

Sanctuary Not Deportation: A Faithful Witness to Building Welcoming Communities

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.*

Table of Contents

Sanctuary Movement and the Immigrants' Rights Movement....	Page 2
What is Sanctuary?.....	Page 2-3
<i>An Ancient Tradition of Faith Communities/ The Sanctuary Movement in the 1980s / Sacred Texts / Current Day Sanctuary Movement</i>	
Goals and Strategy.....	Page 4
Talking Points and Messaging	Page 4-5
Who is Seeking Sanctuary?.....	Page 5
How do we "Declare Sanctuary?"	Page 6-7
<i>Joint Public Declaration of Sanctuary</i>	
Advocacy.....	Page 7
Leadership of those in Sanctuary.....	Page 7
What are the logistics of Sanctuary?.....	Page 8-9
<i>Living Arrangements/ Legal Questions / Community Support/ Training other Congregations</i>	
Communications.....	Page 9-11
<i>Sample Press Advisory / Sample Op-Ed / Social Media</i>	



Sanctuary Movement and the Immigrants' Rights Movement

People of faith from all traditions called on Congress to pass immigration reform, yet Congress failed to move forward on meaningful legislation. Meanwhile, the deportation machinery grew stronger becoming more advanced under the Obama Administration, with an alarming rate of more than 1,100 people being deported every day, totaling nearly 2.5 million deportations over under this administration. The organizing efforts of undocumented youth in 2012 pushed the administration to create the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has allowed close to a million DREAMers to travel and work legally.

In 2014 a resurgence of the Sanctuary Movement began out of need in the community to stop deportations at a case-by-case level. In May of 2014 Daniel Neyoy Ruiz took Sanctuary in Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson Arizona, the same church that helped nearly fifteen thousand political refugees escape the tragic civil wars in Central America during the 1980s. Daniel won a stay of removal after 27 days of living in Sanctuary. As this spread through the media at a time when President Obama was delaying Executive Actions on immigration, many more immigrants facing a deportation order looked to congregations in their region to take refuge and fight to keep their families together. Over the next years more than a dozen people came forward to take refuge in Sanctuary, the majority were able to win a stay of removal or an order of supervision within several months, but the Immigration Customs Enforcement delayed justice on many occasions such as with Rosa Robles-Loreto who only found victory after 461 days of Sanctuary. Some left the church with a written promise from ICE they would not be deported, but they continue to fight their case to gain some sort of relief from deportation.

This resurgence of the Sanctuary Movement has created a platform to raise up the prophetic and moral witness while at the same time lifting up the stories of those leaders who are brave enough to speak out against the injustice of deportation. This surly brought significantly increased public pressure on the Obama Administration to announce the President's Executive Action on Immigration on November 20th, 2014.

The Sanctuary Movement has been very important in responding a reported plan that the Obama administration will start targeting asylum seekers from Central America for deportation if they have not won their case. These families are fleeing intense violence and persecution and if they're deported they could very likely meet death upon their return.

As people of faith we have a moral responsibility to act. Along with partner organizations people of faith have been advocating to stop individual deportations in our community. Sanctuary is a tool that helps escalate these efforts by offering our neighbors who face a deportation order safe refuge and sanctuary in our congregations.

What is Sanctuary?

An Ancient Tradition of Faith Communities

Sanctuary is one of the most ancient traditions that we have as a people of faith. The ancient Hebrew people had allowed temples and even whole cities to declare themselves places of refuge for persons



accused of a crime, a practice that allowed those wrongfully accused to escape swift and harsh retribution until the matter could be resolved. In the late Roman Empire fugitives could find refuge in the precincts of Christian churches. Later, during the medieval period churches in England were recognized sanctuaries, offering safe haven for a temporary period to accused wrong doers. In the United States the first practical provision of anything like sanctuary occurred in the years before the Civil War. The Underground Railroad came into being to help slaves flee the South and find safety in many congregations throughout the country.

The Sanctuary Movement in the 1980s

When refugees from the Civil Wars in Central America began to flee to the United States in the 1980's, the U.S. government did not recognize them as political refugees. Many were deported and received by death squads upon their return. From this dire injustice, the Sanctuary Movement was born. It peaked with over 500 congregations establishing an underground railroad whereby refugees move through the United States to safe houses and safe congregations. Many clergy in the Tucson area were indicted and eventually acquitted for their involvement in assisting Central American refugees. The Sanctuary Movement sought to remind the United States government of its own asylum and refugee laws, which they were not following when it came to the refugees of Central America.

Sacred Texts

- God calls people of faith to remember that they once were strangers in a strange land and they must, must welcome the stranger as an expression of covenant faithfulness (Leviticus 19:33-34)
- We must "learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:17)
- We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27)

LINKS on Sanctuary Movement of the 1980s

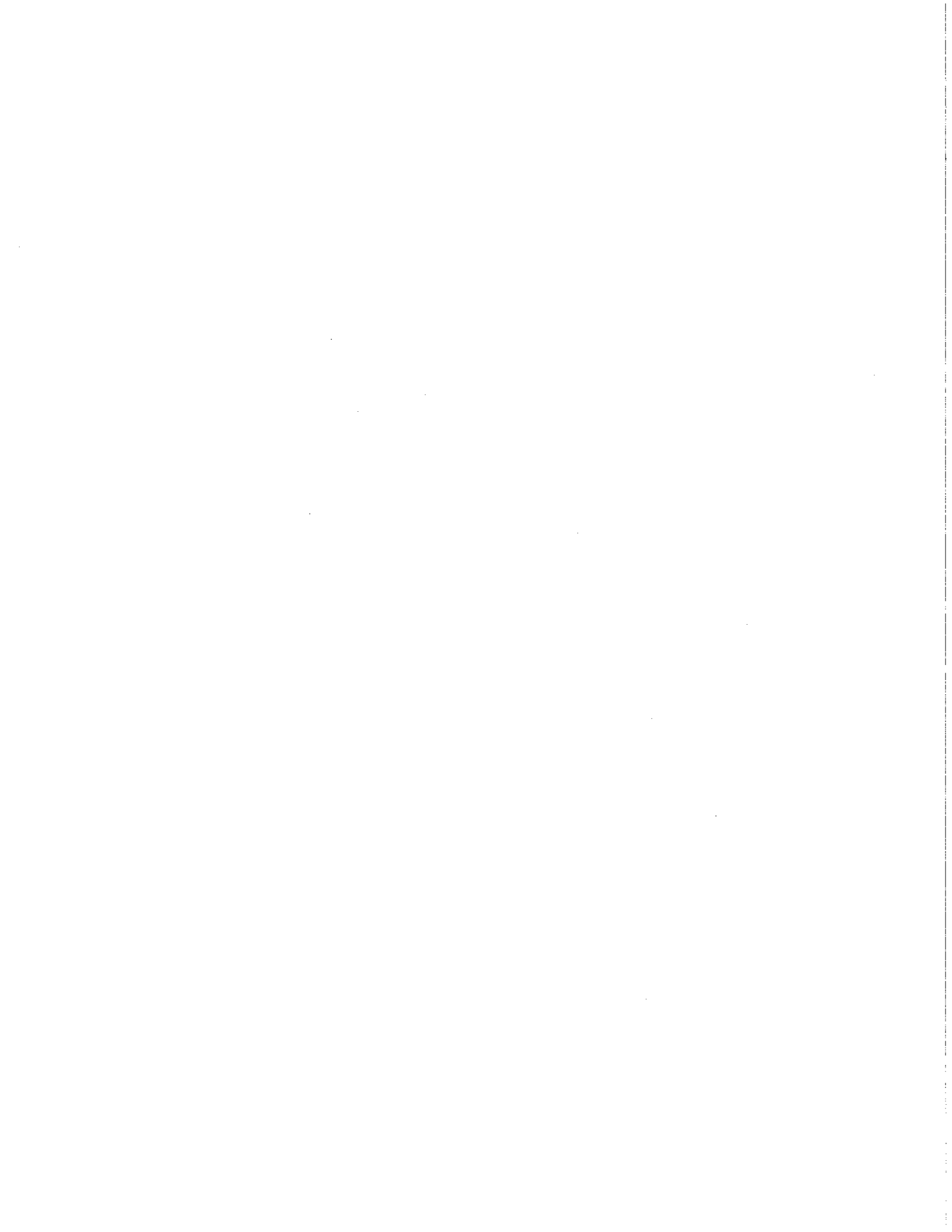
[The Public Sanctuary Movement: An Historical Basis of Hope](#) by Eileen Purcell

