

Take Action on Immigration Reform!

The Catholic Church believes that the current U.S. immigration system is broken and needs to be reformed in all aspects, or, comprehensively. This would include a path to citizenship for the 11–12 million undocumented in the country; a temporary worker program to allow migrant workers to enter safely and humanely; and family-based immigration reform which allows families to be reunited more quickly. The Church also teaches that the root causes of migration—namely, global economic disparities—need to be addressed.

—JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS, U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Here's what you can do to promote immigration reform:

1. Sharing your experience with others will make your action more effective.

- Reach out to individuals in your “circles” with an interest in immigration, a stake in the solution, or experience organizing and advocating.
- Consider partnering with members of nearby parishes, organizations or communities to promote immigration reform.
- National advocacy groups like Justice for Immigrants can provide background materials, organizing resources, and connections to other local advocates.

2. Think outside the box when it comes to meaningful political advocacy.

Be creative and incorporate your interests and passion into your planned action. For example, organize an exhibit featuring photos from the U.S./Mexican border, tell the stories of migrant workers in a skit or play, or organize a walk in support of immigration reform. Set up a display at the farmers market to draw attention to the plight of temporary agricultural workers. Invite immigrant children to speak at a school board meeting to highlight the need for the DREAM Act.

3. Finally, once everything's in place, don't forget to invite local, state and federal officials, as well as the media!

Have fun, take pictures, and report back to us at NETWORK on how it all goes!

Our task will not be an easy one, as the present political culture does not lend itself to addressing controversial yet urgent issues such as immigration. Our cause, however, is right and true, not only for millions of immigrants in our country, but for the welfare of the nation.

—CARDINAL ROGER MAHONY,
3/19/2010

We encourage the reproduction and distribution of this back-to-back fact sheet.



NETWORK—a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace
25 E Street NW, Suite 200 • Washington DC 20001
202-347-9797 • www.networklobby.org



Quick Facts

Comprehensive immigration reform helps families and strengthens communities.

PROBLEM: Approximately five million American children live with at least one undocumented parent.

SOLUTION: Require undocumented individuals to come forward and register with the government, pass a background check, pay fines and back taxes, and demonstrate proficiency in English. Upon completing this process, they could work and live legally in this country, and eventually apply for permanent residency and full citizenship.

Comprehensive immigration reform helps workers.

PROBLEM: Workers in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles have lost \$56.4 million/week due to labor law violations. U.S. and immigrant workers suffer when immigration enforcement trumps labor rights.

SOLUTION: Protect U.S. and immigrant workers by informing people of existing labor protection policies, and increasing penalties for employers who break the law.

Comprehensive immigration reform addresses demand.

PROBLEM: Our current system allows approximately 5,000 annual visas to low-skilled laborers. Yet, estimated annual demand for these workers runs close to 500,000.

SOLUTION: Create flexible channels for future legal immigration that allow more foreign workers into the U.S. during strong economic times.

Comprehensive immigration reform helps the economy.

PROBLEM: A shrinking U.S. workforce and increased congressional spending have created high government deficits.

SOLUTION: Legalizing the millions of undocumented workers in our economy would compel them and their employers to contribute payroll and income taxes, generating more than a trillion dollars in tax revenues.

Last but not least, comprehensive immigration reform will allow us to maintain our heritage as a vibrant nation of diversity and strength!



Written by NETWORK Associates Meghan Tighe and Sarah Carey

We encourage the reproduction and distribution of this back-to-back fact sheet.



NETWORK—a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace
25 E Street NW, Suite 200 • Washington DC 20001
202-347-9797 • www.networklobby.org