

world relief 

EQUIPPED TO ACT

Understanding Immigration in Uncertain Times



DEAR READER,

Chances are you opened this toolkit because you're seeking clarity on potential immigration policy changes as a new Presidential administration takes office. You might also need guidance, encouragement or prayer during this time of heightened emotions and uncertainty.

You aren't alone — we feel it too. That's why we created **Equipped to Act: Understanding Immigration in Uncertain Times**, to help you navigate one of the most divisive political topics: immigration.

For over 80 years, World Relief has been serving refugees and other immigrants globally and in the U.S. Those 80 years have taught us a lot, and we want to share that knowledge with you. It is our desire to equip you not only with accurate information but also with the tools to faithfully respond.

In this toolkit you'll find the mission behind World Relief's work, key policies to watch this year, important terms to know when it comes to immigration, explanations that counter the most common immigration myths and practical steps you can take to advocate in your community.

Our hope is that this toolkit will help fill in the gaps when it comes to immigration policies and issues in the U.S. We thank you for committing to seeking knowledge with an open heart, ensuring that our advocacy and decisions are guided by a deep understanding and a genuine desire to serve those experiencing the world's greatest crises.



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US:

World Relief is a global Christian humanitarian organization. Our mission is to boldly engage in the world's greatest crises in partnership with the church.

World Relief is a **non-partisan organization** — we will never endorse candidates or political parties.

We are not, however, an apolitical organization — we actively encourage our lawmakers to pursue public policies guided by biblical principles.

We are committed to the power of prayer, and we take seriously the biblical injunction to pray “for kings and all those in authority” (1 Timothy 2:2).

We believe that immigration policies can and should ensure security for American citizens while demonstrating compassion and affirming the dignity of immigrants.

For more information, read up on our [values](#) and [FAQ](#).



OUR WHY

“Be doers of the word, not merely hearers.” James 1:22-25

For the past 80 years, World Relief has been known for engaging in the world’s greatest crises in partnership with the church. An important part of that work has always been advocating on behalf of people in the most vulnerable situations, experiencing disease, hunger, extreme poverty and displacement.

As a global Christian humanitarian organization, many times we get asked **why**? Why do we engage and what does politics have to do with helping people experiencing some of the hardest circumstances?

A BIBLICAL CONVICTION

Jesus taught us that part of the greatest commandment is to love our neighbors as ourselves — especially the ones that are often overlooked. Jesus noticed the people that went unnoticed all the time. [The Samaritan woman](#) was shocked at Jesus’ acknowledgment of her. [The bleeding woman](#), considered too unclean and cast away, was seen and healed. Since birth, [Jesus himself faced persecution](#) and was dependent on the goodwill of others.

Loving our neighbor means noticing those around us and stepping out of our comfort zone. **Loving our neighbor also means asking hard questions about why unjust conditions persist and stewarding the influence that God has entrusted to each of us to change them.**

This is what we consider biblical advocacy — leveraging our voice and our influence to encourage and persuade those in positions of governmental authority to pursue just and compassionate policies.

Galatians 5:13 says, “But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”

GALATIANS 5:13 SAYS, “BUT DO NOT USE YOUR FREEDOM TO INDULGE THE FLESH; RATHER, SERVE ONE ANOTHER HUMBLY IN LOVE.”

We have compelling biblical models for such advocacy before governmental authorities. Moses reluctantly followed God’s call back to Egypt to confront Pharaoh, insisting that he let God’s people go. Esther first fasted, then courageously went before King Xerxes to plead for her people, ultimately being used by God to save her people in the face of genocide. Nathan boldly and creatively confronted King David with his complicity in injustice. And John the Baptist challenged King Herod — and paid for his advocacy with his life.

God does not promise that every advocacy effort will be successful or without cost — but he does promise to be with us and guide us as we go “before governors and kings” as a testimony to Jesus and the values of his Kingdom (Matthew 10:18-19). And he tells us that he himself will be our advocate (John 14:26, 1 John 2:1).

We are required to respond to injustices with action, love and humility. **Nowhere does God say to be filled with questions or let ourselves be stopped by the what-ifs. If we trust him, a God who loves justice, then we do our part and he will complete it.**

OUR HISTORY

Micah 6:8 says, “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Biblical advocacy has been a central way in which World Relief has partnered with the church throughout our 80-year history. In the 1960s, our leaders urged the Soviet government to grant safe passage to Soviet Christians seeking refuge in the U.S. During the early 1970s, we advocated for humanitarian aid into West Africa to prevent a genocide. In 1979, [Grady Mangham, who with his wife, Evelyn, founded World Relief’s U.S. ministries](#), joined Mother Teresa and other religious leaders to urge President Carter and the U.S. Congress to expand refugee resettlement — which they did, in dramatic fashion, with the signing of the Refugee Act.

