EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES PACKET

Revised Edition, 2014

We Are All Immigrants:
A Campaign to Create Welcoming Communities and Organize for Immigrant Rights on Long Island

Don’t mistreat any foreigners who live in your land. Instead, treat them as well as you treat citizens and love them as much as you love yourself. Remember, you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.
Leviticus 19:33-34

www.longislandwins.com
www.longislandjwj.org
http://www.nccusa.org/ecmin/licc/
www.longislandimmigrantalliance.com

Toolkit and Educational resources Packet compiled by Long Island Jobs with Justice and LI Wins
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Immigrants in the Jewish, Muslim and Christian Texts

Hebrew Bible

Exodus 23: 9
You must not oppress the stranger; you know how a stranger feels, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19: 32-34
If a stranger lives with you in your land, do not molest him. You must count him as one of your own countrymen and love him as yourself—for you were once strangers yourselves in Egypt. I am Yahweh your God.

Psalm 82: 2-4
No more mockery of justice, no more favoring of the wicked! Let the weak and the orphan have justice, be fair to the wretched and destitute; rescue the weak and needy, save them from the clutches of the wicked!

Psalm 103: 6
Yahweh, who does what is right, is always on the side of the oppressed.

Proverbs 31: 8-9
Speak, yourself, on behalf of the dumb, on behalf of all the unwanted; speak, yourself, pronounce a just verdict, uphold the rights of the poor, of the needy.

Ecclesiasticus 4: 8-9
To the poor man lend an ear, and return his greeting courteously. Save the oppressed from the hand of the oppressor, and do not be mean—spirited in your judgments.

Isaiah 10: 1-2
Woe to the legislators of infamous laws, to those who issue tyrannical decrees, who refuse justice to the unfortunate and cheat the poor among my people of their rights, who make widows their prey, and rob the orphan.

Isaiah 61: 1-2
The spirit of the Lord Yahweh has been given to me, for Yahweh has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to the captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from Yahweh.

Jeremiah 22: 3-4
Yahweh says this: Practice honesty and integrity; rescue the man who has been wronged from the hands of his oppressor; do not exploit the stranger, the orphan, the widow; do no violence, shed no innocent blood in this place.

Micah 6: 8
What is good has been explained to you; this is what Yahweh asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.

Zechariah 7: 8-11
(The word of Yahweh was addressed to Zechariah as follows:) He said: Apply the law fairly, and practice kindness and compassion toward each other. Do not oppress the widow.
and the orphan, the settler and the poor man, 
and do not secretly plan evil against one 
another.

Christian Testament

Matthew 25: 35-40
For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was 
thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a 
stranger and you made me welcome; naked 
and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; 
in prison and you came to see me.

. . . I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this 
to one of the least of these brothers of mine, 
you did it to me.

Mark 12: 30-31
This is the first [commandment]...you must 
love the Lord your God with all your heart, 
with all your soul, with all your mind and with 
all your strength. The second is this: You must 
love your neighbor as yourself. There is no 
commandment greater than these.

Luke 4: 18-19
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, 
for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the 
poor, 
to proclaim liberty to captives 
and to the blind new sight, 
to set the downtrodden free, 
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

Galatians 3: 28
. . . there are no more distinctions between 
Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and 
female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3: 12-13
You are God’s chosen race, his saints; he loves 
you, and you should be clothed in sincere 
compassion, in kindness and humility, 
gentleness and patience.

1 John 4: 19-21
Anyone who says, ‘I love 
God,’ and hates his brother, 
is a liar, 
since a man who does not love the brother 
that he can see 
cannot love God, whom he has never seen. 
So this is the commandment that he has given 
us, 
that anyone who loves God must also love his brother.

The Qur’án

Verse 107
In the name of God, the Beneficent, the 
Merciful Hast thou observed him who believeth 
(makes a lie of) religion? This is he who 
repelleth the orphan, And urgeth not the feeding of 
the needy. Ah, woe unto worshippers Who are heedless of their prayer; Who would be 
seen (at worship) Yet refuse small 
kindnesses.

Verse 4:97
Lo! as for those whom the angels take (in 
death) while they wrong themselves (by 
sinning), 
(the angels) will ask: In what were ye 
engaged? They will say: We were oppressed in 
the land. (The angels) will say: Was not God’s 
earth spacious that ye could have migrated 
therein?

Verse 55:9
But those who entered the city and the faith 
before them love those who flee unto them 
for refuge, and find in their breasts no need 
for that which has been given to them, but 
prefer (the refugees) above themselves 
though poverty become their lot. And who is saved 
from his own avarice—such are they who are 
successful.
Verse 16:41
And those who became (refugees) for the cause of God after they had been oppressed. We verily shall give them goodly lodging in the world, and surely the reward of the hereafter is greater, if they but knew.

Verse 24:22
And let not those who possess dignity and ease among you swear not to give to the near of kin and to the needy, and to refugees for the cause of God. Let them forgive and show indulgence. Yearn ye not that God forgive you? God is Forgiving, Merciful.

Verse 4:135
Be ye staunch in justice, witnesses for God, even though it be against (the worldly interests) of yourselves or (your) parents or (your) kindred, whether (the case be of) a rich man or a poor man.

Verse 5:8
Be steadfast witnesses for God in equity, and let not hatred of any people seduce you that ye deal not justly. Deal justly, that is nearer to your duty. Observe your duty to God. Lo! God is Informed of what ye do.

Liturgical Resources for the Christian Community

The resources in this section have been gathered [by Interfaith Worker Justice] from different sources. We give special thanks to the Justice for Immigrants campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for granting us permission to use their liturgical and prayer resources.

One of the most profound ways that we can welcome and embrace diversity in the church is to include the cultural signs, symbols, music, and languages of immigrants, migrants, refugees and other ethnic communities into our worship services. By interacting with diverse people who make up our community, we are strengthened in our Christian faith and are made more aware that we are one in Christ, who has called us “from every tribe and tongue, people and nation” (Revelation 5:9).

Sample Intercessions

The following intercessions may all be used together for a special liturgy, or particular intercessions may be chosen for use throughout the liturgical year.

- For an end to the violence and poverty that displaces so many people from their homes and homelands, we pray to the Lord. 
  
  Response: Lord hear our prayer.

- For our leaders, that they may implement policies that allow for safe migration, just migrant working conditions, and an end to the detention of asylum seekers, while protecting our national safety, we pray to the Lord.
  
  Response: Lord hear our prayer.

- For unaccompanied migrant children, that they may be protected from all harm and reunited with loving families, we pray to the Lord.

  Response: Lord hear our prayer.

- For migrant workers, that they may labor in safe and just conditions, and that we who benefit from their labor may be truly grateful for what they provide, we pray to the Lord.

  Response: Lord hear our prayer.

- For our community, gathered here today to celebrate our unity under the Lord and his mother, Mary, that we may come to greater understanding and acceptance of our differences, we pray to the Lord.

  Response: Lord hear our prayer.

- For all those who are overwhelmed by loneliness, poverty, and despair, that they may be comforted through our help and kindness, we pray to the Lord.

  Response: Lord hear our prayer.

- For those in special need, that the Lord in his divine mercy may heal the sick, comfort the dying, and keep travelers safe, we pray to the Lord.

  Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Sample Prayer Service

“You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33–34)
SCRIPTURAL READING:
Choose a scriptural passage from the preceding section (such as stories of Exodus, of the Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, or of their flight to Egypt, or Matthew's Gospel). An Alien’s Prayer

Leader:
I wear the mark of your disapproval and your often unspoken words pierce straight to my soul, “Why didn't you stay where you belong?”

I feel the icy stare that says, “Keep your distance, you foreigner, with your different-colored skin and your strange-sounding speech, with your culture, food, religion, and clothing that are inferior to my own.” I’m an immigrant, a wetback, an alien, an outsider operating a sweatshop sewing machine; cheap labor, unwanted or dirty jobs are mine for the taking; I’m one of the countless invisible ones who puts fresh vegetables on your plate or stitches the fashion dresses and shirts that you buy in your stylish stores.

As Moses of old once said, “Remember, you were once aliens in the land of Egypt,” remember that your grandfathers and grandmothers were immigrant unwanted, were exploited cheap labor, second-class citizens, uneducated and poor, used and abused, ignored or looked down upon for their foreign religion, speech, and food.

