

IMMIGRATION

THE TOPIC

Aside from the legislative actions of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, nowhere was immigration more front and center than during the pilgrimage by more than 1,000 bishops, deputies and other Episcopalians to the Hutto Detention Center. Located just under an hour outside of Austin, the center housed women who had been separated from their children as they crossed the border from Mexico into the United States. For those pilgrims, the plight of these immigrants was no longer something they saw on television or read about in the newspaper. It was real!

WHAT HAPPENED AT GENERAL CONVENTION?

Resolution A178. Halt the Intensification and Implementation of Immigration Policies and Practices that are Harmful to Migrant Women, Parents and Children. This resolution addressed the detention and separation of children from parents, housing children in military bases, and ignoring the reproductive health needs of women and girls as inhumane and unjust.

Episcopalians are urged to support ministries that provide for basic needs, legal support and advocacy for immigrants.

Resolution A286. Keeping Faith with U.S. Military Recruits. This resolution directs that the Office of Government Relations urges the U.S. Government to honor its commitments to immigrants currently serving in the U.S. armed forces who are promised a pathway to citizenship.

Resolution C001. Reduced Enforcement of Immigration. This resolution was submitted by the Diocese of North Carolina. No action was taken on it as its intentions were made part of an overall resolution, Resolution C033.

Resolution C002. Support Legislation for a Clean DREAM Act. This resolution was submitted by the Diocese of North Carolina. No action was taken on it as its intentions were made part of an overall resolution, Resolution C033.

Resolution C009. Becoming A Sanctuary Church. This resolution recommends that institutions and congregations become places of welcome, refuge, healing and other forms of material and pastoral support and work to ensure the dignity, security, safety, due process and human rights of all people.

There were several resolutions about sanctuary church. They were all consolidated into Resolution C009, including Resolution C018 and Resolution C050.

C033. Respecting the Dignity of Immigrants. This resolution reaffirms several resolutions from previous General Conventions, including GC2009-B006, GC2015-D048, GC2012-D067, which advocate for comprehensive immigration reform and the continuation of temporary protected status (TPS) for all persons fleeing to or currently resident in the U.S. seeking refuge from violence, environmental disaster, economic devastation, and cultural, domestic or other abuse. The resolution supports expanded immigration relief for youth as outlined in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and federal legislation that presents a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth and young adults known as DREAMers.

Resolution D009. Christian Principles for Responding to Human Migration. While recognizing the complexity of developing just immigration policies in any country and the legitimate need to protect borders and address security threats, this resolution advocates for adherence to the internationally accepted principle known as non-refoulement, that stipulates that countries should not return migrants and refugees to unsafe conditions in their home countries or other countries.

Resolution D015. Support Keeping Families Together. This resolution was rolled into resolution C033.

QUESTIONS?

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