Throughout the 1980s, World Relief advocated for Central Americans fleeing civil war to be allowed to seek safety in the U.S. and World

Relief's executive director at the time, Jerry Ballard, traveled to Cuba to lobby Fidel Castro to release political prisoners.

In the 1990s, World Relief president Art Gay joined other evangelical leaders in signing "[An Evangelical Declaration on the Care of Creation](#)" recognizing the impact of environmental degradation. A few years later, the new World Relief president Clive Calver began raising the alarm of the HIV/AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa. Within a few years, President George W. Bush would sign the [President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#) after advocacy from World Relief and other Christian organizations.

Our efforts have continued in the past few decades, as World Relief has advocated for immigration reforms, even earning the attention of former President Barack Obama in his [2010 National Prayer Breakfast address](#). And in 2012, we helped [convene the Evangelical Immigration Table](#), coalescing broad evangelical support around the need for immigration reforms.

World Relief's efforts have never been partisan: we never endorse or support particular candidates, but we do want to be stewards of our influence to implore Republicans and Democrats alike to pursue public policies that serve the common good, that protect the lives and dignity of those fleeing persecution and that ensure the ability of churches and Christian ministries to live out their faith.

[Click here](#) for a video timeline of our 80-year history working with refugees.



1960s

Leaders urged the Soviet government to grant safe passage to those seeking refuge in the U.S.

1970s

Advocated for humanitarian aid into West Africa.

1979

Grady & Evelyn Mangham urge U.S. Government to expand refugee resettlement.

First refugees arrive in Seattle



1990s

Along with other evangelical leaders, World Relief President, Art Gay recognizes the impact of environmental degradation.

2012

Helped to convene the Evangelical Immigration Table.



BEYOND THE LABEL

People have been migrating since the beginning of time — we can even trace numerous examples in the Bible of migration for various reasons.

Abraham and Sarah were called by God and migrated to Canaan. After a severe famine in Canaan, Jacob and his family migrated to Egypt. When Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt after God freed them from slavery, they had to migrate to the Promised Land. And, we can't forget about Mary and Joseph fleeing King Herod's decree after Jesus was born by migrating to Egypt.

But the legal terms and different ways of talking about migration aren't as timeless. There are labels thrown out in every direction, across TV ads and social media and even by politicians, so it's no wonder we have a hard time keeping all of them straight. Below, you'll find some of the most common key terms related

to immigration, with their meaning. This is meant to serve as a point of reference for your learning as you courageously engage on the topic of immigration.

It's important to note that these terms are just that — terms. They do not reflect the whole identity of a person. God has made each and every one of us in his image with dreams, skills, fears, hopes and a distinct purpose. In our diverse world, refugees and other immigrants are often reduced to mere labels or stereotypes overshadowing their intrinsic worth. To combat that, we have included stories about people who, for now, identify with one of these terms as part of their journey.

Our hope is that while you learn, you will be impacted by the stories of God's beloved sons and daughters from all over the world seeking refuge.

GOD HAS MADE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US IN HIS IMAGE WITH DREAMS, SKILLS, FEARS, HOPES AND A DISTINCT PURPOSE.

IMMIGRATION GLOSSARY

Definitions and legal terms have been simplified for understanding.

Asylum Seeker: A person who has left their country and is asking for protection in another country because they are afraid of returning home due to threats of harm or persecution and their government cannot or will not protect them.

Beyond the label: [Yousif's Story](#)

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals): A program in the U.S. that provides temporary protection from deportation and work permits to some young people who were brought to the country without documentation as children.

Beyond the label:
[Meet Liz and Itza](#)

Documented vs Undocumented:

- **Documented:** Refers to people who have the legal papers (like visas or green cards) that allow them to live and work in a country.
- **Undocumented:** Refers to people who are living in a country without the legal papers or permission to stay.

Beyond the label: [Meet Rosalina](#)

Immigrant: A person who moves from one country to live in another country permanently.

Beyond the label: [Meet Todun](#)

Migrant: A person who moves from one place to another (within their country or internationally), usually to find work or better living conditions. This can be either temporary or permanent.

Refugee: Someone who leaves their country because it's dangerous or unsafe for them to stay, often due to war or persecution. They seek safety in another country.

Beyond the label:
[Meet Souzan, Willie and Farah](#)

Sponsor: A person or an organization that supports and takes responsibility for someone coming to live in a new country, helping them through the immigration process.

Beyond the label:
[Meet Julie and Amani](#)

Asylum: The protection granted by a country to someone who has fled their own country because of a threat that has been verified by the government.

Citizenship: Being a member of a country with specific rights and responsibilities. Citizens usually have the right to vote, work and live in that country, and they are also expected to follow its laws and contribute to society.

Green Card (or Permanent Resident Card): An official document that lets a person live and work in the U.S. permanently as a lawful permanent resident.