The White House, first house of this great land, says it well: White is this land of promise; no room for other colors or creeds. Someday we’ll paint the first house in rainbow colors—someday, not long from now.

All:
Creator God, help us to remember that when we speak of immigrants and refugees, we speak of Christ. In the One who had no place to lay his head, and in the least of his brothers and sisters, you come to us again, a stranger seeking refuge. We confess that we often turn away.

REFLECTION:
The prayer leader or another designate may wish to provide a guided reflection or instruction on “An Alien’s Prayer” and the chosen scriptural reading or the leader may wish to engage the participants in a guided group discussion on the prayer and reading.

INTERCESSIONS:
The prayer leader may wish to incorporate intercessions from the preceding section or to ask the participants to offer spontaneous prayers for their intentions.

CLOSING PRAYER:
Our God, you have given us in your word the stories of persons who needed to leave their homelands—Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Moses. You have chosen that the life of Jesus be filled with events of unplanned travel and flight from enemies. You have shown us through the modeling of Jesus how we are called to relate to persons from different nations and cultures. You have called us to be teachers of your word. We ask you, our God, to open our minds and hearts to the challenge and invitation to model your perfect example of love.

Amen.

“An Alien’s Prayer” by Edward Hays is reprinted with permission from Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim, copyright © 1989, Forest of Peace Publishing, 251 Muncie Rd., Leavenworth, Ks 66048

Jewish Textual Resources on Immigrants’ Rights

Kindness to Strangers—Chesed Le’gerim

The Jewish tradition is explicit about the need to treat strangers with compassion and justice, as equals to other citizens. Given our experience as foreigners in Egypt, Jewish texts remind us to treat others who find themselves in that position with the generosity we would have desired.

“When you reap the harvest in your field and overlook a sheaf in the field, do not turn back to get it; it shall go to the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow— in order that the Eternal your G-d may bless you in all your undertakings...always remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore do I enjoin you to observe this commandment.” (Deuteronomy 24:19, 24:22)

“‘There shall be one law for the citizen and for the stranger who dwells among you.” (Exodus 12:49)

“‘When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Eternal your G-d.” (Leviticus 19:33-34)

“Welcoming a guest takes priority over welcoming the Shechina, the presence of God.” (Sabbath 127a)

“You shall not wrong or oppress the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.’ ‘You shall not wrong’ with words, ‘and you shall not oppress’ financially...” (Mechilta d’Rabbi Yishmael Mishpatim—3rd century Midrash)

“You shall not turn over to the master a slave who seeks refuge with you from that master. Such individuals shall live with you in any place they may choose among the settlements in your midst, wherever they please; you must not ill-treat them.” (Deuteronomy 23:16-17)

Kindness to Strangers: Translation and Analysis—Chesed Le’gerim: Targum ve’Nituach

The Jewish textual tradition is filled with quotes obligating us to treat strangers with compassion and equality. One such well known quote comes from Leviticus 19:33-34 and urges us to recall our own experience as strangers in Egypt. Look over the following translations and note how people have taken the same Hebrew text and chosen different English words to represent it.

“When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord, your God.” (Plaut—Reform—2005)

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not taunt him. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be as a native from among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord, your God.” (Chabad.org—Chassidic—2005)

“When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I the Lord am your God.” (Jewish Publication Society—Conservative—1985)

SOURCE: Interfaith Worker Justice, For You Were Once a Stranger: Immigration in the U.S. Through the Lens of Faith (Resource J: Jewish Resources and Tool, Pp. 76-79) [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org)
Interfaith Prayers

Remember the Immigrant
A Prayer for Call-and-Response by Interfaith Worker Justice

Leader: We serve a God who directs us to care especially for those most vulnerable in society. Our scriptures tell us of God’s special concern for the “alien” or the “stranger,” or as more contemporary translations say—the immigrant.

Leader: We ask God to open our eyes to the struggles of immigrant workers, for we know that...

All: We must not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether the worker is a resident or immigrant living in our town. We must pay the worker the wages promptly because the worker is poor and counting on it. (Deuteronomy 24:14) Leader: God’s desire is that those who build houses may live in them,

All: And that those who plant may eat. (Isaiah 65:22)

Leader: And yet we know this is not possible for many in our midst.

All: We know of: farm workers who cannot feed their families; construction workers who have no homes; nursing home workers who have no health care; restaurant workers who could not afford a meal in the restaurant. Leader: We know that too many immigrant workers among us are not receiving the fruits of their labor, nor the justice required by the courts.

All: God charges our judges to hear disputes and judge fairly, whether the case involves citizens or immigrants. (Deuteronomy 1:16)


All: God tells us that the community is to have the same rules for citizens and for immigrants living among us. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. Citizens and immigrants shall be the same before the Lord. (Numbers 15:15)

Leader: When an immigrant lives in our land,

All: We will not mistreat him or her. We will treat an immigrant as one of our native born. We will love an immigrant as ourselves, for God’s people were once immigrants in Egypt. (Leviticus 19:33--34)

Leader: To those who employ immigrant workers, we lift up God’s command:

All: Do not oppress an immigrant. God’s people know how it feels to be immigrants because they were immigrants in Egypt. (Exodus 23: 9)

Leader: And a special word to those who employ immigrant farm workers:

All: Make sure immigrants get a day of rest. (Exodus 23:12)

Leader: To those who craft our immigration laws and policies, we lift up God’s command:

All: Do not deprive the immigrant or the orphan of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Remember that God’s people were slaves in Egypt and the Lord our God redeemed them from there.
Leader: To all of us who seek to do God’s will, help us to:

All: Love one another as God has loved us. Help us to treat immigrants with the justice and compassion that God shows to each of us.

A Prayer for Immigrants
By Jessica Vazquez Torres

Source of Life who is known by many names;
Over-turner and illuminator of hearts;
We gather with gratitude for the earth and all who journey in it.
We give thanks for the interconnectedness of all creation.

Source of Wisdom who is known by many names;
The Prophet Mohammed asks: What actions are most excellent?
To gladden the heart of a human being;
To feed the hungry;
To help the afflicted;
To lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful;
To remove the wrongs of the injured; Let us not forget.

The Psalmist asks: Who is fit to hold power and worthy to act in God’s place?
Those with a passion for the truth, who are horrified by injustice;
Who act with mercy to the poor and take up the cause of the helpless;
Who have let go of selfish concerns and see the whole creation as sacred.
Let us not forget.

Jesus, carpenter of Nazareth, asks: What is the greatest commandment?
To love your creator; To love your neighbor;
To undermine oppressive powers with lifegiving actions;
To be in solidarity with all who suffer;
To act for justice;
And to teach others to act for justice 
Let us not forget.

Source of Justice who is known by many names;
Let us not swerve from the path of righteousness that leads to just and equitable relationship.

Open our eyes that we may see the immigrant and undocumented;
Whose labor enables and sustains our living;
The farm worker, the hotel maid, the line cook, the childcare provider, the healthcare worker;

Give us the courage to stand with those crossing our borders;
Escaping economic oppression and political persecution;
Seeking work to support their families;
Aspiring to participate in the bounty of the creation;

Give us the strength to confront the prejudice and intolerance of those who are fearful;
And respond by closing our borders to those who sojourn seeking life and opportunity;

Give us the will to leave behind the safety of our sanctuaries and temples;
And claim our place in the movement to transform the creation;
That our voice, our heart, our spirit will join the voice, heart and spirit of all who demand to live with respect, justice and peace.

And let us not forget;
That the creation is founded on justice; And that we have the moral responsibility to bring forth justice into these times. **May it be so.**

*These resources were originally created by Jews United for Social Justice and are reprinted here with their permission.*

SOME COMMON FEARS AND FACTS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS IN U.S. HISTORY

AND TODAY
Prepared by Richard Koubek, Ph.D.
Community Outreach Coordinator, LI Jobs with Justice
September, 2011

Fear # 1: Don’t Immigrants Take Our Jobs?

Immigrant Facts:

➢ Historically, immigrants come to the U.S. when the economy is doing well and do not to come during recessions and depressions.
  - For example, during the recession of the 1850s, immigration fell from 400,000 a year to about 150,000. During the depression of the 1870s, it again fell from about 450,000 to 100,000. When that depression ended, immigration rose to 800,000 by 1880.