[The Origins of a Political Trial: The Sanctuary Movement and Political Justice](#) by Sophie H. Pririe

Current Day Sanctuary Movement

Drawing on this tradition, communities of faith have once again seen the need to declare Sanctuary for immigrants as the rise of deportations continues to separate families. In the 1980's we were compelled by the call to welcome the stranger, as we opened our doors to newly arriving refugees. Now we are moved by the call to love our neighbors as ourselves, as those who are entering into Sanctuary are most often long term members of our communities - our neighbors.

In 2007, an initiative known as the New Sanctuary Movement took shape with coalitions of congregations in major cities throughout the country. As work place and neighborhood raids escalated, these congregations opened their doors to provide refuge to those facing deportation. See [NSM toolkit here](http://imirj.org/new-sanctuary-movement-toolkit-for-congregations/) (<http://imirj.org/new-sanctuary-movement-toolkit-for-congregations/>).



Today, we are in a different political reality. Because of the Morton Memo and Prosecutorial Discretion in 2011 and President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration in 2014 we have stopped thousands of deportations through case-by-case advocacy. Those entering sanctuary are eligible for Prosecutorial Discretion, but local ICE field offices have been very reluctant to offer this relief from deportations in which the community has had to engage in public advocacy to win stays of removal or an order of supervision and in most cases. There is a substantial gap between the guidelines for priorities of prosecutorial discretion defined by the President's Executive Actions policies and the implementation of those guidelines by Immigration Customs Enforcement.

Executive Actions on Immigration

After countless actions, vigils, prayer services and even civil disobedience as a prophetic witness the Obama Administration set forth the Executive Actions on Immigration on November 20th, 2014 that would benefit 5 million undocumented people. This was a huge victory for the immigrants' rights movement. As expected, our opponents hit back hard attacking the President's announcement, attempting to move legislation against Executive Action (which failed to pass) and 26 Republican Governors filed a lawsuit in Texas. The judges ruled according to partisan lines and enjoined the Executive Actions that would expand Deferred Action. The case was appealed to the 5th Circuit Court which kept the injunction in place and is now being appealed to the Supreme Court.

New guidelines for Prosecutorial Discretion

Expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA+)

Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA)

Central American Humanitarian Crisis

In the summer of 2014, an influx of unaccompanied children and families fleeing gang violence in Central America's Northern Triangle began presenting themselves at the U.S.- Mexico border seeking asylum. Many of these children and families who have lost their asylum cases because they were unable to find legal counsel or due to "rocket docket" that are meant to expedite trials but in reality deny due process. These children and families should have the opportunity to appeal their case with adequate representation.

The overall deportation numbers of fiscal year 2015 was 235, 413 significantly lower than the 2012 all time high of 409, 849 as a result from Executive Action. However, the Obama administration seems to have made the political calculation they need to get their quotas up and have chosen to target Central American asylum-seeking families for deportation. This is why Sanctuary is particularly important to lift up the stories of the families and provide safe refuge from deportation.

Sanctuary Goals and Strategy

Immediate Local Goal: As the faith community, we are called to accompany our community members, congregants and neighbors facing deportation. By offering sanctuary we can fight individual cases, advocate to stop deportations, and win deferred action at a case-by-case level to keep families together.

The National Goal: Amplify the moral imperative to stop deportations by lifting up the stories of sanctuary cases and ensuring the prophetic witness of the immigrant taking sanctuary is heard at the national level.

Contribute to advocacy strategy with Immigration Customs Enforcement and Department of Homeland Security officials to better the implementation of prosecutorial discretion guidelines thereby reducing deportations.

Influence the administration to stop their plan to target and deport Central American families seeking asylum.

Highlighting the stories of those in Sanctuary to push back against unjust enforcement policies such as the Priority Enforcement Program or 287 g in the jails.

Continue to pressure elected officials to offer legal status and a pathway to citizenship to the 11 million immigrants that are already in this U.S. and create a viable path for new arrivals.

Talking Points/ Messaging

General Talking Points:

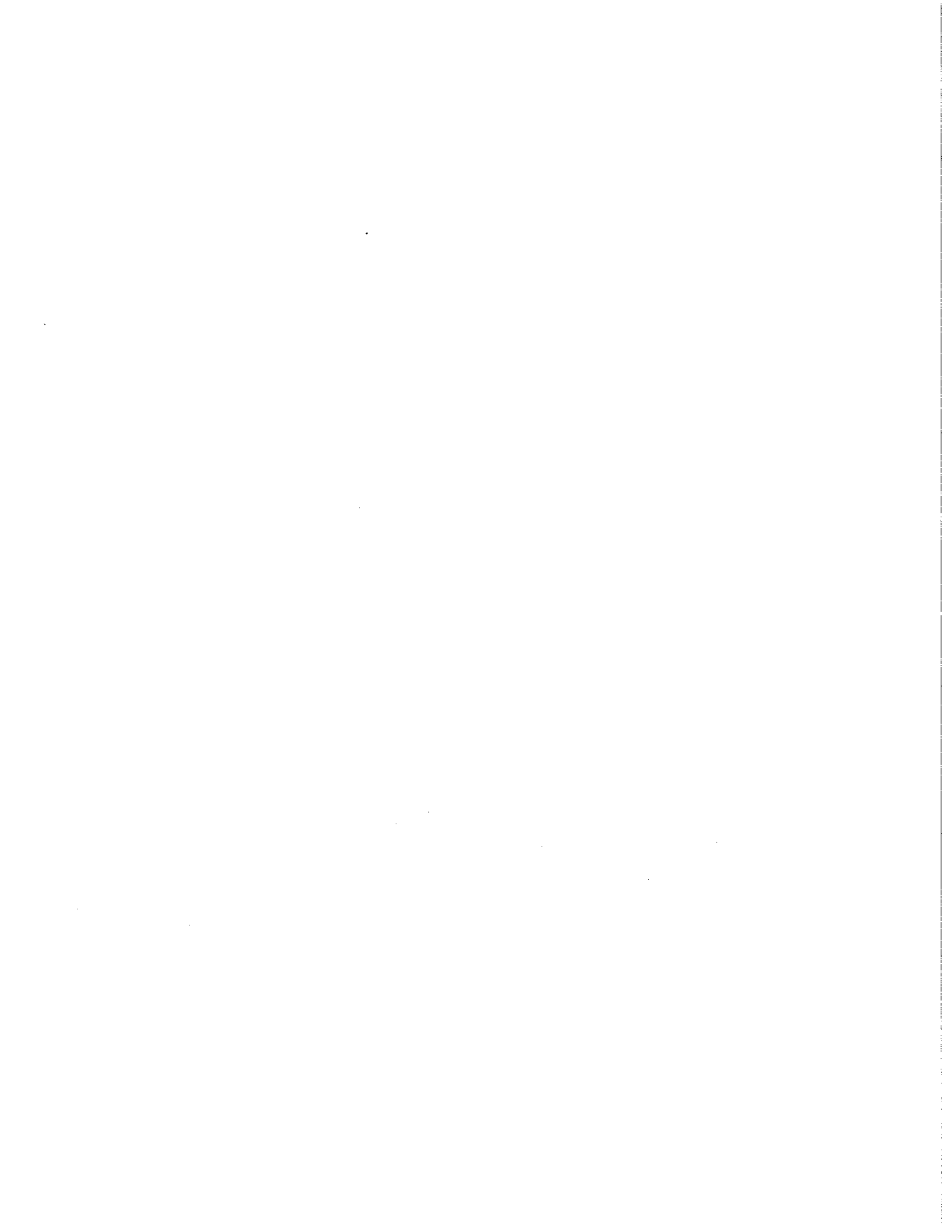
- As the faith community, we are doing what Congress has refused to do: protect immigrant families from an immigration system that is separating families and deporting people who are woven into the fabric of their communities and congregations.
- We are witnessing the rebirth of the sanctuary movement in the US. We are seeing a widespread and growing commitment by faith communities to provide sanctuary to moms and dads and others in need of protection. (See updated numbers here)
- With DACA and DAPA being held up in courts for over a year millions of people who should get deferred action are still living in fear of deportation. We are praying that the Supreme Court judge this case with wisdom and compassion, and make the moral and just decision to affirm the constitutionality of these Executive Actions.
- Our congregations open their doors to provide sanctuary we stand in solidarity with immigrant leaders fighting to keep all families together, regardless of immigration status.
- The Obama administration should not be targeting Central Americans families seeking asylum for deportation, but should instead utilize their resources towards providing legal representation to those who have been unable to attain assistance.
- We are seeing gaps in the implementation process of prosecutorial discretion guidelines and ask Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Department of Homeland Security to exercise and live up to its mandate and stop deporting our undocumented community members who contribute so much to our congregations, communities and country.



- Detention and deportation has become a money making business that is feeding the prison industrial complex and lining the pockets of private corporations with billions of dollars.

Talking Points for Specific Sanctuary Cases:

- As people of faith, we are called to welcome the sojourner and love our neighbor. In the case of INSERT NAME, he/she has been part of our community for a long time. He/she is not a stranger but our neighbor and we are accompanying him as he stands up for his right to stay united with his family
- INSERT NAMES want to make sure their family stays together and that INSERT NAME does not become one of the hundreds of people unnecessarily deported each day under the current administration's policies.
- One of our key belief statements as the DENOMINATION is: INSERT STATEMENT. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted. We are responsible to a higher calling, a higher law, that takes precedent over our flawed and outdated immigration laws.
- The church has been a space of sanctuary for those wrongly persecuted for thousands of years. The ability to provide humanitarian sanctuary defines who we are and our call as people of faith to care for the most vulnerable among us.
- We witnessed the power of the Sanctuary Movement was in the 1980s. The church was able to protect Central Americans from being deported and returned to death squads in the Civil Wars they faced at home, which the United States refused to recognize. Thousands upon thousands of lives were spared because of the Sanctuary movement.
- Now in the midst of our broken immigration system, faith communities once again must demonstrate leadership and action to keep families together, to keep parents with their children, to protect our brothers and sisters like INSERT NAME, to demand the Obama Administration stop the deportations of Central American families seeking asylum.
- We are holding the Obama administration, ICE and DHS accountable to their own guidelines for prosecutorial discretion and not deport are part of the fabric of our congregations and communities.
- We are asking Secretary Jeh Johnson and President Obama and Immigration Customs Enforcement to provide relief from deportation for INSERT NAME today.
- We are praying for the Supreme Court to judge with discernment, compassion and morality with the understanding that DACA and DAPA is constitutional and will benefit some of the most marginalized immigrants in our country providing them the opportunity to work, have a drivers license and contribute further to our communities.



- As people of faith, we are called to be a community that forgives one another, if someone has had a passed criminal offense and has dealt with their debt to society and moved forward, they should not be separated from their family and their community in which they're an integral part.

Who are those seeking Sanctuary?

Most Sanctuary cases begin with a lawyer or legal service clinic identify someone who has been working to stop their deportation order without success. The legal service team assesses whether someone will be eligible for prosecutorial discretion. Those who enter into Sanctuary should have a reasonable potential of receiving a stay of removal, order of supervision or some other form of administrative relief.

The legal service team then consults with Sanctuary organizers and involved pastor to begin a conversation about a potential Sanctuary case. Ideally this happens months in advance, but sometimes the individual comes to a legal clinic or local organizers in the 11th hour, requiring a congregation to act quickly.

Each case is different, sometimes often there is a family linked that would be separated, but not always. After the President's Executive Action

How do we "Declare Sanctuary?"

The public aspect of the Declaration of Sanctuary is critical. It is by bringing attention to the case, mobilizing the community, and advocating for the individual that we are able to successfully get cases closed. We encourage every community of faith to enter into a time of prayer and discernment so that when cases arise, they are ready to act. Once a congregation has made the decision to declare Sanctuary for an individual it is publicly announced at a press conference and prayer vigil, at which time the individual and their family enters into the premises of the house of worship. The individual in need of Sanctuary remains at the house of worship until they are granted a stay of deportation. Of course, an individual may decide at any time to leave Sanctuary for any reason and should have the full support of the community to do so. Living within Sanctuary is not an easy thing; the financial cost of not working, the media attention, the strain on a family can all be burdensome.

There has been liturgy developed by Southside Presbyterian Church and Shadow Rock UCC in Phoenix that can be adapted for a prayer vigil declaring Sanctuary, but individual congregations should develop liturgy that is appropriate to their own religious background and setting. (NEED LINK HERE)

Advocacy

One of the most important aspects to Sanctuary is the advocacy that we do on behalf of an individual. In partnership with legal service providers and immigrants' rights organizers a strategy is developed and a multitude of different people are identified as the focus of our efforts, like Department of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and the White House in general. They and other members of the administration are the focus of phone calls and letter writing. There is also a great deal of work organizing a broad base of support for the individual as well as finding key allies. Often the City Council and the Board of Supervisors as well as local religious leaders are approached to use their power and influence to get the individual's case closed. We are always working to get more letters of support, more petitions signed, phone calls dialed in and more congregations working with us. We have developed relationships with key allies in Washington, DC and partnerships with national organizations who have worked closely with us on cases.



