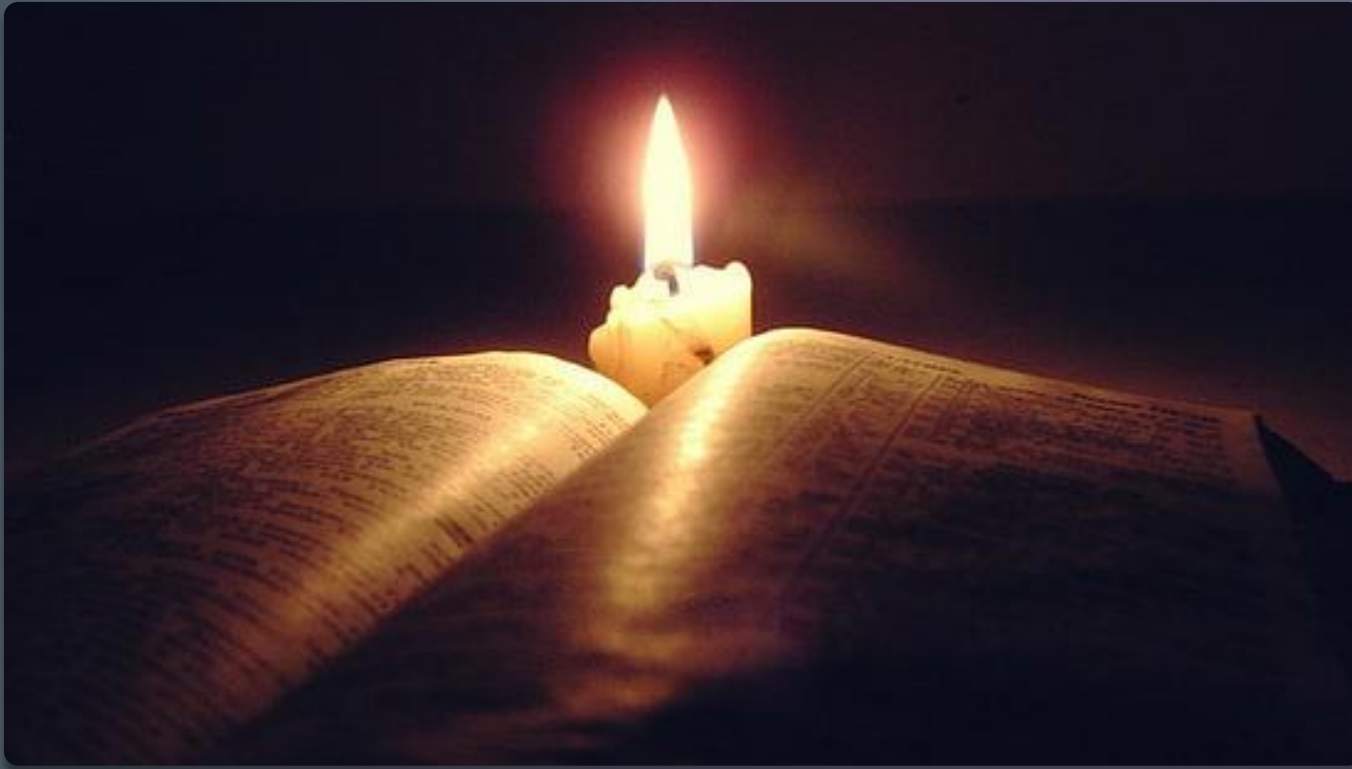




NAVIGATING THE CURRENT IMMIGRATION LANDSCAPE

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A WORD...

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

Agenda Items

- ▶ Faith-based Framework.
- ▶ Overview of Political Landscape
- ▶ Overview of Immigration Policies
- ▶ How Communities of Faith can Meet the Challenge
- ▶ Q&A
- ▶ Closing Prayer

About This Presentation



We are providing general information, not legal advise.