➢ Immigrants historically have taken unskilled jobs Americans don’t want.
  - Historically, immigrants have taken low-wage jobs, thus allowing native-born workers, in the words of one researcher writing in 1912, to become an “aristocracy of labor.”
• In short, immigrants have done the work that native-born people would rather not do (e.g., canal and railroad construction in the 1800s, landscaping and agricultural harvesting today) thereby creating opportunities for the native-born workers to become supervisors or to take “higher-level jobs.”

➢ Today, the U.S. has a serious shortage of unskilled workers.
• According to the Department of Labor (2004), there will be a shortage of two million unskilled workers by 2010 and the number of native-born unskilled workers is steadily shrinking due to low birth rates and higher levels of education.
• The Long Island Immigrant Alliance reported in 2006 that work visas are issued to only 5,000 unskilled workers a year while the economy creates 500,000 unskilled jobs per year. Many of these jobs are not desired by native-born workers and are filled by undocumented immigrants who enter the country without visas.

Fear #2: Don’t Immigrants Lower Wages?

Immigrant Facts:

➢ Initially, immigrants can have a small impact on wages.
• There are economic pockets, especially in the cities and African-American communities, where immigrant labor has lowered wages for some unskilled, native-born people.
• But, the 2005 Economic Report Of the President found that unskilled immigrants generally do not compete with native workers and that a 10 percent increase in immigrant workers lowered the wages of native workers by only 1 percent.

➢ But they tend to increase wages in the long run.
• A 2006 study by three economists found that the effect of illegal immigrants was zero because these lower-wage workers allow native-born Americans to expand their businesses or work hours by hiring more employees, taking on new contracts or having more time to increase their income. States with higher numbers of illegal immigrants actually had higher median wages for high school dropouts. (New York Times, April 16, 2006)
• And, immigrants - particularly legal immigrants - generally do as well financially, if not better than native Americans. For example, a 1998 Urban Institute study concluded that legal immigrants, after living 15 years in New York, actually earn more money ($18,700/yr.) than natives ($18,100/yr.)

Fear #3: Won’t Immigrants Cost Taxpayers More Money?

Immigrant Facts:

➢ Immigrants pay more in taxes than they receive in government services.
• Immigrants do add to the cost of some government services. For example, a 1997 National Academy of Sciences study found that in New Jersey a native-born family pays an average $232 a year in state and local taxes to cover the net costs of services used by immigrants; this figure is $1,178 in California.
However, current federal welfare laws prohibit legal immigrants from accessing most welfare services for five years. Undocumented immigrants can never receive welfare.

Meanwhile, the National Academy of Sciences study found that immigrants have added billions of dollars a year to the American economy. While there may be an initial cost for immigrants - especially in public education - immigrants more than make up for these costs in the productivity they add to the economy.

As for taxes, by one estimate, immigrants earn about $240 billion a year, pay about $90 billion in taxes and use only $5 billion in public benefits.

The approximately 12 million undocumented immigrants alone pay $7 billion a year in taxes including sales taxes or the portion of their rent that goes to local property taxes.

And, both documented and undocumented immigrants make major contributions to the economy.

Because current immigration laws favor educated and skilled people, a 2008 Adelphi University study found high levels of education among many Long Island immigrants, with more than 13% over the age of 25 having a graduate degree (compared with 15.6% of the total population,) and 32.3% of them with at least a bachelor’s degree (compared with 35% of the total population.)

The Adelphi University study also found that Long Island immigrants contributed $10.6 billion in purchasing power to the local economy in 2006, generated 82,000 LI jobs and paid $2,305 more in local taxes than they received in government services such as education and health care.

In addition, a 2005 study by the Social Security Administration found that legal immigrants will contribute $611 billion to Social Security over the next 75 years while undocumented immigrants contribute $20 billion to Social Security each year, a net gain for the system because undocumented immigrants can not collect Social Security.

Finally, the 1998 Urban Institute study found that immigrants pay as much in taxes as natives; New York State’s legal immigrants who constitute 15.4% of the population paid 15.2% of the State’s tax burden - $17.8 billion a year in local, state and Federal taxes.

Fear #4: Can We Assimilate So Many “Different” Immigrants?

Immigrant Facts:

Immigrants have been both welcomed and feared throughout U.S. history.

Belief that the U.S. can’t assimilate immigrants is an old, unfounded fear. On March 16, 1898, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts said in the U.S. Senate that immigration should be restricted because the new immigrants, “Italians, Russians, Poles, Hungarians, Greeks, and Asiatics” were people which “English-speaking people have never hitherto assimilated, and who are most alien to the great body of the people of the United States.” All these groups are today fully assimilated.

Until 1924, the U.S. had virtually open borders with few restrictions placed on incoming immigrants. Thus, national immigration policy encouraged immigrants to “flood” into the U.S. as a much needed workforce. When people today ask, "Why can’t immigrants enter this country legally like my ancestors did?” the answer is quite simple: most of our immigrant ancestors faced few, if any legal restrictions on their ability to enter the United States.
• Unfounded fears about our nation’s ability to assimilate “different cultures” did lead the U.S. to change its immigration policy from what had been a virtual open door to strict quotas adopted in 1924 that severely restricted immigration from southern and eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America until 1965. Prior to 1924, Chinese and Japanese were restricted between the 1880s and 1905, criminals, people with mental illness and communicable diseases or those who could become a burden on the community and, after 1917, people illiterate in their own language, had been restricted.

• Today, the U.S. is not being flooded by hordes of “illegal immigrants”; two thirds to three fourths of immigrants enter the country legally. Immigrants represent only 12% (33 million people) of the U.S. population today compared with about 15% in 1920.

➤ But historically, large numbers of immigrants from many different cultures have successfully been assimilated into American life.

• Numerous studies have shown that the children of today’s immigrants generally speak English (as did the children of earlier immigrant families) and are rapidly adapting to American cultural norms. In fact, the Urban Institute study found that the children of immigrants grow up to earn just as much as the children of native-born Americans.

• A 2004 study by the Mumford Center at the State University of New York in Albany found that 72% of third generation Hispanic immigrants speak English exclusively.

• One third of immigrants are naturalized citizens, a major step toward assimilation. So many immigrants are applying for citizenship that the process is backlogged for years.
Immigration on Long Island:

- **On the whole, immigrants benefit Long Island.** While we wait for national immigration reform, local communities need workable solutions that help immigrants contribute, instead of just punishing them.

  We have seen the cost of dividing communities instead of providing practical solutions. Whether it's the killing of Marcelo Lucero or the children in the families broken up by raids hateful rhetoric and misguided policies come at a real cost.

- **We on Long Island know firsthand how immigrants can make Long Island richer — and add to the richness of our communities.** Long Island is better off because of immigrants. In 2006, immigrants contributed $10.6 billion dollars to the Long Island economy, with $7.5 billion in buying power, generating 82,000 new jobs. They even paid $1.07 billion more in taxes than they received in services. Source: Adelphi Study, 2008.

- **Immigrants are revitalizing Long Island's downtowns and are the main source of workforce growth on Long Island.** Without new immigrants Long Island would have lost rather than gained people since 1980. Immigrants strengthen our communities' values of hard work and family, and enrich our quality of life with culture, food, and music and arts.

- **On Long Island, we know that immigration can work — if we have the right policies.** We need policies that recognize that immigrants are renewing the American Dream. They have high rates of integration and employment and want to learn English.

  Workable Solution: Immigrants come to Long Island from all over the world to work hard, take care of their families, become citizens and participate in American society. English as a Second Language (ESOL) programs help them do that. ESOL programs on Long Island are underfunded, leaving many immigrants who want to learn English unable to do so. Ensuring that immigrants who want to learn English are able to is an important way to make a smart investment and stimulate our economy.

- **Working together, we can come up with solutions that promote opportunity and integration, and both respect the law and reflect our values. But we need a more reasonable dialogue. Good people — both immigrant and native born are being hurt by our broken federal system.**
Long Island Council of Churches
STATEMENT ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

We are called by Scripture to welcome the stranger among us:

“You shall love also the immigrant, for in Egypt you were immigrants.”
Deuteronomy 10:17-19

“One law shall be the same for those that are home-born and for the sojourners among you.”
Exodus 12:49

“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as citizens among you”
Leviticus 19:34

“As you did it for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.”
Matthew 25:40

As people of faith, we are called to protect immigrants against hate, workplace discrimination, and unjust deportation. We need secure borders, but William Penn reminds us that, “A good end cannot sanctify evil means, nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it.” Current laws are so widely ignored that they encourage contempt for the rule of law, and the existence of a vast underground economy undermines our safety and security. When enforced, though, current laws separate families and violate fundamental human rights.