Immigration Status: The legal situation or category of a person living in a country, like citizenship, permanent residency or on a temporary visa.

Parole: Temporary permission for individuals who are ineligible for a visa to lawfully enter and stay in a country, often granted for humanitarian or national interest reasons but it doesn't mean permanent residency.

Visa: A document or stamp on a passport that gives someone permission to enter, stay in or leave a country for a specific period and purpose, like tourism, business or study.

Work Permit: A document that allows a person to work legally in a country for a certain period of time. It's often required if someone is not a citizen or a permanent resident.

Sources: <https://www.unhcr.org/glossary>,
<https://www.uscis.gov/tools/glossary>

2025 POLICY WATCH LIST:

4 Key Policy Shifts Amidst the New Presidential Administration

As we approach an upcoming change in administration, we want to share a summary of potential changes and challenges refugees and other immigrants in the United States might face in the coming months. While there have been a lot of campaign promises, there are also legal, fiscal and logistical barriers to some of what has been proposed. In reality, we do not know for sure what will happen, but our goal is to help you understand the big picture and to **equip you with the information you need to advocate for our refugee and immigrant neighbors with courage, clarity and love.**

Read on to better understand the upcoming potential changes for refugees, other immigrants and our communities.*

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Let's start with the landscape of possible changes to the refugee ceiling. This is #1 on our Watch List.

The Refugee Act of 1980 set the precedent for the president to set a limit for resettlement numbers, that is, the number of refugees who will be accepted into the United States with refugee status on an annual basis. We are expecting that President-elect Trump will significantly reduce or halt all refugee arrivals to the United States within the first week of his taking office, as [he promised](#) several times [throughout his campaign](#).

This change would likely be within the rights of President-elect Trump to act on unilaterally via an Executive Order, and we are expecting this to occur within the first month, if not first day, of his new administra-

**This content does not take the place of formal legal advice from a lawyer. Please consult a legal professional for advice and specific assistance.*

tion. A significant reduction of the refugee ceiling would mean families will remain separated, religious minorities will continue to live at risk of persecution and displacement will continue to exacerbate vulnerabilities for women and children in particular.

At World Relief, we believe the U.S. has a moral obligation to offer refuge to those fleeing war, persecution and poverty. While facing the worst displacement crisis in the history of the world, [we also believe it's our responsibility as Christians](#) to put our faith into action by welcoming the stranger.

[TAKE ACTION: Advocate for the Refugee Resettlement Ceiling](#)

OTHER IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Now what about policy changes for immigrants already in the United States? The incoming administration has made bold promises, and many immigrants in our communities, as well as advocates for our newest neighbors, are understandably worried. Here are some of the key areas to watch:

MASS DEPORTATION

The President-elect and individuals whom he has named to key leadership roles within his administration [have promised](#) “the largest deportation in U.S. history”. They have cited different numbers for how many people they intend to deport. While the exact number who will face removal proceedings is uncertain—there are logistical and legal barriers to enacting such a policy—more than 11 million individuals in the U.S. could be vulnerable to deportation under current law. The scale of such an initiative would be unprecedented.

[TAKE ACTION: Advocate to keep families together](#)

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS)

This program currently shields over 860,000 individuals from countries facing extreme crises, like natural disasters or conflict. If protections are rolled back, these individuals could lose their ability to live and work in the U.S. legally. Similarly, many individuals who lawfully entered the United States through parole sponsorship programs for specific countries such as Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti and Ukraine could eventually be vulnerable to deportation if the administration would terminate parole, which would be within their authority to do.

[TAKE ACTION: Advocate for the Afghan Adjustment Act](#)

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

Over half a million young people—sometimes called Dreamers—are protected by this program, which allows them to live, work, and study without fear of deportation. These young men and women, many of whom have only ever known the U.S. as their home, could also see their futures threatened. President-elect Trump [has indicated his desire](#) to find a bipartisan legislative solution to protect certain Dreamers from deportation, which is encouraging, but it's unclear if Congress will be able to reach such consensus.

[TAKE ACTION: Advocate for DACA](#)

Let's pause for a moment here. It's easy to feel overwhelmed when hearing about these potential changes. But we don't share this information to stoke fear. Instead, we're here to encourage preparedness, hope and action. The Bible reminds us that we have very clear instructions for what to do when we witness the mistreatment of the poor and the foreigner. In Ezekiel 22:29-30, God laments the absence of someone willing to **“stand in the gap”** to intercede and act on behalf of the oppressed. This passage highlights the need for individuals and communities to step into the broken places of the world with courage, compassion and justice.

Here are three ways you can take action today:

Give - Join the Path, our monthly giving community, to maximize your contribution and our efforts as we serve the immigrant and refugee communities around our nation.

Advocate - Contact your elected officials, talk to your family and friends and keep learning to stay informed on the ways policies are affecting your community.