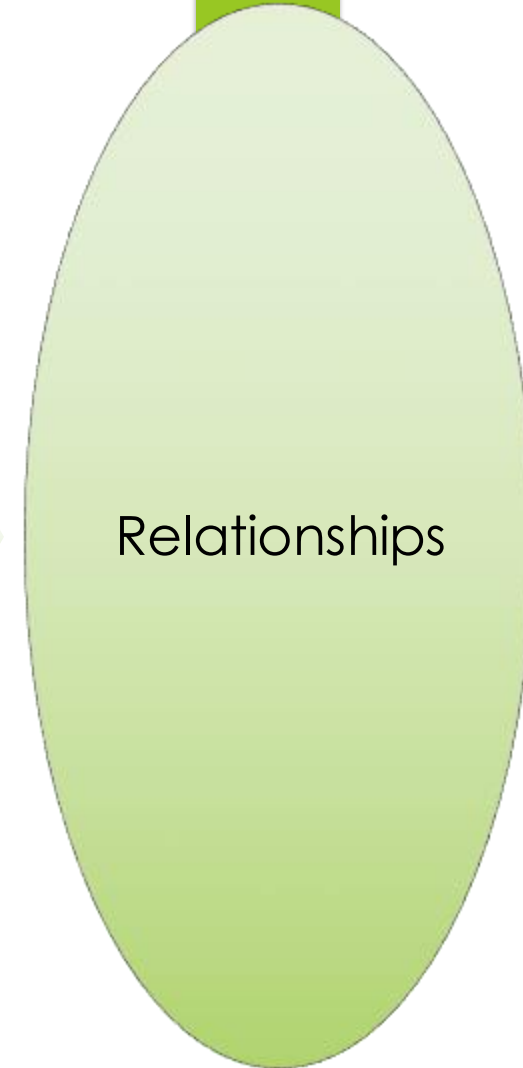


The information we share today may change.



This is shared work with many partners, (Immigration Law & Justice Network).

A Framework for Our Work



Resistance—An Act of Faith mandated by Our Baptismal Vows

“Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”

A call to resist oppressive, unjust measures that discriminate, endanger, or demean our brothers and sisters.



Accompaniment: Offering Companionship and Solidarity

- ▶ Ministry of Presence
- ▶ Body to Body
- ▶ Lasting
Commitment



Advocacy: Using our voice to fight for Justice.

- ▶ Legislative Action
- ▶ Rallies
- ▶ Media Campaign
- ▶ Litigation



RELATIONSHIP IS KEY



Within the AC

- Mapping out our immigrant communities
- Developing relationship with leaders within immigrant communities and learning about their needs
- Strengthening existing structures
- Creating a rapid response system within the districts

Local Allies and Partners

- Develop and maintain relationships with existing local social service providers, community organizations, interfaith partners, and governmental bodies to advance immigration justice work.

Connectional

- Build relationships with national bodies and general church entities and service providers to access additional support for immigration justice work.

Political Landscape: Mass Deportation

- ▶ 13 million undocumented immigrants are at risk of mass deportation.
- ▶ Psychic terror on communities
- ▶ Millions of immigrant families separated
- ▶ Communities are being destroyed
- ▶ Loss of workers across industries
- ▶ Loss of contribution to the social security system-\$ 22.6 Billion to social security and \$5.7 billion to Medicare annually.
- ▶ Massive Challenge to Constitutional Authority and Balance of Power



Mass Deportation

- ▶ The number of people booked into immigration detention who have been charged only with immigration violations has jumped from 860 in January to 7,800 this month - a more than 800% increase.
- ▶ Those arrested and detained with criminal charges or convictions also rose, but at a lower rate of 91%.
- ▶ Quota: 3000/day



