archives.pdf
- Advocating for Refugee Protection and Resettlement https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/07/ogr_advocacy_refugee_and_immigration_overview.pdf

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Advocate

Become a member of the Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN), a grassroots network of Episcopalians across the country dedicated to carrying out the Baptismal Covenant call to "strive for justice and peace" through the active ministry of public policy advocacy. Facilitated by the Office of Government Relations, this network helps influence the development of legislation and policy of the U.S. federal government on critical issues.

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/eppn-sign-up/

Become a Community Sponsor

The ministry of community sponsorship invites congregations and community groups to welcome their new neighbors (refugees or asylum seekers) by offering housing, basic needs support, and friendship as they rebuild their lives in the United States. Community sponsorship opportunities are available through EMM's local resettlement affiliates, as well as through EMM's Neighbor to Neighbor program.

Visit https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/neighbortoneighbor/ to learn more.

Give

Show your support for our newest neighbors and make a gift to Episcopal Migration Ministries. Every gift ensures refugees resettled through EMM are given a solid foundation to begin again in safety and hope.

Visit www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/give to make your donation today.