Many employers and many workers find it nearly impossible to comply with current, complex, and contradictory immigration laws. We support reform of our laws rather than continued disregard of laws that do not serve our nation or our values. Immigration policy should promote reunification of families, meet the needs of our economy, and protect those facing political persecution and humanitarian crises. There should be a relatively simple path to asylum, permanent residence, and earned citizenship at modest cost and reasonably brief waiting period.

In every generation, immigrants have renewed the American Dream through their hard work, their family ties, and their contributions to our culture and our religious life. We need the gifts that immigrants bring to preserve the vibrancy of our economy and our nation, so we support new federal legislation that would allow badly needed workers to come here legally, work with dignity, and travel home regularly to see their families.

--adopted by the Board of Governors of the Long Island Council of Churches, Sept. 25, 2008
Policy Statements from the Religious Community

Interfaith Worker Justice felt it was important to highlight the powerful witness the religious community has offered in the struggle for a just and comprehensive immigration reform. Below are excerpts from statements made by the religious community and its leaders calling this nation and its leaders to use a different approach, choose a more just way and to be filled by spirit of inclusion.

Unitarian Universalist Association Resolution of Immediate Witness (July 1995)
From “A Call to Conscious, Humane Treatment of Immigrants.”
Because we covenant as Unitarian Universalists to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person; and...we covenant as Unitarian Universalists to promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations...we cannot in conscience condone...the systematic refusal of human social services to needy persons and their families based on immigration status, national origin, or citizenship."

And the UUA resolved to "...demand...from both state and federal lawmakers humane solutions to the very complex social issues relating to undocumented persons in this country, and a just application of human rights at both the state and national levels for all people living within our borders; and urges individual Unitarian Universalists in the United States to serve those directly harmed and others affected by the passage of any legislation which would deny human beings the basic services warranted to all members of a free and just society."
Link: www.uua.org/actions/immediate/95immigrants.html

General Assembly of the Union for Reform Judaism Immigration Policy (December 1995)
The Union of American Hebrew Congregations has long supported a fair and generous immigration policy. Our people were and continue to be immigrants to this nation. We have benefited from open doors and suffered when they were closed. We struggled to adjust to a society that did not always welcome our arrival. We understand the problems faced by today’s immigrants, as well as the difficulties attributable to the problem illegal immigration.

Our tradition demands of us concern for the stranger in our midst. We know that the alien and the foreigner should be treated with respect and welcomed, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Yet we also must support the territorial integrity of the United States and the governance of its laws. As the United States Commission on Immigration Reform explores the current state of immigration policy and suggests improvements to be made in the system, and as new legislation is proposed to confront issues raised by legal and illegal immigration, we support those efforts that compassionately seek to regulate and to aid newcomers to this land but we oppose those that will unduly restrict immigration or burden the lives of legal immigrants.
Link: www.urj.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=7237&pge_prg_id=29601&pge_id=4590

A Message on Immigration from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
"Immigration, refugee, and asylum policies express who we are as a nation, influence the nation’s future character, and affect the lives of millions of people. We encourage our members, in light of our history and our ministry with newcomers, to join with other citizens in our democratic society to support just laws that serve the common good.

Our advocacy needs to take into account the complexity of issues, the diversity of interests and the partial or relative justice of laws at the same time that it counters appeals rooted in hostility, racism, prejudice, indifference and simplistic solutions. We draw on the best of our nation’s traditions as a refuge and haven for the persecuted and destitute when we affirm that “we support a generous policy of welcome for refugees and immigrants,” and that we “will advocate for just immigration policies, including fairness in visa regulations and in admitting and protecting refugees. We will work for policies that cause neither undue repercussions within immigrant communities nor bias against them.”

With grace and concern, the church must address
the legal, economic, social, and human right conditions of people who are legal or undocumented immigrants, and it must oppose
the introduction of legislation by Congress of any state that would cause human suffering and a denial of such individual’s rights as interpreted by our biblical understanding
of God’s grace to all peoples, but especially to the sojourned...

We call upon United Methodist individuals and churches in the United States and throughout the United Methodist Church to do the following:
1. Actively oppose anti-immigrant legislative action and support legislative action that protects the poor and oppressed in their quest for survival and peace;
2. Urge stringent policing and penalties for coyotes (illegal transporters);
3. Urge that humane and fair treatment be extended to all immigrants by business and agricultural groups;
4. Advocate human’s rights (political, economic and civil) for all people, including the strangers who sojourn in our land;
5. Support communities and congregations by prayer and action where anti-immigrant measures are implemented;
6. Continue to work with community organizations to provide forums for citizens to voice concerns, educate one another, and confront the problems of racism and fear or hatred of foreigners as obstacles to building community;
7. Continue to work with civic and legal communities who are now, or will be, affected by the destructive, deteriorating social issues raised by anti-immigrant measures;
8. Support the legal needs of immigrants through church-based immigrant clinics.

The American Baptist Churches Policy on Immigration and Refugee Policy
Because of the Biblical mandate that we be a caring community, that we love our neighbors, that we establish justice and proclaim liberty; because we have a sense of Christian responsibility to serve human needs; because of our commitment to respect the human rights of all people; and because we are mainly a nation of immigrants, we, the American Baptist Churches USA, shall: 1. Continue our historical role as an advocate
We Catholic bishops commit ourselves to continue to work at the national level to promote recognition of the human rights of all, regardless of their immigration status, and to advance fair and equitable legislation for refugees and prospective immigrants. Present efforts need to be strengthened and supported with new initiatives, both at the local level and at the national level as U.S. immigration law and practice change in the face of changing political pressures and social realities.

Immigrant communities give ample witness to what it is to be Church—in their desire to worship as a people, in their faith, in their solidarity with one another and with the weakest among them, in their devotion and their faithfulness to the Church of their ancestors. For the Church in the United States to walk in solidarity with newcomers to our country is to live out our catholicity as a Church. The Church of the twenty-first century will be, as it has always been, a Church of many cultures, languages and traditions, yet simultaneously one, as God is one—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—unity in diversity.

Link: www.usccb.org/mrs/unity.shtml#summary

American Friends Service Committee Board of Directors (June 2001)

Undocumented immigrants pay taxes, and contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of their communities in countless ways. A legalization program would recognize the equity undocumented people have built through their participation in U.S. society and acknowledge the inherent injustice of the secrecy, vulnerability and exploitation imposed on undocumented women, men and children.

Link: www.afsc.org/immigrants—rights/documents/principles.pdf

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (July 2004)
Comprehensive Legalization Program for Immigrants Living and Working in the United States

One crucial practice of justice is to correct the abuses occurring in our midst. The awful conditions that are experienced by undocumented workers are not intolerable to them because they are desperate for the income. But these abuses should be regarded as intolerable by others of us. Undocumented workers are put in the position of a servant class. Michael Walzer, a political philosopher, asserts that to use a person’s labor without making available the full rights of citizens is akin to tyranny (Spheres of Justice, Basic Books, 1983, pp. 56–61).

A Christian perspective on immigration challenges us above all to love immigrants, to establish justice for them, and to seek to be reconciled with them in a new and transformed community. While this does not automatically settle particular questions of public policy, General Assemblies have consistently advocated justice for these vulnerable neighbors.


Jewish religious and ethical values provide a firm foundation for Jewish involvement in immigration and refugee policy. Central Jewish teachings emphasize protection of the stranger, as seen in the over 36 references to this principle within the Torah, including: “When strangers sojourn with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong.” The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:33--34).

Jewish tradition also includes principles of Piddyon Shevuyim (redeeming the captive), Chesed (kindness), and Hachnasat Orchim (hospitality) that creates a solid framework for a compassionate response to the needs of immigrants and refugees.