Migrants in ICE detention

Data current through June 5, 2025

51,026

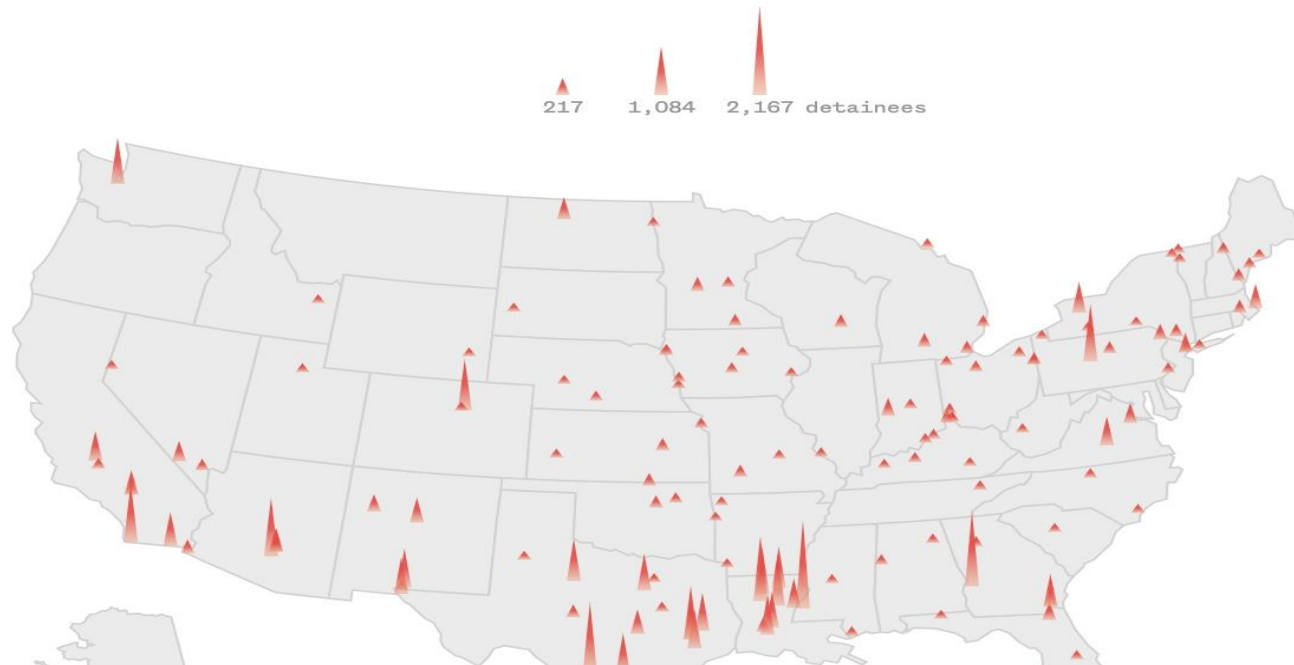
29.8% with criminal convictions

26.8% with pending criminal charges

44.0% listed as "other immigration violator"

10.6% fast-tracked for deportation

Migrant detention facility locations



Levels of Vulnerability

- ▶ All non- US Citizens are vulnerable!
- ▶ Immigrants with orders of removal and criminal convictions are the most vulnerable
- ▶ Asylum seekers/refugees
- ▶ Immigrants with overstay visas
- ▶ DACAmented immigrants
- ▶ Undocumented immigrants who have filed taxes
- ▶ Student activists on visas
- ▶ Legal Permanent Residents who live in Mexico part of the year
- ▶ Immigrants who have been in the country for less than two years
- ▶ 287(g) agreements (PD+ICE)
- ▶ Unaccompanied minors and their undocumented family members

Terms

Asylee: An alien in the United States or at a port of entry who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear of persecution must be based on religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Refugee: Generally, any person outside their country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Immigrant: A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country

Migrant: A person who leaves his/her country of origin to seek temporary or permanent residence in another country.

UNDOCUMENTED

**Entered
without
Inspection**

**Entered with
Legal Status
but
Overstayed**

**Deferred
Action for
Childhood
Arrivals
(DACA)**

**Currently in
the Process
of Legalizing**

**Vulnerable
Immigrants**

The term “undocumented” is broadly defined to include all immigrants who reside in the United States without legal status.

IMMIGRATION POLICY:

The Registry

- ▶ "Alien Registration Requirement" -As April 11th immigrants over the age of 14 must register with the federal government.
- ▶ Signing up for the registry could be very dangerous for undocumented immigrants, it could lead to detention, deportation, and criminal prosecution.
- ▶ Not signing up for the registry is a crime, that can result in 6 months of prison, and a penalty of \$5,000

IMMIGRATION POLICY:

Alien's Enemies Act

- ▶ The Alien Enemies Act of 1798 is a wartime authority that allows the president to “detain or deport the natives and citizens of an enemy nation.”
- ▶ The law permits the president to target these immigrants **without a hearing and based only on their country of birth or citizenship.**
- ▶ Supreme Court temporarily barred the Trump administration from removing a group of Venezuelan men currently in immigration custody in the northern region of Texas

IMMIGRATION POLICY:

Expedited Removal

- ▶ Expedited removal is a process where the government can quickly deport someone they believe to be undocumented without a full court hearing.
- ▶ This applies to migrants who have been in the US for less than 2 years
- ▶ This policy used to be limited to the border, but now can be enforced across the country.

