



Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Immigration Some Opportunities to Educate and Foster Meaningful Dialogue

Film Resources & Study Guides from PCUSA

Facing the Human Tragedy in Syria (12 minutes): interviews with our sister church in Syria & Lebanon about the war and their humanitarian response along with interviews with PCUSA members and staff on the need for advocacy to find a peaceful solution.

<http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/facing-the-human-tragedy-in-syria/>

Locked in a Box: Immigration Detention (24 mins.) - an award winning short documentary that follows the stories of individuals held in the U.S. Immigration detention system and those who visit them. The film traces the lives of individuals who fled their homelands in search of safety and freedom only to end up in U.S. prisons under a mandatory bed quota system run by Immigration Customs & Enforcement (ICE).

<http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/video-immigration-detention/>

To Breathe Free (16 mins.) – this 2017 award winning documentary captures the intersection of individual narratives from a family fleeing the Vietnam War in 1970, to the Syrian Conflict, to the families who help create a new home in our nation’s capital, giving voice to our common humanity and the struggle that binds people together.

<http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/to-breathe-free/>

The Genesis of Exodus: The Roots of Central American Migration (49 mins.) – interviews with people living in Guatemala and El Salvador about the root causes of recent migration to the U.S. along with interviews with several PCUSA leaders. Resources also include an interactive website “story map” and reflection guide to go further in depth and to encourage action. <http://storymap.genesisofexodusfilm.com/index.html>

Other Films

Which Way Home - is an academy award winning documentary about youth from Central America who came to the U.S. The whole film is available for download as well as clips from different segments listed by topic. <http://whichwayhome.net/>

Salam Neighbor – follows 2 film makers who get permission to live in a refugee camp in Jordan as neighbors with Syrian refugees. <http://livingonone.org/salamneighbor/>

Other Resource Materials

Bring the Sky: A Detention Visitation Guide, was specifically written for local congregations and is available for free from Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service.

<http://lirs.org/act/visitation/launch-a-visitation-ministry/>

GreaterAs1 – Organized by Church World Service, the website is a repository of background information on refugee and immigration policy and Fact Sheets that can be easily shared. <https://greateras1.org/learn/information-materials/>

PCUSA Offices

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is a ministry of relief and response to national and international disasters, aid to refugees and displaced persons, refugee resettlement and efforts toward development. PDA partners with Mid Councils and local congregations in the U.S. and with church partners and faith-based relief organizations internationally.

Web – <http://pda.pcusa.org/>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/PDACARES/>

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The **Office of Immigration Issues** was established in 2004 to provide legal advice and counsel to mid-councils and congregations regarding immigration issues. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has expanded the work of the Office to coordinate advocacy and education efforts and create worship materials on immigration.

Web - <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/>

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Office of Public Witness is the public policy information and advocacy office. Its task is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the Presbyterian General Assembly. Read their blog for the most recent news:

Web - <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/PCUSAWashington/>

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PCUSA Network

Presbyterians For Just Immigration (PFJI) is a network of Presbyterians interested in addressing the crisis caused by a broken immigration system. PFJI is committed to fostering discussion, sharing resources, promoting advocacy, and writing liturgy on various immigration topics. PFJI hopes to empower Presbyterians to share vision, best practices, resources, and a passionate concern for those coming to the United States to live and work so that we can become the church God is calling us to be, together.

<https://www.facebook.com/Presbyterians-for-Just-Immigration-354161945856/>

Resources for Action

Freedom for Immigrants (former known as CIVIC), based in California, provides resources for detention visitation, including a national map of detention centers and established visitation programs, and advocacy resources.

<https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/>

Detention Watch Network (DWN) is a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to expose and challenge the injustices of the U.S. immigration detention and deportation system and advocate for profound change that promotes the rights and dignity of all persons. <http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/>

Immigo is an App available from iTunes that provides relevant information and news updates for practitioners working in the immigrant integration space, including an up-to-date directory of immigration legal service providers. It is made possible by the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) with support from Verizon and developed in partnership with the Immigration Advocates Network (IAN) and Pro Bono Net.

Refugee Resettlement - There are 9 national organizations who work with the US Department of State to coordinate the initial reception of newly resettled refugees with a combined network of almost 300 local offices. Many of these networks are facing office closings in 2018. For the most up to date information, you can contact PDA or visit one of the websites found on this contact list: <http://www.wrapsnet.org/rp-agency-contacts/>

Immediate Refugee (Asylum Seekers) ministry - First Presbyterian Church of McAllen, TX is hosting volunteer work teams and partnering with the Sacred Heart Welcome Center where “Refugees” (Asylum Seekers) usually arrive in groups. Volunteers are needed to greet and assist persons from Central America and South America brought to the Welcome Center by the US Border Patrol.

- Contact the PDA Call Center at (866) 732-6121 for more information
- Training is provided
- Adult groups and inter-generational groups are welcome, minimum age for volunteers is 14
- Maximum team size is 15
- Spanish language skills are helpful but not essential

Community Organizations and Immigrant Groups

The state by state list below is not comprehensive and includes organizations which are known to have a relationship with Presbyterians or a history of Presbyterian connections.

Arizona:

Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project (Florence, Eloy) – <https://firrp.org/>
Tucson Restoration Project (Casa Mariposa) – <https://restorationproject340.wordpress.com/>

California:

CLUE-LA (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) – <http://www.cluejustice.org/>
Matthew 25 So Cal (LA area and south) – On Facebook: matthew 25/mateo 25 social

Colorado:

Casa de Paz – www.CasadePazColorado.org

Illinois:

Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (Chicago) – <http://www.icdichicago.org/>

Massachusetts:

Refugee Immigration Ministry (Boston) – <http://www.r-i-m.net/>
Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project (Boston)
<http://www.pairproject.org/>

Michigan:

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center (Detroit & Pontiac) – <http://www.detimmigrantcenter.com/>

Minnesota:

The Advocates for Human Rights (Minneapolis)
<http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/>
Conversations With Friends (Edina)
<http://www.endisolation.org/conversations-with-friends/>

New Jersey:

First Friends of New Jersey and New York – <http://www.firstfriendsnjny.org/>

Texas:

American Gateways (Austin)– <http://www.americangateways.org/>
Casa Marianella (Austin) – <http://www.casamarianella.org/>
Center for Survivors of Torture (Austin, Dallas, San Antonio) – <http://cstnet.org/>
Interfaith Welcome Coalition (San Antonio) – www.interfaithwelcomecoalition.org

Washington:

Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (Tacoma) – <http://aidnw.org/>
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (Seattle) – <https://www.nwirp.org/>