

A Call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

A Statement for Human Dignity

by the Global Justice & Peace Commission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Milwaukee Province

**“The strangers
who sojourn with
you shall be to
you as the natives
among you,
and you shall love
them as yourself;
for you were
strangers in the
land of Egypt.”**

– *Leviticus 19:34*

In 1847, our fledgling German congregation sent sisters to the United States to serve German immigrants. Today in our various ministries, we witness firsthand the effects our inadequate, broken, and often cruel immigration system has on our nation’s diverse immigrant communities. Current raids of workplaces and indiscriminate arrests with little regard for human rights, family integrity, or due process of law are unacceptable.

How we treat our immigrants is a moral issue. It is paramount that our legislation and policies reflect a commitment to human dignity as well as our nation’s on-going commitment to upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all other relevant international treaties and protocols. Therefore, in union with the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform—*Justice for Immigrants* and the National Interfaith Immigration Coalition, we call upon our elected leaders to enact comprehensive immigration reform which:

- Establishes family unity as a priority of all immigration policies.

- Creates a process for undocumented immigrants to earn their legal status and eventual citizenship.
- Reforms employment-based immigration, so that workers can enter the United States and work in a safe, controlled, and humane manner.
- Aligns the enforcement of immigration laws with humanitarian values and reforms detention policies to conform to international law.
- Restores due process protections.
- Reforms the asylum system to uphold our nation’s long-held commitment to provide protection for those fleeing persecution.
- Promotes trade and aid policies which help address the root causes of migration.

As faith-based leaders, we School Sisters of Notre Dame, along with our Associates, and staff “. . . work actively . . . to eliminate the root causes of injustice in order to realize a world of peace, justice, and love.”

– *You Are Sent*, Constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, #17

Accordingly,

- We pray and advocate for a just immigration system, one that facilitates legal status and family unity.
- We recognize that “To confront injustice credibly requires that we ourselves act justly. We strive to live simply, to value human labor rightly, and to respect the dignity of every person, witnessing that living these values is a possibility for humanity.”
– *You Are Sent*, #17
- We serve our immigrant brothers and sisters, remembering Jesus calls us to “welcome the stranger,” for “what you do to the least of mine, you do to me.”
– *Matthew 25:35-40*
- We call attention to the moral dimensions of public policy and actively pursue policies that uphold the human dignity of each person, all of whom are made in the image of God.



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