Having an effective media plan is extremely important in garnering the type of attention needed to sway decision makers to close the deportation case.

Petitions with Groundswell:

<http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-save-rosa-from-being-deported>

<http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-luis-from-being-deported-keep-your-promise>

Sample Letter of Support from Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

<http://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/8-24-14-GoodShepherdUCC-Sanctuary-letter-University-Presbyterian.pdf>

Work to get Denominational Support

United Church of Christ News reports on Denver launching Sanctuary Coalition

<http://www.ucc.org/news/colorado-ucc-joins-sanctuary-coalition-09102014.html>

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2014/9/17/letter-president-support-sanctuary-and-hope/>

Leadership of those in Sanctuary

This is perhaps the most important aspect of Sanctuary; we are not the leaders of this movement, those in Sanctuary are. It has been the courage and the faith of those who have come out of the shadows to say, "we are undocumented and we are unafraid" that has inspired our work. Those taking Sanctuary are putting everything on the line and are often risking a great deal for the benefit of the larger movement; their leadership, their voice, their opinions and wisdom should be prioritized at all times. They should be involved in every aspect of the campaign as they choose to be. Sanctuary is hard work and requires great sacrifice - if at any time a family wishes to leave Sanctuary, their wishes should be respected and celebrated. We should always remember that Sanctuary is not something that we do for our undocumented brothers and sisters, it is something we do *with* them.

Deportation Defense

As potential raids could be more common place, it is important that allies accompany impacted immigrant communities in knowing their rights and preparing a protection network to try stop people from being apprehended.

[AFSC- Know Your Rights- Conozca Sus Derechos](#)

What are the logistics of Sanctuary?

Living Arrangements

Ideally, the family will have space on the grounds of the house of worship that will not be used for any other purpose for the duration of Sanctuary. They should be encouraged to arrange the room in whatever way they would like and to make it as much like home as they can. Easy access to showers, bathrooms, and a kitchen should be considered in designating a space for the family (sometimes showers will need to be configured in some way for those locations without permanent showers). Because the entire purpose

of declaring Sanctuary is to keep a family together, the entire family is invited to stay at the house of worship. While the individual living in Sanctuary does not leave the premises, the family comes and goes as they choose. At times the family can become overwhelmed by visitors and media. They should be encouraged to establish whatever boundaries they need.

It is the practice of immigration officials and law enforcement agencies to respect the sanctity of houses of worship by not coming on their property for the purpose of apprehending an individual who has an order of deportation.

Legal Questions

Everyone always wants to know - are we breaking the law? Law is a lot like scripture - its up to your interpretation. There is a law against bringing in and harboring persons not authorized to be in the U.S. (insert footnote. INA Sec.274) While we are clearly not bringing people in, whether we are harboring someone is up for interpretation. Some courts have interpreted harboring to require concealment of a person, when we declare Sanctuary for an individual we are bringing them into the light of the community, not concealing them in the dark of secrecy. (insert footnote. U.S. V Costello, 66 F.3d 1040 (7th Cir. 2012)) Other courts have interpreted harboring to be simple sheltering. (insert footnote. U.S. V Acosta de Evans, 531 F.2d 428 (9th Cir. 1976))

Those who are entering sanctuary will most likely have an opportunity to win relief from deportation, this means that they are not a high priority for deportation and that ICE can and should grant them prosecutorial discretion. In essence, the Sanctuary Movement is holding the administration accountable to their own standards and guidelines as put forth by the President's Executive Actions.

New guidelines for Prosecutorial Discretion

ICE Sensitive Locations

The space of sanctuary is sacred. Immigration officials know that if they went into a house of worship to arrest a pastor they would have a public relations nightmare on their hands. To date no one has ever been arrested for offering Sanctuary.

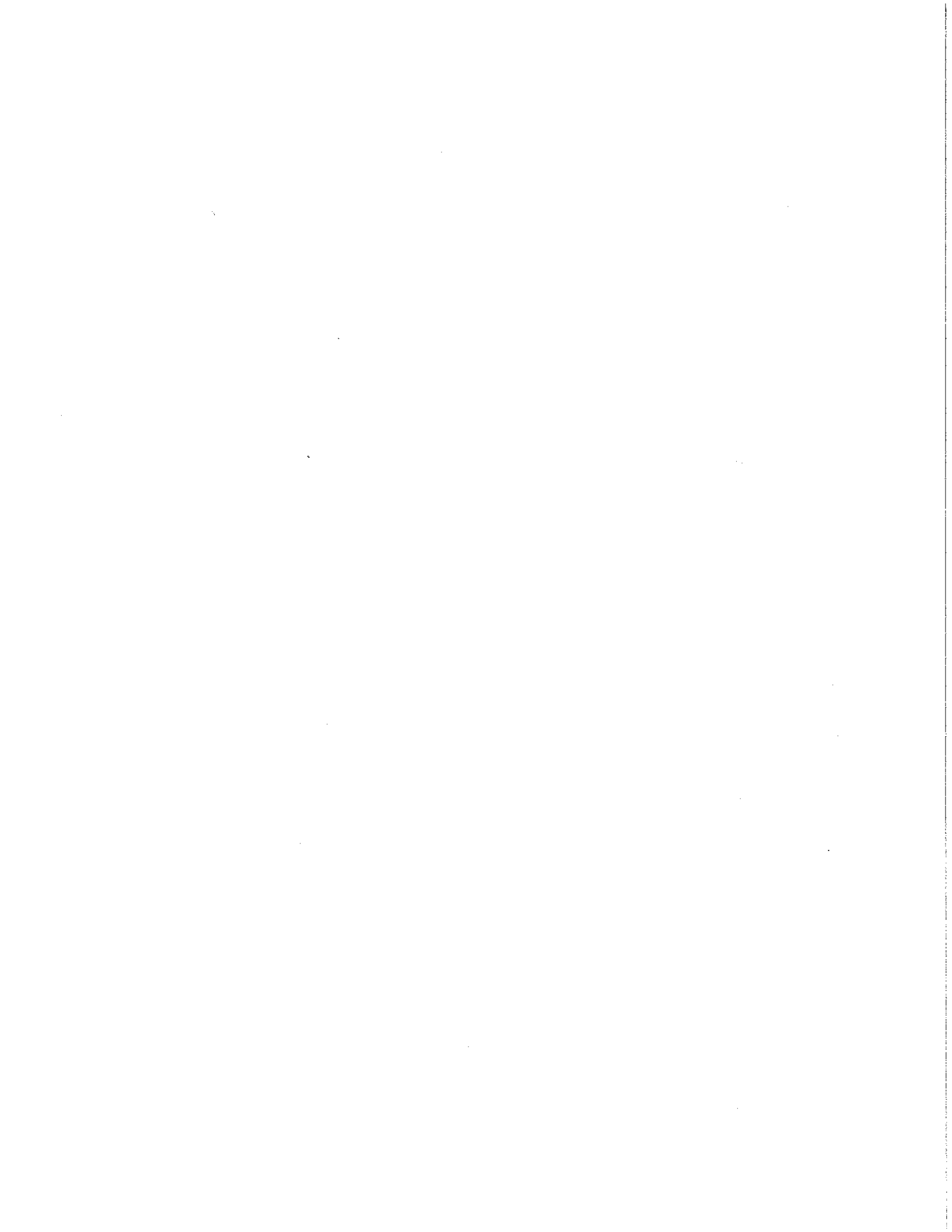
New Sanctuary Movement Legal Toolkit <http://lynnhopkinsgroup.com/Toolkit1.pdf>

Insurance Questions

The General Liability Insurance should cover any mishaps that could occur while someone is living in Sanctuary. We have never had any incidents wherein a congregation had to make an insurance claim, however, if you would like to talk with your insurance company please do.