Pray - Pray through the prayer prompts at the end of this toolkit for our elected officials, for our hearts to be tender to the needs of our neighbors and for God to be close during uncertain times.

In the weeks ahead, as new policies emerge, we'll continue to walk this road together. The God we serve is a God who sees the vulnerable and walks with the weary. As you listen to the stories of those impacted by these changes, you'll be stepping into their lives in the same way Christ stepped into ours—with compassion and love.

**STAND IN THE GAP:
GIVE, ADVOCATE, PRAY**

**COMMON
IMMIGRATION
MYTHS,**

DEBUNKED.

Listed below you'll find common misconceptions on immigration and narratives around the U.S.-Mexico border followed by factual corrections and supporting data points with links.

“ MYTH #1 IMMIGRATION IS A DRAIN ON THE ECONOMY. ”

Truth: Immigration actually has positive economic impacts.

Refugees and other immigrants contribute to the economy by [filling essential jobs](#), starting businesses and paying taxes. [Studies have shown](#) that refugees and other immigrants, both documented and undocumented, contribute more to the economy in taxes than they receive in benefits. Refugees and asylees contributed [\\$123.8 billion over a 15 year period](#); this is consistent with earlier research that found that, within 20 years of their arrival, the average refugee adult has contributed approximately \$21,000 more in taxes than funds spent on their behalf. According to [American Immigration Council](#), immigrants are more likely to be active in the labor force and also harness a \$1.6 trillion spending power.

“ MYTH #2 REFUGEES AND OTHER IMMIGRANTS INCREASE CRIME RATES. ”

Truth: Refugees and other immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, are less likely to commit crimes than native-born Americans.

This is supported by [evidence from Texas](#), the only state that tracks the immigration legal status of felony convictions. Additionally, [studies have shown](#) that areas with higher immigrant populations tend to have lower crime rates. While unlawful entry into the country can be a criminal offense, unlawful presence — including for the roughly half of all undocumented immigrants who entered on a temporary visa but overstayed — [is not technically a crime but a civil infraction](#).

**WOULD YOU
RATHER WATCH
THAN READ?**

[Listen to Matthew Soerens](#), VP of Advocacy and Policy, answer the most common questions about immigration and refugee resettlement.



MYTH #3

“ REFUGEES AND OTHER IMMIGRANTS ARE TAKING JOBS AWAY FROM AMERICANS. ”

Truth: Refugees and other immigrants often take jobs that [Americans are unwilling to do](#), especially in industries like agriculture, construction and hospitality.

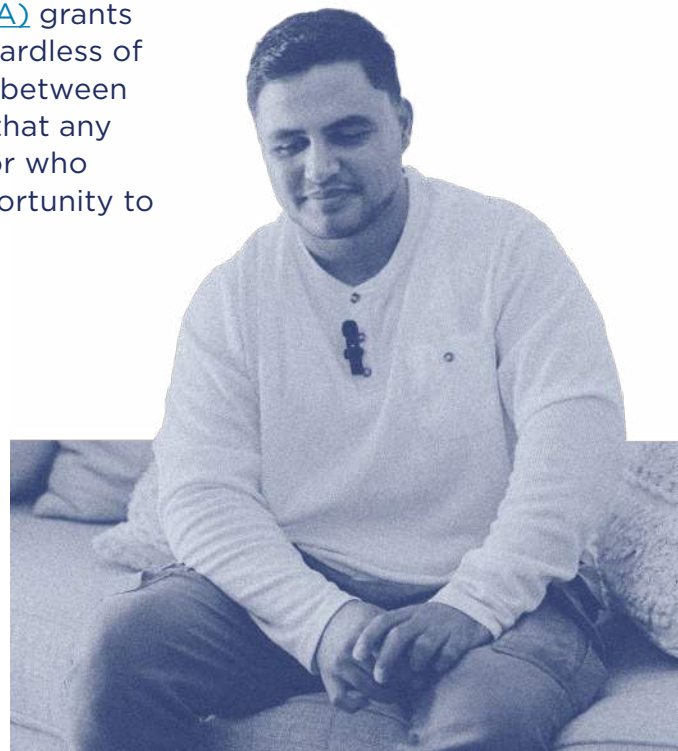
The [American Immigration Council](#) reports that immigrants make up a significant portion of the workforce in industries such as agriculture (26%), construction (15%) and hospitality (17%). They contribute to economic growth by filling labor shortages, which can create more jobs for everyone. A study by the [National Bureau of Economic Research](#) found that immigration has a small but positive effect on the wages of native-born workers overall.

MYTH #4

“ SEEKING ASYLUM AT THE BORDER IS ILLEGAL. ”

Truth: Seeking asylum is a long-standing legal right protected by both domestic and international law.

The [U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act \(INA\)](#) grants the right to all individuals to seek asylum regardless of how they enter a country, including crossing between points of entry. Long-standing U.S. law says that any person who is physically present in the U.S. or who “arrives” at the border must be given an opportunity to seek asylum.





