

Seeking Asylum is Not a Crime

“If you were a Honduran whose children were being raped and told that they would have to do the gang’s bidding or die, what would you do?”

*-Bishop Mark J. Seitz, D.D.
Diocese of El Paso, Texas*



Honduran migrants trying to reach the United States struggle at a border checkpoint on Oct. 19 in Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico. (CNS photo/Edgard Garrido, Reuters)

Joint Statement of U.S. Catholic Leaders Urging Humane Action Towards Migrants

“...We affirm that seeking asylum is not a crime. We urge all governments to abide by international law and existing domestic laws that protect those seeking safe haven and ensure that all those who are returned to their home country are protected and repatriated safely.

Furthermore, we strongly advocate for continued U.S. investments to address the underlying causes of violence and lack of opportunity in Central America. Our presence throughout the Americas has convinced us that migration is a regional issue that requires a comprehensive, regional solution. An enforcement-only approach does not address nor solve the larger root causes that cause people to flee their countries in search of protection.

As Christians, we must answer the call to act with compassion towards those in need and to work together to find humane solutions that honor the rule of law and respect the dignity of human life.”

-Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin,

Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration,

-Sean Callahan, President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services,

-Sister Donna Markham OP PhD, President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA

Remind your federal officials: People fleeing violence and persecution have a RIGHT to enter this country and make an asylum claim. They are not criminals.



U.S. Capitol Switchboard:

(202) 224-3121

White House:

www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

Proposed Anti-Immigrant Changes to “Public Charge” Rules

If recently proposed changes to federal immigration policy are enacted, people could be denied permanent residency status (called a “green card”) if they have received, or even applied for, government assistance such as Food Stamps (SNAP). Moreover they could be denied a green card if the Department of Homeland Security determines that it’s likely the person would receive such government benefits *in the future*.

The proposed changes are complicated, but you can learn more about them at the following web sites: www.cliniclegal.org/public-charge and www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org

Forbes magazine also published an informative article titled “How Will the Public Charge Rule Harm Employers and Immigrants?” See www.forbes.com

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) is calling on us to **submit comments** to the federal government opposing these proposed changes, which could force immigrant families to choose between feeding and sheltering their families and applying for permanent residency.

Comments are due by **December 10, 2018**. Now is the time to learn about the negative effects of these proposed changes and help stop them from taking effect. **STAND UP TO ANTI-IMMIGRANT POLICIES.**

Go to www.federalregister.gov and search for “public charge grounds.”

On “Public Charge” proposal...

“..it appears that this will be very harmful to families, raising fear among immigrant families already struggling to fulfill the American Dream.”

Bishop Vasquez, Austin, TX, chair,
U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration,
& Bishop Dewane, Venice, FL, chair,
U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic
Justice & Human Development

Join Catholic Relief Services in asking your members of Congress to support life-saving international food aid and development programs in the Farm Bill that they will be finalizing soon.

Sign the petition here:

ConfrontGlobalPoverty.org



BLACK FRIDAY



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23: Buy Nothing Day

Join the movement to **NOT SHOP** on Thanksgiving or the day after, called “Black Friday.” Don’t feed into the joyless, angry frenzy of consumption. Don’t support the corporations that force their low-wage workers to come into work on Thanksgiving.

Instead... Spend time with your family. Volunteer with your parish or community group.

When you do shop, support locally owned stores. Buy fair-trade and handcrafted items. **Use your money to do good.**

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