Community Support

Families living in Sanctuary are often in need of support in a multitude of different ways. Most importantly they need the support of our friendship - so plan game nights, hang out with them, do what you can to make them feel at home and a part of your congregational family. It is also important that they are able to retain some normalcy as a family - this can often be done by enabling them to cook for themselves. You may find that congregation members will want to show their love and support by bringing food, which may be helpful a few nights a week, but it is important that the family is able to care for themselves and control as much as possible in a situation that is very much out of their control. Instead of bringing meals, encourage people to bring food that they can cook with.



There may also be the need for financial support, particularly if the individual in Sanctuary normally works. People should be encouraged to give to the family, either directly or through the house of worship (these donations to benefit an individual are not tax deductible). Care should be taken to respect the pride of the family in these situations. It is difficult for all of us to be in a situation where we have to depend on others. We have often reminded individuals that by being in Sanctuary, they are engaged in hard work, both for their families but also for the movement and that work should be compensated.

Training other Congregations

Instead of only one or two congregations taking on the work of Sanctuary, it is important that other congregations also show support. Coalition congregations join together in advocacy efforts, joint sign-on letters, logistical support, vigils and cooking. Having other congregations engaged creates training opportunities for leadership from other congregations to become accustomed to the work of Sanctuary, an experience they can bring back to their congregation as they prepare themselves for a future opportunity of offering Sanctuary.

Communications

It is important that we use common messaging so that we can influence and push forward a national narrative on Sanctuary and the urgency for the Administration to stop their

Sample Press Advisory

September 9, 2014

Contact: XXXX

Phone

Email

Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition Formation

*Five congregations join immigrant community members in declaring Sanctuary
Calling on President Obama to fulfill his promise and act now*

Rev. Mike Morran invites all faith communities to join the coalition saying "Because each of our traditions value love, justice, and dignity, we extend this invitation to all Metro Denver faith communities to join in forming a broad multi-ethnic and interfaith coalition assuring sanctuary for immigrant members of our communities. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a host or support congregation."

"As President Obama and congress continue to delay addressing the very immigration policies' that damage our communities, we feel particularly called to publicly declare our commitment. We dare to do what they have not yet done, to stand with our immigrant brothers and sisters, to declare their human dignity and recognize the sacredness of their contributions as members of our communities" added Rev. Anne Dunlap of Chadash Community, United Church of Christ.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, September 10, 3:00PM

WHERE: First Unitarian Society of Denver

1400 Lafayette St.
Denver, CO 80218

WHAT: Press conference to declare the formation of the Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition

Statements from Rev. Anne Dunlap, Chadash Community and Rev. Mike Morran,
1st Unitarian

Street theater from immigrant families in deportation
Members of five congregations joined together in song

WHO: American Friends Service Committee, Chadash Community United Church of Christ, First Unitarian Society of Denver, Mountain View Friends Meeting, Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and the Immigration Justice Task Force of the First Universalist Church of Denver

DIRECTIONS: Weather permitting we will gather on the Southeast corner of Lafayette and 14th Ave. If it rains we will move inside the church.

WEB SITE: <http://www.afsc.org/office/denver-co>

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Sample Press Release

December 25th, 2015

For Immediate Release

Press Contact: xxxx

On Christmas Day Faith Leaders Offer their Churches as Sanctuary to Those Hunted in Raids

We Open Our Doors to Today's Josephs and Marys Despite ICE's Plan to Deport them

Sanctuary Movement leaders who have offered their congregations as spaces of refuge for immigrants facing deportation are outraged by the news that Immigration Customs and Enforcement and the Department of Homeland security plans to conduct raids targeting families who have fled violence and persecution in Central America.

Faith leaders from many traditions remind our decision makers that the story of Christmas is about a prophet and savior born in a stable and a refugee family that fled the political violence that could have killed Jesus as a baby.

In defiance of a court order to stop detaining children, the Obama administration has increased the detention of families by 173% over the last several months according to the Migration Policy Institute. And now the administration has announced it will search for and deport asylum seeking families to the danger they are seeking to escape.



In the spirit of Christmas, faith leaders are declaring they are ready to once again open their doors to provide refuge for immigrants facing deportation and unjust targeting from ICE.

"As pastors we know that each and every family is a holy family and the individuals and families who have fled violence don't just need our prayers, they need sanctuary," explains **Rev. Alison Harrington of Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson Arizona**. "We open our doors to today's Josephs and Marys despite ICE's plans to deport them.

When we heard that the Obama administration is beginning plans to round up Central American families and deport them back to the violence they have been fleeing, we couldn't help but imagine what would it have been like if the President was pharaoh in Egypt at the time of Jesus' birth when he and his family had to run from the death squads of Herod. What if he had ordered the deportation of the Holy Family?"

Rev. Adan Mairena of West Kensington Ministry, Philadelphia, PA added, "Our elected officials cannot say 'God bless America' and at the same time deport, exclude, dehumanize, and criminalize those who come seeking refuge, in this case God's children from Central America. They are those whom Jesus called 'the least of these.' If we continue to go down this road of moral decay the consequences will be grave.

As a Christian I stand on the side of divine law and cannot remain silent as our elected leaders give into the darkness that works to divide God's family as opposed to uniting it. I, and others like me, will continue to put our faith into action no matter what."

Rev. Chris Jimmerson from First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin where they recently offered sanctuary to Sulma Franco contributing his reflection, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.' (Hebrews 13: 2). The Christian Bible, indeed the sacred texts of most all of the world's religions are filled with admonitions such as this to treat strangers among us with love and hospitality. Yet, ICE continues to detain entire families, including children, who have fled persecution, trauma and threats against their very lives, re-traumatizing them and threatening to deport them to the very places where their lives will again be threatened. Our immigration courts continue to deny asylum to folks who clearly do have a well-founded fear of persecution and if returned to their country of origin could face fatal consequences.

As a Unitarian Universalist minister, I stand on the side of love, called by the world's great faith and wisdom traditions to decry ICE's new plans to detain and deport even more Central American families. Our faith calls upon us to do just the opposite – to offer refuge and support, compassion and hospitality to to these women, men and children. This is our only morally justifiable action."