MYTH #5

“ PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS ARE NOT PART OF THE IMMIGRANTS TRYING TO COME THROUGH THE U.S. SOUTHERN BORDER. ”

Truth: Persecuted Christians are indeed among the immigrants seeking refuge and asylum through the U.S. southern border.

Christians, like individuals of other religious or cultural backgrounds, may flee their countries due to persecution, violence or other forms of hardship. Globally, more than 365 million Christians suffer from persecution or discrimination, as revealed by the [2024 State of the Golden Door report](#) published by Open Doors US and World Relief. Such persecution may force them to flee their homes, joining the 120 million displaced because of faith-based persecution. The report noted the necessity of a robust asylum process for those who reach the U.S. after having fled such religious persecution.

The [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#) and the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#), document cases of Christians fleeing persecution in various regions of the world, including Central and South America. News outlets and advocacy groups have highlighted cases of [persecuted Christians seeking asylum at the U.S. southern border](#), often fleeing violence or religious persecution in countries such as Mexico and Honduras.

MYTH #6

“ MOST FENTANYL IN THE U.S. IS BROUGHT BY IMMIGRANTS WHO CROSS THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER ILLEGALLY. ”

Truth: The majority of fentanyl that enters the U.S. comes through legal ports of entry, primarily through international mail or express consignment shipments.

While some drugs may be smuggled across the border illegally, [the main sources of fentanyl](#) are not associated with unauthorized border crossings. In fiscal year 2022, 89% of convicted fentanyl traffickers were U.S. citizens, and 93% of fentanyl seized in fiscal year 2023 was at legal crossing points or interior checkpoints. In [January 2024](#), more than 95% of fentanyl seized was at lawful ports of entry.

MYTH #7

“ CHRISTIANS DON'T WANT THEIR PASTORS TO PREACH ON POLITICS OR IMMIGRATION IN CHURCH. ”

Truth: According to [Lifeway research](#), 82% of evangelical Christians would value hearing a sermon on how biblical values can apply to the current U.S. immigration situation. 70% believe Christians have a responsibility to care sacrificially for refugees and other foreigners.

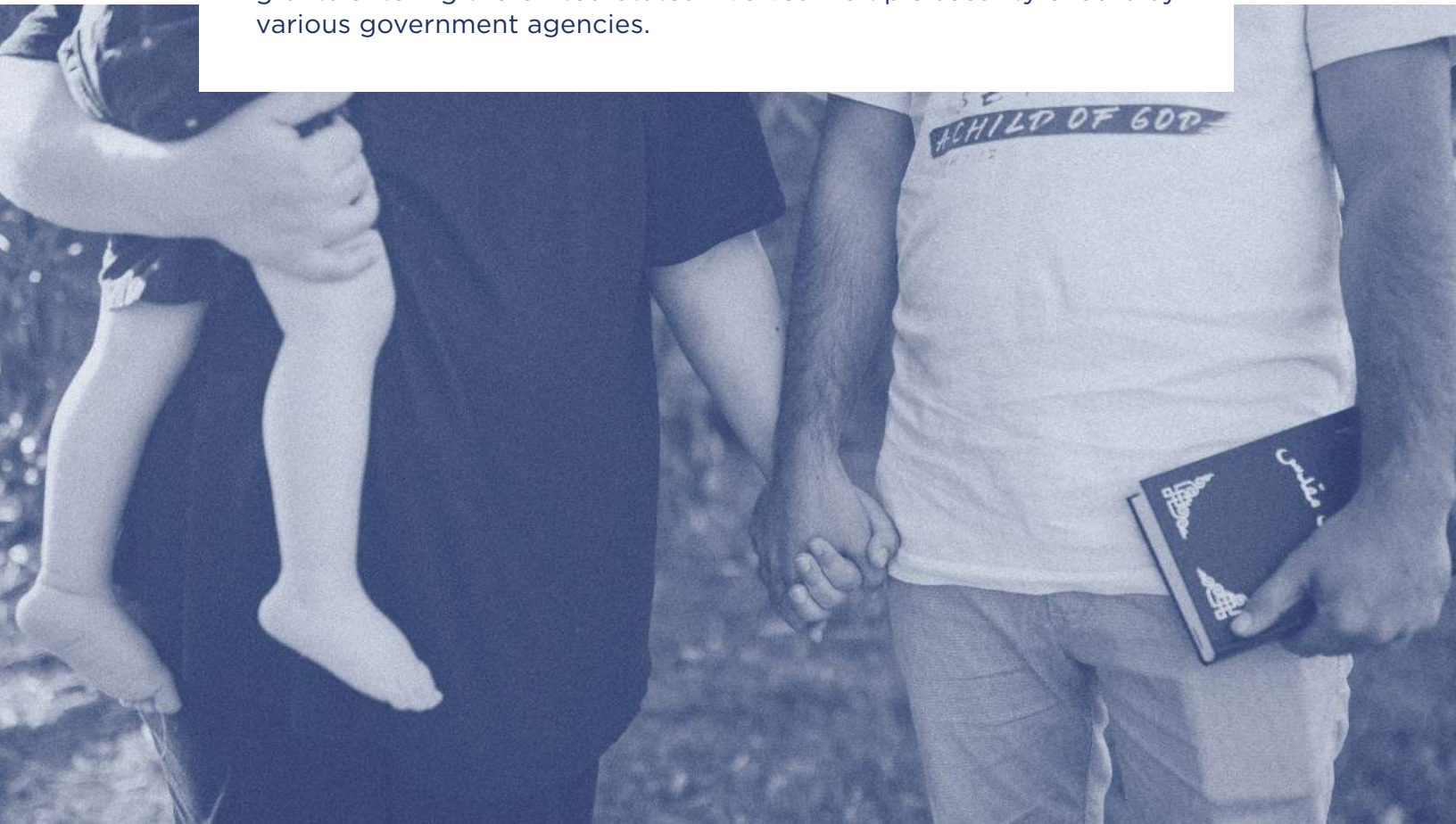
The church is precisely where Christians should be seeking their leaders and theologians to engage in a biblical perspective on what is happening around them, their community and the world. The Bible teaches Christians to love their neighbors as themselves and to show hospitality to strangers. Throughout history, immigrants have been welcomed and supported by religious communities, including evangelical Christians, who see it as a calling to care for those in need.