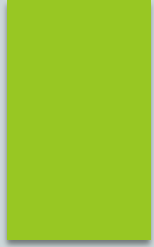
IMMIGRATION POLICY:

CBP One App and Revocation of Humanitarian Parole

- ▶ Almost 1 million asylum seekers received a letter that began with “it is time for you to abandon the United States”
- ▶ Migrants were informed that their paroles are revoked and they will be subject to prosecution .



IMMIGRATION POLICY:



Revocation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

- ▶ DHS will not renew temporary protections for thousands of Afghans in the U.S. — setting them up for potential deportation starting on May 20
- ▶ Trump administration terminated Parole Process for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans (CHNV) and order half a million migrants to self deport.
- ▶ Supreme Court upheld cancellation of program on May 30th Ruling.



IMMIGRATION POLICY:

IRS Will Share Immigrant Data

IRS entered into an agreement with to release information about immigrant tax payers.



IMMIGRATION POLICY:

Laken Riley Act

- ▶ First act of new Congress and signed into law by President Trump on Jan. 29th
- ▶ Act mandates federal detention without bail for migrants **merely arrested** for theft-related crimes, even if it later turns out that the migrant was innocent.
- ▶ Act contains no exception for minors.
- ▶ Act gives state officials unheard of power over immigration.



IMMIGRATION POLICY:

Sensitive Location Policy Rescinded

- ▶ “ICE,” can enter sensitive locations like schools, hospitals, and places of worship.
- ▶ Obama administration enacted this enforcement designating certain places, including churches, schools and hospitals, as “sensitive locations” barring ICE from entering to carry enforcement actions.
- ▶ This was simply a policy and not federal law.
- ▶ The Trump administration terminated this policy.
- ▶ The concept of offering “sanctuary” to undocumented persons was never a law, but was supported by the voluntary enforcement policy adopted by DHS. That policy has been rescinded.

IMMIGRATION POLICY:

Sensitive Location Policy Rescinded

- ▶ Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, et al., v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- ▶ MENNONITE CHURCH USA et al v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY et al

IMMIGRATION POLICY:

ICE Enforcement at Places of Worship

- ▶ Under Federal law, ICE may enter any “public” space to engage in enforcement activity.
- ▶ ICE may only enter “Private” space with a signed judicial warrant.
- ▶ • Public: Walking in the streets, Driving or riding a car, Parks, Workplaces like open restaurants
- ▶ • Private: Home, Sensitive Locations??? (Houses of Worship, Schools and Hospitals)
- ▶ Have a policy that clearly differentiate between public v. private in your campus, although the lines are not always clear, but must have a plan in the event ICE appears at Church property.

WHOSE PROFITTING GEO AND CORE CIVIC

- ▶ Strong Trump/Republican Supporter
- ▶ Lobbying-- over \$3Million yearly
- ▶ 2024--\$6 billion, with just under 50% coming from USCIS
- ▶ Stocks jumped on Jan. 20

WHAT CAN MIGRANTS DO: Be Attentive and Careful

- ▶ Avoid encounters with law enforcement (Police, ICE, CBP)
- ▶ Do not drive without a driver's license
- ▶ Respect all transit signs
- ▶ Fix any broken taillights
- ▶ Loud music or noise citation.
- ▶ Traveling on an airplane or going to the airports is discouraged

WHAT CONGREGATION CAN DO:

- ▶ Assist Immigrants with Safety Planning:
 - ▶ Power of Attorneys & Caregiver Authorization, Affidavit
 - ▶ Financial Resources
 - ▶ Car repairs
 - ▶ Document medical issues and medication
 - ▶ Copies of vital records
 - ▶ A Number

WHAT CONGREGATION CAN DO:

- ▶ Show up at organizing spaces. It's time to participate!
- ▶ Attend rally's, marches and protest!
- ▶ Draft letters to the editor and position statements
- ▶ Donate to immigration non-profits and grassroots organizers
- ▶ Provide messages of welcome and support and make it visible!