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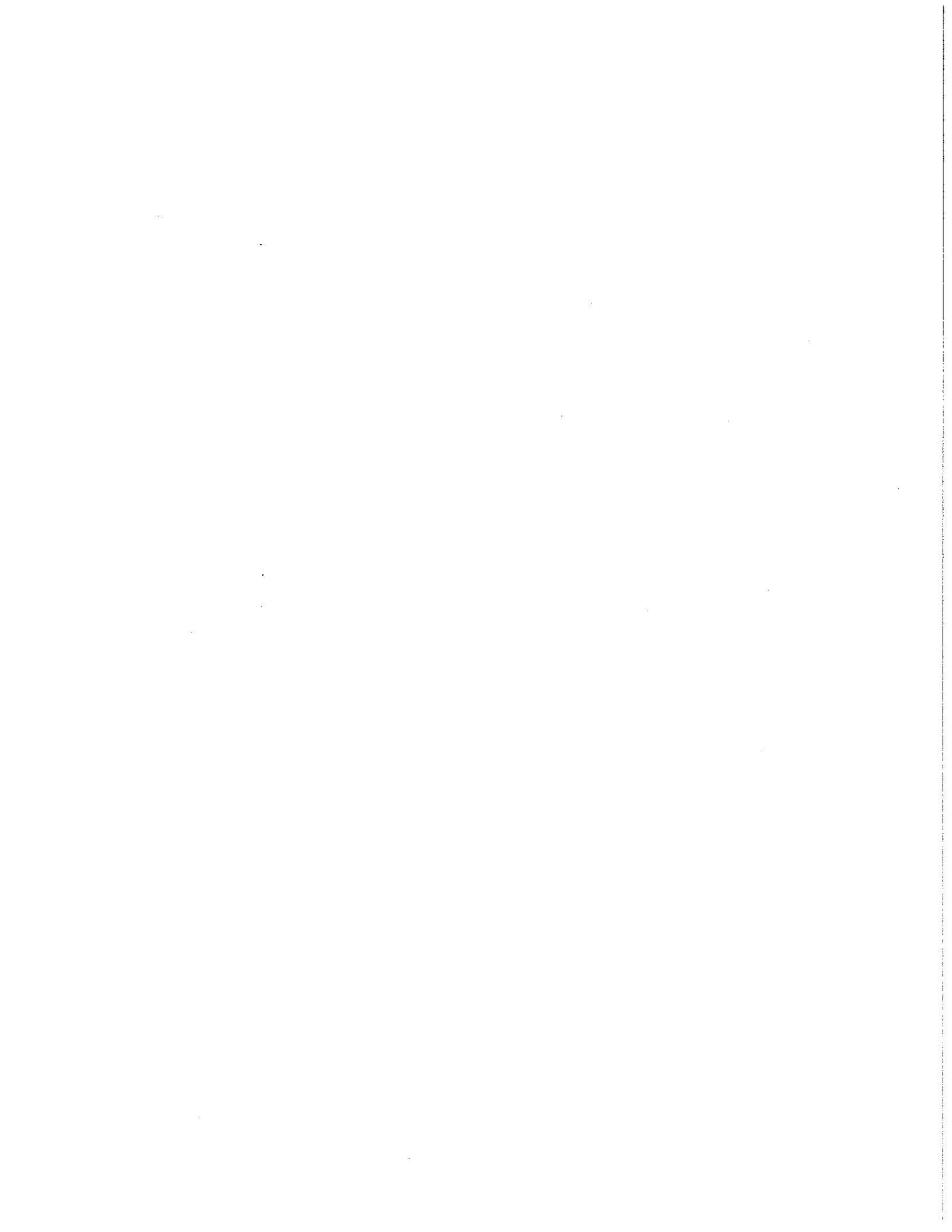
Sample Op-Eds

The Story of Daniel in the Hill

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/civil-rights/208125-the-story-of-daniel>

Protecting One Dad from Broken Immigration System

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2014/06/29/immigration-system-broken/11726553/>



Social Media

If all the organizations involved expand our social media work, our outreach to the public is larger. When we are able to garner traditional media, we must make sure to push it out through social media.

Hash tags allow you to enter a forum of everyone else using the same hashtag, this amplifies the impact of the twitter post. Many Sanctuary
#not1more #allin4relief #allinfor11million #keepyourpromise #letrosastay #timeisnow

Tweeting @ an organization or a law maker is helpful to pressure decision makers and to invite other organizations to retweet your comment.