MYTH #8

“ ALLOWING IMMIGRANTS INTO THE COUNTRY THREATENS NATIONAL SECURITY. ”

Truth: While it's important to have secure borders, the vast majority of immigrants are not a threat to national security.

Most immigrants come to the U.S. to seek refuge from violence, persecution, or poverty in their home countries. Properly managed immigration processes can enhance national security by facilitating the screening of individuals entering the country. [The Cato Institute reports](#) that the chances of being killed in a terrorist attack committed by a foreigner on U.S. soil are 1 in 3.6 million per year. According to the [Migration Policy Institute](#), the vetting process for refugees and immigrants entering the United States involves multiple security checks by various government agencies.





PRACTICAL ADVOCACY

So far, you've read why advocacy is such an important part of practicing our faith as Christians as well as important terms to know in immigration. You may also have explored the stories beyond the labels to learn how immigration impacts real people. Together, we've debunked the most common immigration myths that perpetuate the misinformation in the news and social media.

Now, it's time to **put that information into courageous action** by practicing advocacy. Oftentimes, when we hear anything related to advocacy, it can feel overwhelming to know where to start. Or, if you've been an advocate for a while, you wonder what else there is you can do.

We've broken it down into 10 steps. **Wherever you are in your journey as an advocate, our hope is that you will find these helpful in expanding your advocacy in your community.**

#1: CONSIDER YOUR PROXIMITY

First, get to know your neighbors and be around those who are in need. You have to listen and learn to see what life is like through their eyes. If you want to be an advocate, proximity is important.

#2: RECOGNIZE YOUR BLINDSPOTS

As you get to know others in your community, you will begin to recognize your privileges, the differences in your life experiences and any blindspots you may have about the issues you want to advocate for. Recognizing these blindspots is key for effective advocacy because it helps you see where you might need to do some more learning or shift your thinking.