A Statement from the Presiding Bishop and the President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2006)

St. Paul calls on us to “[W]elcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you, to the glory of God” (Romans 15:7). Our Lutheran tradition calls on us to uphold the Biblical mandate to welcome the stranger. The Bible teaches us “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt (Leviticus 19: 33--34).” In Matthew 25, Jesus himself identified with aliens: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

We therefore request the following specific changes in legislation currently under consideration:

- Oppose the criminalization of the church, its ministers and its members who provide humanitarian aid to undocumented immigrants.
- Oppose provisions which criminalize undocumented presence.
- Provide a path to permanence for individuals currently residing and working in the United States as well as their families.
- Ensure basic constitutional due process rights in the enforcement of our laws.
- Include in the legislation the bipartisan “Agricultural Job Opportunities Act” for farm workers.

Immigration: A Muslim Perspective (April 2006)

Prophet Muhammad, as Prophets Moses and
Jesus (peace be upon them) before him did, taught that one is not a true believer until they love for others what they love for themselves.

Our greatness as a country comes from our compassion toward our most vulnerable members.

At the end, regardless of how we choose to deal with their infractions against our laws, they deserve basic human rights which include due process, food assistance and medical care when necessary. An illegal person is still a human being. While no one should condone anyone breaking our laws, we have to realize that unless the economic hardship in their home countries and our increasing demand for cheap unskilled labor are resolved, we will continue to hypocritically feed this influx while dehumanizing its victims.


Open Statement about Immigration by the Global Ministries of the United Church Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (May 2006)

All persons have the right to find economic opportunities that will allow them and their families to live in dignity (the “pursuit of happiness,” as framed in our Declaration of Independence). If those economic opportunities are unavailable in their homeland, then persons should be allowed to migrate to support themselves and their families. God instructed Abram and Sarai, the parents of our faith, to migrate to a new land; today, the voice of God continues to direct people to paths of migration and immigration. Our faith traditions also call on us to welcome the stranger among us and to promote hospitality toward the migrant, the refugees and the exiled in our communities. Our traditions also recognize that all the goods of the earth belong to God and are intended to be shared by all people.

Those fleeing violence and persecution should be afforded protection. The global community should protect those who flee wars and persecution, as many people from our own faith traditions have been forced to do throughout history. This requires that migrants be allowed to claim refugee status without incarceration and to have their asylum claims fully considered by a competent authority. The human dignity and human rights of all migrants should be respected. Regardless of their legal status, migrants, like all persons, possess inherent human dignity that should be respected, and we must develop policies that safeguard this dignity. We must seek policies to safeguard the rights and inherent dignity of all migrants, particularly the undocumented, including their rights as workers. Family unity among migrant and immigrant families should be protected and upheld. Our faith and moral imperatives transcend borders and compel us to act on the basis of justice and love.

Link: www.globalministries.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1

DREAM Act Information Sheet

What is the DREAM Act? The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act) is a bill that, if passed, would allow a student up to 6 years of legal residence.

Requirements: During those 6 years, the student would need to graduate from a 2-year college OR complete 2 years towards a 4-year degree OR serve in the military for at least 2 years.

Benefit: Permanent residency will be granted if the above requirements are met and student maintains good moral character.

How Does One Qualify?

1. The student must have been present in the U.S. at least 5 years before the bill passes.
2. The student must have been in the U.S. when he/she was 15 years old or younger.
3. The student must graduate from a U.S. high school or receive a G.E.D.
4. Must demonstrate good moral character. Students would not qualify for this bill if they have committed crimes, are a security risk, or are inadmissible or removable on certain other grounds.

Facts:

- Approximately 65,000 students graduate from U.S high schools each year who have been in the United States more than five years but face limited prospects for completing their education or working legally in the US because they were brought here at a young age without immigration documents.

- Approximately 50,000 undocumented students are currently enrolled in higher education institutions across the US who are eligible for the DREAM Act. They are educating themselves in hopes of DREAM Act passage so they can legalize their status and pursue their dreams. Currently, only a small fraction of undocumented students who graduate from high school go on to college.
FACTS ABOUT THE DREAM ACT

**Fact:** The DREAM Act offers absolutely no reason for undocumented people to enter the country. It provides zero benefit for immigrants who are not already here. In fact, it requires students to have to come to the U.S. as children and at least 5 years before the time of enactment. The current high level of undocumented immigration has occurred without the DREAM Act.

**Fact:** State and local tax payers are already investing in the education of these children in elementary and secondary school, it would be a shame to not have these students go on to college.

**Fact:** The DREAM Act does not force states to offer in-state tuition to these children. It would be up to the states to determine tuition rates for undocumented students.

**Fact:** The only thing the DREAM Act would reward is strength of character and hard work. The DREAM Act is not an amnesty. Students have to earn legal status by: 1) working hard in school, 2) graduating form high school (an enormous feat for immigrant children who make up a quarter of America's high school dropouts) and 3) pursuing two years of higher education or military service.

Resource by the NYSYLC. Visit www.nilc.org for additional information.

Get Involved!

Contact the Equal Education and Employment Campaign at Charlene.obernauer@gmail.com
Join our email list for updates!
Question & Answer Regarding Immigrant Students' Access to Higher Education

Q: Can a student without immigration status enroll in college?
A: In New York State, students without immigration status can legally enroll in public colleges and universities (CUNY and SUNY). Private colleges set their own policies, so each one is different. A call to the admissions office can determine whether students without immigration status are eligible. Keep in mind that there are serious and real risks for students and families that decide to go to school upstate because of federal law that allows for immigration check points within 100 miles of either border.

Q: Are students without immigration status in-state, out-of-state or international students, for the purposes of tuition?
A: Students without immigration status who reside in New York State and either graduated from high school or took the GED in NY are eligible to pay in-state tuition at public colleges in New York State. See "In-State Tuition For Undocumented Students" for information regarding the application process (below).

Q: What should a student without a social security number write in the SSN box?
A: A student without a social security number should leave the SSN box blank, write none or write N/A. A student should never lie about their social security number. No student is required to submit a social security number. Students can also leave the SSN box blank on the SAT. While students can attend college without a social security number, degrees the require licensing work can require a social security number, so students should keep this in mind when choosing degree and career paths.

Q: What should a student without immigration status write in the immigration status section? Won't writing that they do not have an immigration status get them in trouble with immigration?
A: Students without immigration status should never lie and say that they are U.S. citizens or Legal Permanent Residents (green card holders). They should write "none" or "not qualified". Under federal law, schools cannot disclose this information to immigration. Schools only disclose information regarding students with international student visas.

Q: What is the difference between a student without immigration status and an international student?
A: A student without immigration status does not have a valid visa or green card. An international student comes to the United States with a student visa, specifically to attend school. It is very unlikely that undocumented students can apply for a student visa if they have grown up in the US. Some have been able to do this, but it requires a significant amount of legal work so students should consult with attorneys.
Q: Are students without immigration status eligible for state or federal financial aid?
A: Currently, students without immigration status are not eligible for state or federal financial aid, including the Tuition Assistance Program and Pell Grants. They can file a FAFSA, which will be returned to them marked "ineligible". However, it will include an "expected family contribution", which students may need to apply for private scholarships. They should only fill out the contact information and check the corresponding boxes, namely "ineligible non-citizen" and not continue because it will not be reviewed. FAFSA applications for students without immigration status should only be done by mail.

Q: What options for financial assistance do students without immigration status have?
A: Students without immigration status may be eligible for certain private scholarships. A partial list can be found at nysylc.org. Other scholarship organizations can be called to determine eligibility requirements. Students in CUNY may be eligible for the Peter Vallone scholarship. Additionally, there are tuition pay plans that allow students to pay in installments, instead of all at once. Students can get loans by having family members or people they know who do have immigration status act as co-signers. Some students have written letters to foundations, local business leaders, etc. to receive financial assistance.

Q: Where can I find more information or refer a student for assistance?
A: The New York State Youth Leadership Council is happy to assist immigrant students with the college application process. We are also happy to assist educators and counselors who have questions about how best to help their students. Please contact us at info@nysylc.org or 212.627.2227x248. Also, the CUNY Immigration Project assists anyone in New York City with immigration law related questions. Visit their website at http://web.cuny.edu/about/citizenship.html.

In-State Tuition Eligibility Requirements and Application Process For Undocumented Students

In 2002 New York passed a law that allows undocumented immigrants to apply for in-state tuition if they meet the following criteria:

1) Attended a New York State High School for two years and graduated from a New York State High School and applied for admission to CUNY or SUNY.