Allies

@GroundswellMvmt @CWS_IRP @bend_thearc

Targets

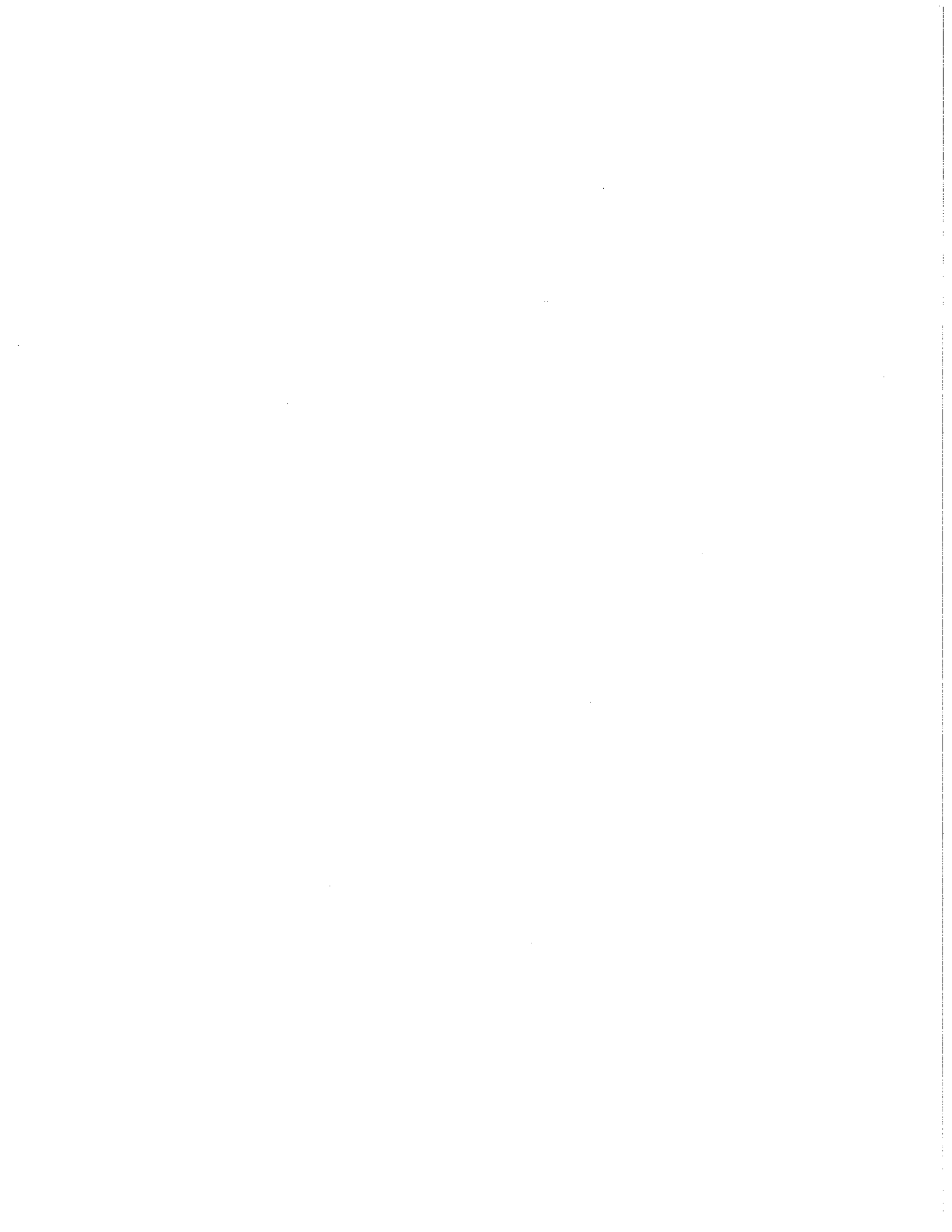
@BarackObama @WhiteHouse @DHSgov

Sample Tweets

- A church is fighting NAME's deportation by offering #Sanctuary. Add your name in solidarity LINK TO PETITION
- Tell @DHSgov & @BarackObama to #WeStandWithRosa Add your name in solidarity → LINK TO PETITION #Sanctuary #Not1More
- Churches offer #refuge for Central Americans facing U.S. deportation <http://reut.rs/1m9UTgo> via @Reuters #not1more

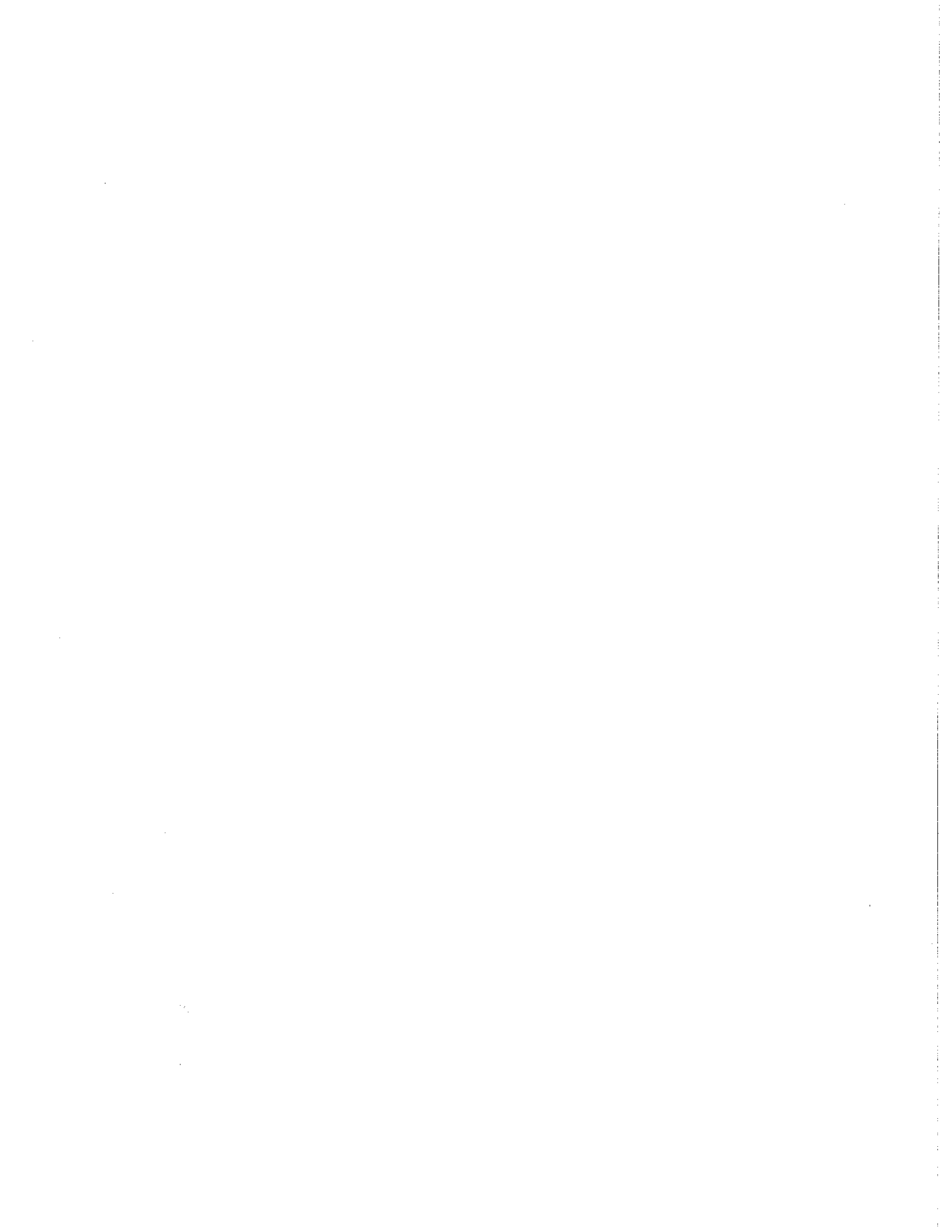
(the initial period "." is important when is in the beginning of the tweet)

- .@UPCTempe Church Grants #Sanctuary to Immigrant Facing Deportation
http://blogs.phoenixnewtimes.com/valleyfever/2014/09/tempe_church_grants_sanctuary_to_immigrant_facing_deportation.php #not1more
- ICYMI: On Christmas day faith leaders around the US reiterate their offer of Sanctuary to those hunted in ICE raids. <http://buff.ly/1QWHu80>



Sample FaceBook Posts

- A church is fighting NAME's deportation by offering #Sanctuary. Add your name in solidarity
LINK TO PETITION
- Tell Homeland Security Chief Jeh Johnson and President Barack Obama to let ___ Stay!
Add your name in solidarity → LINK TO PETITION
#Sanctuary #Not1More
- Churches open their doors on Christmas to #immigrants seeking refuge #not1more deportation
<http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2015/12/26/3735048/churches-open-doors-to-immigrants/>



HOW TO BE A SANCTUARY CONGREGATION



This document is for congregations of churches, synagogues, mosques, and other faith-based communities, though "house of worship" is the term used to apply to all religions.

BACKGROUND BASICS:

What is Sanctuary?

Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") has a policy of not coming into religious spaces to pick up immigrants for deportation. (This is not a law, just a long-standing policy, based on traditions in the United States and Europe.)

Therefore an immigrant facing deportation may seek protection from ICE by coming into a house of worship to stay "in sanctuary" for some period of time.

Some houses of worship declare themselves an official "Sanctuary Space" because that label shows immigrants that this place of worship is open to them, and that it intends "sanctuary" to imply the protection of the Divine as well as the limited protection humans can give.

A "SANCTUARY HOUSE OF WORSHIP" OFFERS ONE OR BOTH OF TWO VARIETIES OF SANCTUARY:

1. Short term Sanctuary – "Safe Space": If an immigrant has not been named as an ICE target for immediate deportation, taking Sanctuary in a house of worship may be useful for a short time (a few hours, one day, or a short overnight stay) to help the immigrant feel safe and become calm rather than panicked, and to get information on what to do next, so they can make good plans. This usually would happen in the event of immigration raids or acts of hate occurring in the area. Immigrants also face day-to-day struggles that faith communities should be ready to address through short-term sanctuary.