WHAT CONGREGATION CAN DO:

- ▶ Create Healing Spaces
 - ▶ Work with mental health providers and art therapists
 - ▶ Organize support groups
- ▶ Consistent teachings on Christian Theology and Praxis
- ▶ Curriculum that supports advocacy and civil disobedience as an expression of faith
- ▶ Bible studies and sermons
- ▶ Leading/mobilizing the church to join community
- ▶ organizers and organizations that are already doing
- ▶ the advocacy work

WHAT CAN I DO:

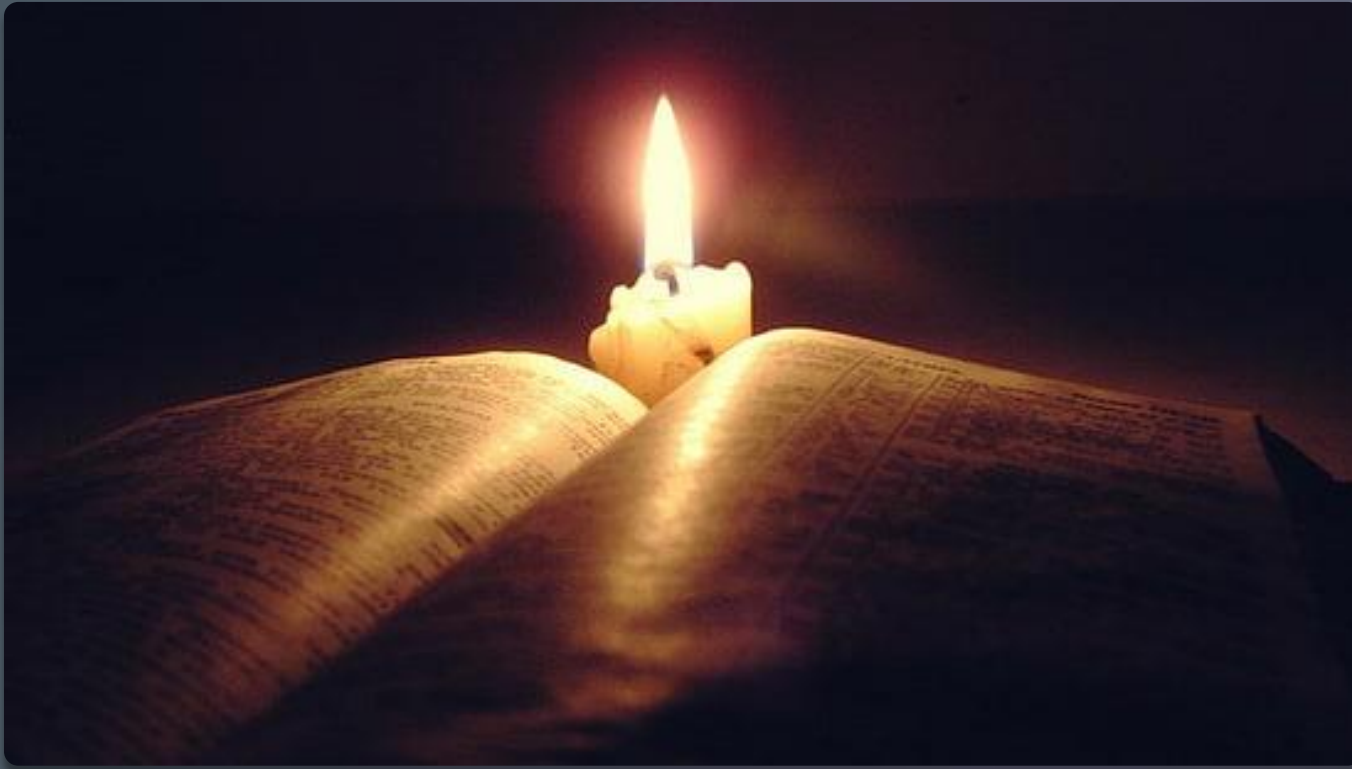
- ▶ Impacted? Know Your Rights!
 - ▶ We all have Constitutional rights just by standing on U.S. soil.
- ▶ Not impacted? Strive to become an ally!
 - ▶ Allyship is not an identity. It is a lifelong learning process.
 - ▶ It is not self-defined. Our work and our efforts must be recognized by those who we want to seek to ally ourselves with.
 - ▶ Explore the intersection of racism and immigration policy
 - ▶ Be mindful of white saviorism
 - ▶ Be mindful of language-do not use the terms “alien” or “illegal”

AN ALLY WILL:

- ▶ Actively listen to impacted immigrants
- ▶ Use their privilege to amplify the voices of immigrants
- ▶ Call out discriminatory behavior
- ▶ Allow migrants to lead the way
- ▶ Educate themselves on immigration policy
- ▶ Reflect on their own bias and work to dismantle them



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS :



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