OR

2) Attended a New York State Program for General Equivalency Diploma (GED) exam preparation, received a GED issued within New York State, and applied for admission to CUNY or SUNY

OR

3) Were enrolled in CUNY in the Fall 2001 semester or quarter and were authorized by CUNY to pay tuition at the resident rate. Thus, a student who attended CUNY in the Fall 2001 semester and paid the resident rate does not have to satisfy either of the conditions above.
To be eligible for in-state tuition, in addition to meeting the above requirements, you must file a notarized form (affidavit) stating that you have either filed an application to legalize your immigration status or will file such an application as soon as you are eligible to do so.

And:

You must provide the College with a "City University Residency Form" and the necessary documentation proving New York State residency for 12 months prior to the first day of classes for the semester.
Why doesn’t everyone just apply for a visa?

A common question about immigration is “Why don’t undocumented people just get in line and get a visa?” The answer is that it is not that easy. In order to get a visa, you have to fit into one of the categories included in immigration law, and there are millions of people who don’t fit into any category.

Non-immigrant visas do not give the holder a path to citizenship. They are for a specific purpose, and time-limited. Examples: tourist visas, student visas. If you stay longer than the time limit, you become undocumented.

Immigrant visas are visas that put you on the path to citizenship. That means that you can get a green card (legal permanent resident) and become a citizen if you jump through the hoops – fill out paperwork, pay fees, pass a test of English and history/citizenship, and wait years for your application to be processed.

- **Family based visas**: Legal permanent residents (green card holders) and US citizens can apply for visas for some categories of relatives. There is a limit to the number of visas available for each category (adult child, sibling, parent, etc.) and for people coming from each country. That means that people wait years or decades for their turn to have an application processed. Once your turn comes up, you will wait another three years or more for the paperwork to be processed.
- **Employment-based visas**: There is a limited number of visas available for some professions. Employers apply for their employees, and it can take two years to process the paperwork.
- People facing persecution may come as **refugees** or apply for **asylum** once here, and later apply for permanent residence. The number of people who can get refugee status is limited, and the number of refugee/asylees who can get their green cards is also limited.
- **Diversity lottery**: Congress created the diversity category for countries that do not send many immigrants to the US. There is a lottery for these visas, which are very limited.
- **Very limited categories**, like for victims of human trafficking, people from a few countries (ex. Cuba), some military immigrants, and some religious workers.

What if you do not fit any of these categories? Millions do not fit into any category and can never get a green card or become a citizen.
Comprehensive Immigration Reform Talking Points

Note: The Senate Comprehensive Immigration reform bill adopted in 2013 addresses these points.

Why do we need Comprehensive Immigration Reform?

- Due to processing backlogs and insufficient quotas, depending on one’s country of origin, the wait for a visa to enter the U.S. can be up to twenty years. This means that families wait years to be reunited.

- The escalation in raids and deportation by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) results in the breakup of families. Those deported often have children and/or spouses who are U.S. citizens.

- The U.S. detains over 280,000 people a year, at the annual cost of 1.2 billion dollars to taxpayers. Much of this money goes to private contractors.

- In spite of the billions spent on fences, raids, patrols, and prisons, undocumented immigrants have increased since 1992 from 4 million to about 12 million. Clearly, enforcement alone is insufficient.

- The number of working visas issued each year is only a fraction of the number of available jobs for unskilled labor. This means that the situation encourages large numbers of undocumented workers.

- Because of their undocumented state, migrant workers are subject to abuse by employers. And because there is a large pool of workers that can be abused, wages for documented workers are hurt as well.

- Since the enactment of NAFTA, wages for Mexican workers have dropped by 22%. Unable to compete against U.S. government subsidized factory—farmed corn, Mexican farmers have been driven off their family lands. The Mexican government has admitted that 82% of the working population has less income than they need.

- The U.S. economy has depended upon migrant workers from Mexico since early on. In the 1940s, due to a shortage resulting from the world war, the U.S. government officially invited Mexicans to work as farm laborers. The “bracerro” program sent workers to all but 6 states, and lasted until the 1980s.

- Contrary to popular belief, the vast majority of undocumented workers pay taxes, and are less likely to be involved in crime.
- Also contrary to popular belief, in the majority of cases (90%), U.S. workers experience a wage increase as a result of the presence of immigrant workers.

- Anti-immigrant rhetoric is tied to a 40% increase in hate crimes (from 2003 to 2007) directed against Latino/a/Hispanics and people perceived to be immigrants.

**What would Comprehensive Immigration Reform do?**

- Create Legal Avenues to enter the U.S. Revise our visa policies so that the number of work visas issued better matches employer demand in the U.S., and provide full labor rights, job portability, and a path to permanent residence over time for those who would not displace U.S. workers.

- Create a Path to Legalization for those already in the U.S. Workers who have not committed violent offences would be able to earn legal status, thus restoring the rule of law.

- Reduce the Multi-Year Backlogs in visa applications. The current wait of 7-10 (and sometimes up to 20) years breaks up families, which are the cornerstone of society. Backlogs for employment-based visas encourages undocumented workers and hurts our economy.

- Secure our borders humanely while allowing the flow of documented people and commerce. Smart enforcement should include effective inspections and screening practices, fair proceedings, efficient processing, and strategies that crack down on criminal smugglers and employers who exploit workers. At the same time, our border security practices must facilitate the cross-border flow of goods and people that is essential to our economy.

(Adapted from Making the Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).)
Principles for Just Federal Immigration Reform

Like people of many different faiths, we take seriously the words of Leviticus (19:33-34), “Don’t mistreat any foreigners who live in your land. Instead, treat them as well as you treat citizens…” Because the United States is a nation of laws rooted in our faith traditions and a nation of immigrants, we support reforming America’s broken immigration laws for the benefit of our economy and the millions of immigrants who annually pump billions of dollars into our tax base and productivity. We believe immigration reform should:

1. **Address the causes of migration** including extreme poverty - some of which is caused by free trade agreements such as NAFTA that have ruined local economies by flooding them with cheap American products such as US-subsidized corn - as well as violent conflicts, religious and political persecution, environmental destruction and economic exploitation that cause people to leave their homes and families.

2. **Keep all families together** by reducing the backlog in visa permits and by increasing the number of visas available to spouses and children of documented, permanent immigrants.

3. **Provide a path to citizenship** for the 11 million undocumented immigrant workers and their families that is fair, efficient and humane and not punitive with exorbitant fees, fines or other requirements such as making them first return to their country of origin.

4. **Meet our workforce needs** by providing visas for all sectors of the economy and adjusting the number of visas to the changing needs of the U.S. economy such as the harvest season in agricultural regions.

5. **Protect the rights of immigrant workers** such as their right to change employers, join a union, earn the minimum or prevailing wage, overtime pay, protection from racial, ethnic or sexual discrimination and other rights guaranteed to American workers.

6. **Enforce the new immigration rules fairly** by cracking down on unscrupulous employers who exploit immigrant workers without punishing these workers or subjecting them to error-ridden electronic verification systems like “e-verify.”

7. **Terminate cruel and harsh enforcement of immigrant laws** such as the mass arrests, detentions and deportations of non-criminal undocumented immigrants, often without due process of law like the right to counsel, to submit evidence, confront accusers or a jury trial.

8. **Maintain humanitarian border security enforcement** in consultation with border communities in ways that treat all migrants with respect while using taxpayer dollars to prevent entry by dangerous criminals or people who threaten U.S. national security.

While so many immigrants have fled poverty in their homelands, here on Long Island an Adelphi University study found that immigrants contributed $10.6 billion in purchasing power to the local economy in 2006, generated 82,000 jobs while each immigrant paid $2,305 more in local taxes than they received in government services such as health care or education. Immigrants are and always have been vital to the strength of our nation. For this reason, we support reform our immigration laws using the above principles.
Timeline: The rise and fall of immigration reform

By David Nakamura and Ed O'Keefe  The Washington Post, June 26, 2014

With the two-year attempt to push immigration reform through Congress languishing and effectively dead, according to advocates and lawmakers, here's a look back at how debate on the issue crested and then crashed from Election Night 2012:

Nov. 6, 2012 – President Obama wins reelection with 71 percent of the Latino vote and 73 percent of the Asian American vote.