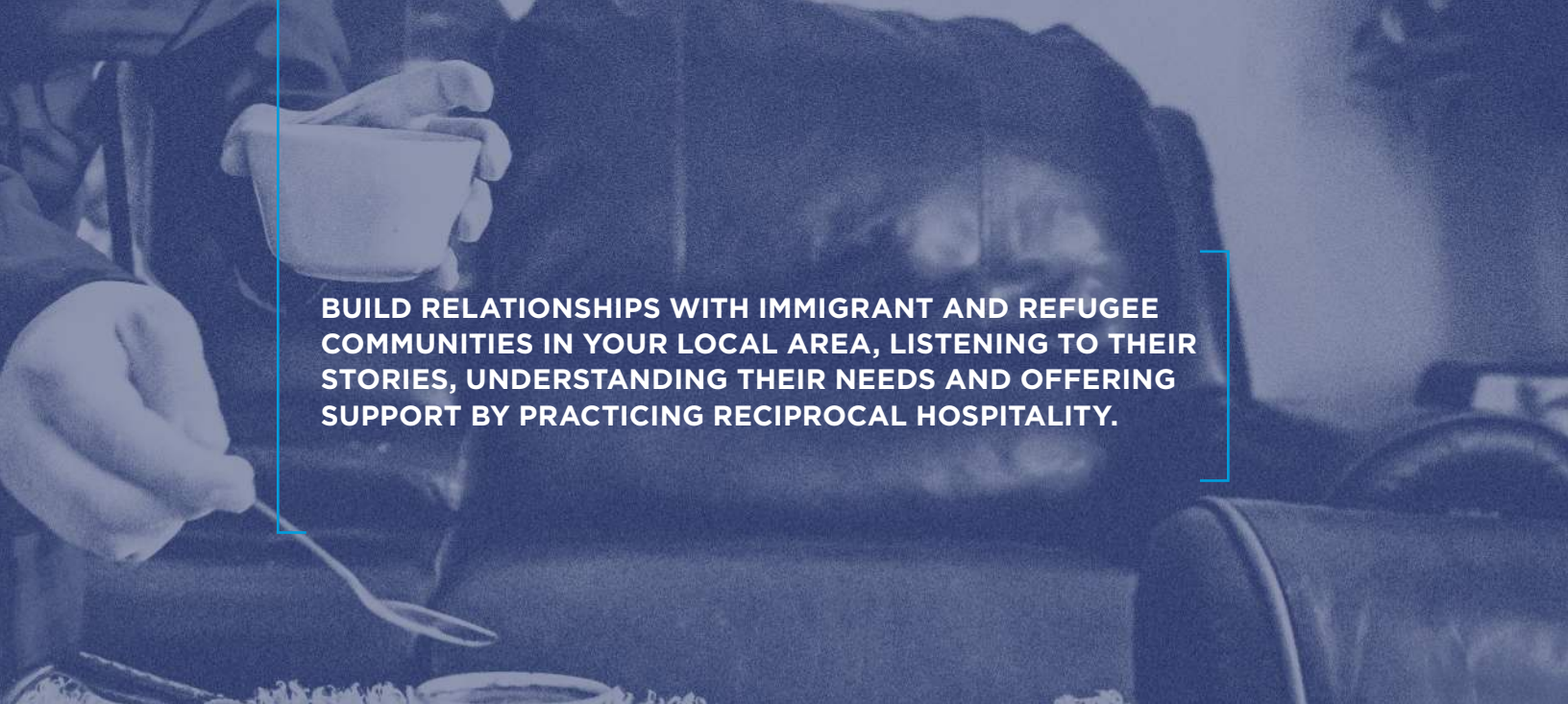
- Invite one of our [leaders to speak](#) at your church.
- Complete [The Refugee's Journey](#) as a group to educate members about immigration issues, including biblical perspectives, current policies and the experiences of immigrants.

#3: PRACTICE MUTUAL HOSPITALITY

Mutual hospitality simply means being curious and understanding that welcoming and serving others is a give-and-receive opportunity. And perhaps most importantly, it's a way of life. One of the most practical ways we can love and advocate for people is to be ready to receive them — whatever that looks like — and acknowledge their inherent dignity in Christ along the way.

- Build relationships with immigrant and refugee communities in your local area, listening to their stories, understanding their needs and offering support by practicing [reciprocal hospitality](#).

WELCOMING AND SERVING OTHERS IS
A GIVE-AND-RECEIVE OPPORTUNITY.



BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES IN YOUR LOCAL AREA, LISTENING TO THEIR STORIES, UNDERSTANDING THEIR NEEDS AND OFFERING SUPPORT BY PRACTICING RECIPROCAL HOSPITALITY.

#4: AMPLIFY FIRST

Speak up for those whose voices are not being heard. Immigrant voices are not voiceless people but they are often ignored, purposely quieted or set to the side. Most of the time, people know what they need. They just need the opportunity and the space to ask for it and be heard.

PUBLICLY AFFIRM THE DIGNITY AND HUMANITY OF ALL IMMIGRANTS.

- **Publicly affirm the dignity and humanity of all immigrants, challenging negative stereotypes and rhetoric that dehumanize immigrant communities.**
- **Listen to and share the [unique stories of refugees and immigrants](#) from around the world.**

#5: PRAY

We believe in the power of prayer. Any advocacy action you take should be first rooted in prayer, trusting God for the outcomes. As you put yourself in close proximity with those in need, practice mutual hospitality and learn how to amplify their voices, you will also learn how to pray for them specifically and be intentional with those prayers.

- **Pray together as a church community, dedicating time during services or in small groups to pray for immigrants, refugees, policy-makers and all those affected by immigration policies.**

#6: GET IN YOUR COMMUNITY

This can look a variety of ways. You can volunteer for organizations like World Relief, which has been working with refugees and other immigrants for decades, or other non-profits in your community. You can support local businesses, attend community meetings or join the local school board. The list could go on. Whatever you can do to become an integral part of your community will help you be an effective community advocate.

- [Volunteer or partner with your local World Relief office](#) to promote immigrant integration, empowerment and justice.

