

## **The Episcopal Church and Immigration Advocacy**

Firmly rooted in our ministry of welcome, the Episcopal Church is committed to advocating for immigration policies that define a pathway to citizenship for undocumented person in the U.S., uplift humane enforcement, and prioritize family unity.

### **Focus on a Pathway to Citizenship**

For the majority of the 11 million undocumented immigrants residing in the United States, there is no accessible legal pathway through which they can adjust their status and therefore remain with their families and seek lawful employment. The Episcopal Church supports nothing less than a pathway to full citizenship for undocumented immigrants wishing to come out of the shadows and will not support overly punitive measures, such as making legalization contingent upon enforcement, or restricting access to basic civil rights such as voting, accessing child tax credits, or sponsoring family members. In absence of comprehensive immigration reform that offers pathways to citizenship, the Episcopal Church and its members remain committed to standing with undocumented people to offer protection and support.

### **Focus on Undocumented Youth**

The Episcopal Church recognizes the incredible contributions to our Church and communities by undocumented youth and advocates for policies that will protect them from deportation and offer them opportunities to fully participate in society. In absence of comprehensive immigration reform for all undocumented persons, The Episcopal Church advocates to ensure the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program remains intact. Every child growing up in America deserves the opportunity to grow into full stature as a member of our society and to achieve his or her dreams. Particular policies like the DREAM Act or DACA or the BRIDGE Act aimed at young people that entered the U.S. as children are necessary allow them to achieve and contribute to their communities.

### **Focus on Humane Enforcement**

The Episcopal Church supports common sense immigration enforcement policies that respect the dignity and worth of every human being. Those who break our immigration laws in order to do us harm need to be prevented from doing so, but the increased militarization of the border, programs that encourage racial profiling, and prison-like detention for migrants is not the solution. The Episcopal Church supports alternatives to costly and prison-like detention for individuals who pose no threat to public safety, and the end to programs that separate families and erode trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities, such as the 287-g and the Secure Communities program. All enforcement measures should be proportional and humane.