Nov. 8, 2012 – House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) says: “It’s an important issue that I think ought to be dealt with. This issue has been around far too long.”

Jan. 28, 2013 – The Senate "Gang of Eight" -- Democrats Charles E. Schumer (N.Y.), Richard Durbin (Ill.), Robert Menendez (N.Y.) and Michael Bennet (Colo.) and Republicans John McCain (R-Ariz.), Lindsey O. Graham (S.C.), Marco Rubio (Fla.), and Jeff Flake (Ariz.) -- introduce their immigration principles, including a path to citizenship for most of the nation's more than 11 million undocumented immigrants. [President Obama issues a similar plan.]

April 26, 2013 – The Senate "Gang of Eight" formally introduces Senate Bill S. 744, an 844-page comprehensive immigration bill. Opponents hatch plans to try to kill it by dragging out the process with amendments and debate.

June 27, 2013 – The Senate votes 68-32 to approve the immigration bill, with 14 Republicans joining all the chamber’s Democrats to support the legislation. It had grown to 1,200 pages thanks to amendments adding stronger border security measures and new work visas for high- and low-skilled workers. Among the requirements: 20,000 more border agents, 700 miles of fence along the border with Mexico, and $3.2 billion in technology upgrades for border patrol.

July 8, 2013 – At a news conference, Boehner says: “The House is not going to take up the Senate bill. The House is going to do its own job in developing an immigration bill.” Boehner emphasizes the House will not tackle comprehensive immigration, but rather pursue smaller-scale “piecemeal” bills.

Late July 2013 – Five smaller-scale immigration bills are introduced in the House, dealing with increased border security, agricultural worker visas, a new employee verification system for employees and additional measures for local law enforcement agents to detain suspected undocumented immigrants. None of the bills says anything about offering undocumented immigrants a legal status.

Sept. 17, 2013 – Obama tells a Spanish-language television Telemundo that it is “not an option” for him to use executive authority to expand a 2012 decision to suspend deportations of young immigrants brought to the country illegally by their parents. This disappoints advocates who believe he should use executive powers to bypass Congress.
Jan. 30, 2014 – House Republican leaders release their immigration “principles” at a caucus retreat, including a path to legal status, though not citizenship, for many undocumented immigrants.

Feb. 6, 2014 – Boehner backtracks on the immigration principles, citing “widespread doubt about whether this administration can be trusted to enforce our laws. And it’s going to be difficult to move any immigration legislation until that changes.”

March 5, 2014 – Janet Murguia, president of the National Council of La Raza, calls Obama the “deporter-in-chief” during a conference, as advocates bitterly mark a milestone of 2 million people deported during Obama’s tenure.

May 27, 2014 – Obama tells advocates that he has ordered a review by the Department of Homeland Security of the administration’s deportation and enforcement policies in an effort to make them more “humane.” He does not set a deadline for the review.

June 10, 2014 – House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) suffers a shocking upset in his primary, a loss that many advocates believe spoils hopes among immigration advocates that the House leadership would pursue immigration after GOP members are safely through their primary elections.

May-June 2014 – A crisis involving tens of thousands of unaccompanied children entering the United States illegally across the Mexico border into Texas revives charges from Republicans that Obama is not adequately enforcing immigration laws.

June 25, 2014 – Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.), perhaps the most vocal immigration advocate on Capitol Hill, declares in a fiery House floor speech that the hopes for comprehensive immigration reform “is over.” He tells his GOP colleagues: “We've given you time to craft legislation and you failed. The president has no other choice but to act on existing laws to make deportation policies more humane."

[During the summer of 2014, President Obama announces that by late summer he will use his executive authority to bypass Congress and provide legal status to some of the 11 million undocumented immigrants. Just before Labor Day, 2014, the White House sends signals that this decision may be postponed until after the November elections. One proposal would have the President first announce measures aimed at tightening enforcement of current law, then put off until the end of the year a decision on a more sweeping program that could temporarily shield millions of immigrants from deportation by granting them legal status.]
The 2013 Senate Reform Bill: What We Like; What We Don't Like

What We Like

- **Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI) Status** – A 10-year pathway to green card (RPI), followed by 3-year path to citizenship. Total of 13 years to citizenship.
- **DREAM Act** – Would allow anyone undocumented child who was brought here before the age of 16 (Dreamers,) a five-year pathway to citizenship. No age cap. No imposed penalties on Dreamers.
- **Family Reunification** – Individuals outside of the United States who were previously here before December 31, 2011 and were deported for non-criminal reasons can apply to re-enter the United States in RPI status if they are the spouse or parent of a child who is a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident; or are a childhood arrival who is eligible for the DREAM Act.
- Dependents of immigrants with RPI status could independently apply for RPI status if the principal’s RPI status is revoked.
- Those who unlawfully re-entered after a prior order of removal could obtain RPI status if they re-entered before Dec. 31, 2011.
- **Keeping Families Together**: New family V visa creates a new nonimmigrant visa for families with approved petitions to work and live in the U.S. while waiting their green card. Allows other family member, including siblings, to visit the U.S. for up to 60 days per year.

What We Don’t Like

- **Legalization fees and penalties** ($2,000) may leave many behind.
- **Increased Border Enforcement** – Allocations of over $4.5 billion.
- **Border Security Triggers** – Adjustment to Registered Provisional Immigrant status, and Lawful Permanent Resident status, is tied to border security triggers for the vast majority of people.
- Persons in Registered Provisional Immigrant status cannot qualify for healthcare, Medicaid, welfare or nutritional assistance.
- **LGBTQ Families Left Out** – No recognition of permanent partners or same-sex bi-national couples for immigration benefits.
- **Elimination of Sibling Visa** – U.S. citizens can no longer petition for their siblings to come to the country.
- **Elimination of Diversity Visa Lottery** – May result in a reshaping of U.S. demographics and race relations.
- **Mandatory E-verify** – All businesses must implement e-verify within a 5-year phase-in period. Businesses with more than 5,000 employees must implement within a 2-year phase-in for
- Maintaining the Secure Communities program.
- Maintaining mandatory detention.
- Everyone who entered the country and lost status after Dec 31, 2011 are subject to detention and deportation (hardship
• **Child Status Protection** – Children who have been aged out of petitions filed on behalf of their parents because they turned 21 while waiting in line will get credit for waiting in line, and get their green-cards soon after their parents.

• Lawful Permanent Residents' spouses and children become "**immediate relatives**" and are uncapped. This means there is no wait time for the children and spouses of green card holders to enter the U.S.

• **Naturalization** - Waiver of English requirement for disabled and senior immigrant authorization.

• **New Nonimmigrant W Visa** – Program for low-wage foreign workers. Spouses and minor children are included and will receive work authorization. This is a three-year visa with three-year renewal periods. W visa holders may switch from one registered employer or position to another without penalty and upon meeting other eligibility criteria apply for merits based lawful permanent residence.

• **H-1B** - Expanding the current cap for these temporary non-agricultural workers from 65,000 to 110,000 visas a year with an option to ultimately increase the cap to 180,000 visas annually as demand dictates.

• **AgJOBS** - Creation of a card program given to undocumented agricultural workers who performed agricultural employment for no fewer than 575 hours between 2011 and 2012. Persons with an agricultural card can gain a green card in five years. (Includes $400 fine).

• **Workers’ Protections** - Providing workers with whistle blower protections (POWER Act), anti-discrimination protections, and access to the application of labor and employment laws such as minimum wage, overtime and the right to join a union.