2. Long term – "Physical Sanctuary": If an immigrant with a final deportation order is an actual named target for immediate deportation, going into Physical Sanctuary may be a way to avoid deportation for an indefinite period, which could last for weeks or months or even years. The immigrant moves into the house of worship and lives there full-time until some agreement

can be made with ICE to let the immigrant live outside the house of worship without fear of being immediately deported.

Once an immigrant comes into physical sanctuary, he or she cannot leave the Sanctuary building for any reason – they cannot go to work or school or even to buy food or receive medical care etc. All living needs (food, bedding/bathing facilities, medical care, companionship, entertainment, etc.) must be provided by the targeted immigrant's non-deportable family members and/or the congregation and/or a group of congregations organized for this purpose.

When long-term sanctuary is agreed to by both parties, it is necessary to get advocates (preferably a lawyer), to negotiate with ICE to get an agreement to let the immigrant stay in the community rather than being a target for deportation right away. Only when some agreement is in place will it be safe for the immigrant to leave the house of worship building. (Or, as in the 1980s Sanctuary Movement, when Congress passes immigration reform laws that allow such immigrants to remain in the United States with some legal status.)

SITUATIONS IN WHICH AN IMMIGRANT MIGHT SEEK SANCTUARY:

- When ICE has told an immigrant who has a final order of deportation to report for deportation ("bag and baggage order") on a specified date, or
- When ICE conducts a raid in a neighborhood, looking for the particular immigrant - one who has a final order of deportation, but has not been seized because either ICE cannot find that person, or the person's family will not open the door to let ICE in to seize the person, or
- When ICE is conducting raids in a particular neighborhood and an immigrant is afraid that he or she is, or could become, a target that ICE would detain, Many immigrants fear that they will be grabbed during a raid even if they are not a named target, and may need a Sanctuary for a short time to calm down, to get accurate and up-to-date information, and to make plans.
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DETAILS:

WHY WOULD A HOUSE OF WORSHIP WANT TO OFFER SANCTUARY?

Since the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency ("ICE") has a policy of not coming into religious spaces to pick up immigrants for deportation, religious congregations have both a *special ability* and *special imperative* to help vulnerable people who fear being rounded up by ICE.

From their founding, religious communities have looked beyond themselves to a reality that is committed to the whole. Their gatherings around this reality are usually centered around places of worship, sacred spaces often termed "sanctuaries" (from the Latin *sanctum*, meaning to "set apart"). These sacred spaces have often also served as community centers that attended to those neglected: the poor, the widow, the sick, and the stranger. This spiritual reality has been expressed as the Hebraic dignity of the person, Christianity's unconditional love, the Qura'nic attribute of mercy, or Buddhism's loving-kindness. Whatever form the expression takes, *all religious traditions have been charged to care for the vulnerable, not just for their own members.*

All religious traditions have been charged to care for the vulnerable, not just for their own members.

In our time, this surely includes vulnerable immigrants. Today that would include those fleeing the horrible violence in several Central American countries, and also those who have been in the U.S. for many years, many of whom have spouses and/or children who are U.S. citizens, so that deportation would break up an American family. Religious communities are confronted with the *opportunity to live up to the fullness of their spiritual potential* --to help make a whole that honors the dignity of all people.

WHAT DOES BEING A SANCTUARY HOUSE OF WORSHIP MEAN TODAY?

"Sanctuary" today has a broad definition. It does not only mean providing "physical sanctuary" to house an immigrant or family for an indefinite period. It also means providing "a safe space" to flee to for a short time – such as when ICE is doing a raid in the neighborhood and many immigrants fear that they might be seized even if they are not on ICE's target list, and need a place to feel safe until the immediate danger passes.

Under this broader definition, a Sanctuary House of Worship can open its doors to fearful people to let them stay in a safe space while they get the latest information, learn their rights, and plan what to do next. Very few immigrants will want to take "physical sanctuary" once they learn the details; instead, they will learn how to fight for their rights wherever they are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS TO A HOUSE OF WORSHIP IF IT DECLARES ITSELF A SANCTUARY HOUSE OF WORSHIP?

To date, no house of worship has been sued or otherwise harassed or punished by the government for being a Sanctuary House of worship for immigrants. In the 1980s, a few individual clergy were sued for harboring or transporting immigrants in violation of the law, but in the current immigration crisis of the 2000s, so far, the government has not tried to act against any Sanctuary house of worship or clergy leaders.

The immigration law (8 USC 1181 section 1234(a)(1)(A)(iii)) says a crime is committed by anyone who "conceals, harbors, or shields from detection" an immigrant who the person knows is remaining in the country in violation of law. However, if a house of worship simply houses such an immigrant but does not try to "conceal" or "shield" them from ICE detection, and preferably actually tells ICE where the immigrant is now living, there is case law, at least in some federal

court districts, that this does not constitute "harboring," and the sanctuary house of worship has therefore not committed a crime. Because no house of worship has yet been sued under this law, the Supreme Court has not yet had the opportunity to say whether this interpretation is correct. Obviously there is no way to predict what courts in the future might do. It would be helpful to locate an immigration lawyer as a consultant, in case issues arise for the house of worship or its leaders or an immigrants in sanctuary. Notify the New Sanctuary Coalition if you need help locating a lawyer to consul on the prospect of providing physical sanctuary.

A more likely actual "risk" is not a legal one. It is the practical risk of having to actually house an immigrant long term, with the extra work and inconvenience that will involve. An immigrant who has a legitimate fear of immediate deportation must stay "in sanctuary" full time. To be safe from ICE, sanctuary housing and care must be in the house of worship's worship building – not in its school or clergy residence or other building, where ICE could enter. The house of worship and its community will need to provide furniture, bedding and linens, bathing facilities, food and/or cooking facilities, care, and companionship for an immigrant (possibly for an entire family) for an unknown period of time until it is safe for the immigrant(s) to leave.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO BECOME A SANCTUARY HOUSE OF WORSHIP?

The house of worship authorities should decide however such decisions are made in that particular house of worship – for example, by a pastor alone, and/or the bishop or other judicatory official, and/or a vote by the house of worship council and/or entire congregation. They should decide if the house of worship will offer physical sanctuary (housing) or only short-term sanctuary.

Notify the NYC New Sanctuary Coalition (or other local Sanctuary organization in your community) so it can list you on its website and other materials as a Sanctuary House of worship.

HOW DOES A DECLARED SANCTUARY HOUSE OF WORSHIP GET READY TO OFFER SANCTUARY?

1. Designate who in the house of worship staff and/or lay leaders will be the Sanctuary "coordinator" for the house of worship. If possible, form a Sanctuary committee or task force including the coordinator and other staff and lay members.

The coordinator and/or task force will do the following:

- A. Assign someone(s) to create and distribute flyers about Sanctuary, that will include your house of worship's name and its phone number to call for this purpose. Give the flyers to other houses of worship, local community organizations, immigrant advocacy groups, elected officials, neighbors, etc. so immigrants can learn that you are a Sanctuary house of worship if they need one.