• Immigrants in RPI status can travel outside of the U.S.
- **Video Resources:**
  - *Made in L.A.* follows the three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles garment sweatshops as they embark on an odyssey to win basic labor protections from trendy clothing retailer Forever 21. Materials to hold community screenings are available for order on the website.
  - In this moving fictional drama, an American college professor and a young immigrant couple grapple with the treatment of immigrants post-9/11. The film makes issues of due process, detention and deportation compellingly visible.
  - Farmingville, the award-winning documentary hailed by *the New York Times* as a “primer” on the explosive issue of illegal immigration, is being used across the country by teachers, police officers, community organizers and policy-makers to put a human face on one of the nation’s most polarizing issues.
  - *A Day Without A Mexican*: [www.adaywithoutamexican.com](http://www.adaywithoutamexican.com)
  - California is in shock. The economic, political and social implications of this disaster threaten the Golden State’s way of life. We delve into the lives of four characters: Mary Jo Quintana, teacher and housewife; Senator Abercrombie, suddenly upgraded to Governor; Louis Mcclaire, ranch owner and agribusiness representative; and Lila Rodriguez, reporter and apparently the only Latina left behind. For all of them, “the disappearance” forces the cracks in their private lives wide open.
  - Detention of immigrant children in a former medium-security prison in Texas leads to controversy when activist attorneys discover troubling conditions at the facility. This compelling documentary film explores the role—and limits—of community activism, and considers how American rights and values apply to the least powerful among us. This film can be watched online for free at [http://www.snagfilms.com(films/title/the_least_of_these/](http://www.snagfilms.com(films/title/the_least_of_these/)
  - *Sentenced Home* — [www.pbs.org/independentlens/sentencedhome](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/sentencedhome)
  - *Sentenced Home* follows three young Cambodian Americans through the deportation process. Raised in inner city Seattle, they pay an unbearable price for mistakes made as teenagers. Caught between tragic pasts and an uncertain future, each young man confronts a legal system that offers no second chances. Watch free online at [www.snagfilms.com(films/title/sentenced_home/](http://www.snagfilms.com(films/title/sentenced_home/)
  - *Dying to Get In* provides an intimate perspective of border crossing in the Arizona desert. *La Misma Luna/Under the Same Moon* —
    - This Spanish and English language film tells the parallel stories of a woman from Mexico working as an undocumented immigrant in Los Angeles, and her nine year old son who crosses the border to find her.
Educational Resources:

- **The Arrival** – [www.shauntan.net/books.html](http://www.shauntan.net/books.html)
  This beautiful book by Shaun Tan tells the story of an immigrant seeking a better life for his family. As a wordless graphic novel, *The Arrival* may seem like a good choice for young children, but its complexity is perhaps even better suited to teenagers and adults.

- **Kids Like Me: Voices of the Immigrant Experience** – [http://tinyurl.com/ogbezt](http://tinyurl.com/ogbezt)
  An appealing and accessible book with 26 narratives written by children and young adult immigrants to the U.S. The book is 296 pages, but the individual narratives are short and can be read on their own.

- **ICE Video Game** – [www.icedgame.com](http://www.icedgame.com)
  Taking on the identity of an immigrant teenager, players must avoid ICE officers, answer questions about immigration, and make everyday choices.

- **Shop Till You Drop on a Mexican Wage** – [www.ueinternational.org/shop](http://www.ueinternational.org/shop)
  Learn about financial pressures which cause people from Mexico and other economically vulnerable countries to migrate to the U.S. Players pick a profession and go —shopping to see what workers can buy with their wages in Mexico and in the United States.

- **Could You Pass the Test for United States Citizenship?** – [www.uscis.gov/files/natedocuments/100q.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/files/natedocuments/100q.pdf)
  What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment? In what month do we vote for President? What movement tried to end racial discrimination? Try all 100 questions.

- **What Part of Legal Immigration Don’t You Understand?** – [http://www.reason.com/images/07cf533dd1d06350cf1dddb5942ef5ad.jpg](http://www.reason.com/images/07cf533dd1d06350cf1dddb5942ef5ad.jpg)
  Opponents of illegal immigration are fond of telling foreigners to 'get in line' before coming to work in America. But what does that line actually look like, and how many years (or decades) does it take to get through?

- **Welcoming America Citizenship Board Game** - Navigate the path to citizenship and watch out for curve balls! Play this game with up to 6 friends, co-workers or neighbors to experience the pathway to citizenship for US immigrants. First one to get their US citizenship wins! This game is appropriate for players 12 and up. To request your own copy of this game or to host a game party at your next meeting contact 516-304-5642 or info@longislandwins.com.
National Immigration Resources

- **Faith-Based Resources**
  - Interfaith Worker Justice: [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org)
  - Sojourners: [http://www.sojo.net/](http://www.sojo.net/)
  - Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform: [www.faithandimmigration.org](http://www.faithandimmigration.org)
  - American Jewish Committee: [www.ajc.org](http://www.ajc.org)
  - American Friends Service Committee: [http://www.afsc.org/ImmigrantsRights/](http://www.afsc.org/ImmigrantsRights/)
  - Interfaith Immigration Coalition: [www.Interfaithimmigration.org](http://www.Interfaithimmigration.org)

- **Policy and Advocacy Resources**
  - American Civil Liberties Union: [http://www.aclu.org/immigrants/index.html](http://www.aclu.org/immigrants/index.html)
    - Americas Voice: [www.americasvoiceonline.org](http://www.americasvoiceonline.org)
**Long Island Immigration Resources**

- **Long Island Wins** is a communications and education campaign driven by the belief that immigrants create incredible opportunities for economic, cultural and social growth. Through our website and community outreach we work to engage Long Islanders and inject new information into a important public debate. [www.longislandwins.com](http://www.longislandwins.com)

- **Long Island Immigrant Alliance** provides support to all Long Island immigrants and seeks to facilitate the creation of an inclusive and welcoming society. The Long Island Immigrant Alliance is composed of diverse community, religious, labor, and immigrant organizations. [http://longislandimmigrantalliance.org/](http://longislandimmigrantalliance.org/)

- **The Workplace Project** works to end the exploitation of Latino immigrant workers on Long Island and to achieve socioeconomic justice by promoting the full political, economic, and cultural participation of these workers in the communities in which they live. [http://www.workplaceprojectny.org](http://www.workplaceprojectny.org)

- **Jobs with Justice** is a national campaign for the rights of all workers, fighting with coalitions of labor, community, religious, and student groups. Long Island Jobs with Justice is one of over forty chapters nationwide that organizes in support of workers’ rights campaigns. [www.li-jwj.org](http://www.li-jwj.org)

- **Long Island Latino Teachers Association** was established as a non-profit organization to advocate for high quality education to an underserved population of students. They work within the educational system to address the common risk factors that impact the academic outcomes of the Latino population and other ethnic groups. [http://www.liltainc.org/](http://www.liltainc.org/)

- **Nassau County Coordinated Agency for Spanish Americans** (C.A.S.A.) is a resource and referral agency regarding national, state, and local resources, which contribute to the education and general welfare of Hispanic and Latino Americans in Nassau County. [http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/CASA/index.html](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/CASA/index.html)

- **American Civil Liberties Union Nassau and Suffolk County Chapters** are dedicated to the protection of civil liberties as embodied in the Bill of Rights. Their mission is to defend the constitutional rights of the people they serve through advocacy and involvement in the legislative process, and to educate the community about civil liberties [issues. www.nyCLU.org](http://www.nyCLU.org)

- **Catholic Charities Immigrant Services/Refugee Resettlement** assists in serving the basic needs of the poor, troubled, weak, and oppressed, and is committed to addressing the causes of injustice. They aim to organize and empower people to secure the participation of all community members. [http://www.catholiccharities.cc/ourservices/immigration.html](http://www.catholiccharities.cc/ourservices/immigration.html)

- **The New York Immigration Coalition** (NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 200 groups in New York State that work with immigrants and refugees. With its multi-ethnic, multi-racial, and multi-sector base, the NYIC provides both a forum for immigrant groups to share their concerns and a vehicle for collective action to address these concerns. [http://www.thenyic.org/](http://www.thenyic.org/)

- **Central American Refugee Center** (CARECEN-N.Y.) is a non-profit organization serving the immigration law needs of the foreign-born community on Long Island. CARECEN works for the fair treatment of all, and towards the full integration of immigrants into Long Island's civic life. Contact: Hempstead Office 516-489-8330 Brentwood Office 631-273-8721
• **American Jewish Committee of Long Island** (AJC) is guided by the principle that the rights and freedoms of Jews and minorities are safe only when they are secure for all. To that end, the Long Island chapter emphasizes activities that reach out in innovative ways to other faith communities and ethnic groups. [www.AJC.org](http://www.AJC.org)

• **The Long Island Council of Churches (LICC)** is the coordinating body for the ecumenical work of churches throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties. Their extensive network of social support resources and ability to mobilize the volunteer and advocacy efforts of nearly 800 faith communities makes the LICC uniquely qualified to respond to the emergency needs of the least fortunate throughout our region.