#7: HARNESS THE POWER OF YOUR DOLLAR

Make sure the products that you buy and the places that you donate align with your values and the things that are important to you. Specifically, many immigrants and refugees are entrepreneurs and go on to start their own businesses so be sure to support them.

- [Give to World Relief](#) to support refugee work that needs financial support to sustain them during the uncertainty of the federal refugee resettlement program.

#8: TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

If there's something you care about, talk to your people about it. Have conversations filled with grace, love and also truth. This is a very practical and very tangible way to practice advocacy in your everyday life. As you talk to your family and friends about the issues you care about, invite them to join you in your advocacy. There is power in our collective action, so don't feel like you need to go at it alone.

**IF THERE'S
SOMETHING YOU
CARE ABOUT, TALK
TO YOUR PEOPLE
ABOUT IT.**

- Lead a [Workshop course](#) or do the [Welcoming the Stranger study](#) in your church small groups and ministry teams.
- Do the [“I Was a Stranger” Challenge](#) — a 40-day Scripture-reading guide, in a group or individually.
- If you are a church leader, [preach and teach](#) on welcoming at your congregation.

#9: KEEP LEARNING!

Continue learning about the issues you care about. Read books by people most closely connected to the issues. Get to know people and continue learning from their different experiences.

- [Use these resources](#) to explore more on immigration from a biblical and humanitarian lens.
- Additional resources on the [U.S.-Mexico border](#).

#10: ENGAGE IN YOUR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Last but not least, of course, is to engage in your civic responsibility. [Vote](#) in local and national elections, contact your representatives and talk to them about the things you care about. The more you act, the easier it gets, and we must take advantage of the great privilege we have of living in a place where our voices can be heard.

- Encourage church members to [engage in advocacy efforts](#) by contacting elected officials, signing petitions and supporting campaigns for fair and compassionate immigration policies.

WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GREAT PRIVILEGE WE HAVE OF LIVING IN A PLACE WHERE OUR VOICES CAN BE HEARD.



PRAYER PROMPTS

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

1 John 5:14-15

Prayer is worship. It is speaking with our great God in a resting place. It is also where God moves within us, prompting our hearts to beat with purpose. While facts and information fill our minds, it is the state of our hearts that concerns God the most. But sometimes it can be hard to know where to begin. Our hope is that these guided prayers help you pray through specific topics on immigration and policy to grow closer to the heart of God.

Audio recordings are provided for some of the prayers to give you a jumpstart in your prayer time. Just click the link under the QR code to listen.

A PRAYER FOR THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW PRESIDENT AND FOR ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS

by Matthew Soerens, VP of Advocacy and Policy

Lord,

Your Word instructs us to pray “for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

We bring before you the newly inaugurated president as well as all representatives and senators in the U.S. Congress and many others serving in positions of authority at every level.

We thank you for a peaceful transfer of power, regardless of whether our preferred candidates won or lost.

We pray that you would grant each of our leaders wisdom, humility and courage to govern our nation in ways that serve the common good, that preserve the rights of all people to practice their faith, and that prioritize the wellbeing of those who are vulnerable amidst the great crises facing our world, including the poor, orphans, refugees and other immigrants.

We pray this in the name of our King, Jesus, at whose name one day every knee shall bow, Amen.



A PRAYER FOR PROXIMITY AND BOLD SERVICE



[Listen to the recording here.](#)

by [Rodney Greener](#), Volunteer at World Relief Memphis

Father,

I praise you for this day and the opportunities that come with it to surrender my life to you and to be used by you to touch the lives of others — not in my strength, but through your power and wisdom.

As your divine plan unfolds today, grant me the boldness to share your words to transform the lives of the people around me. Give me the courage to step out of my comfort zone. Even with differences in language, customs and beliefs, please provide the understanding to bridge those differences. Keep me within a genuine desire to serve while also ready to receive from your image bearers, remembering that they also have much to give.

May anyone I meet or serve today see your heart reaching out to them in the midst of their life circumstances. Draw them to you, open their eyes to see your great love for them and may you receive all the glory.

Thank you that my life is enriched through obedience as my heart comes in line with yours, desiring that no one should perish, but that all should come to the knowledge of the truth. Thanks for this opportunity to serve you.

I pray this in Jesus' name.

UNSPLASH PHOTO BY CHRIS HENRY

A PRAYER FOR SEEKING TRUTH AND DISCERNMENT IN OUR ADVOCACY

by Jess Galván, Content Writer for World Relief and Advocate

God Almighty,

Your Holy Spirit fills us with the capacity to pursue justice and to declare the truth when lies surround us and our neighbors. You are a God of justice and truth. Your love for each and every one of us transcends borders, policies and misinformation. All of us are made in your image and we pray for this truth to be the strongest reminder in our hearts as we engage in a season that can stretch our understanding.

Help us lean on Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” In our pursuit of the truth, guide and direct us so that we are genuinely transformed to live out a bold love for our neighbor, the foreigner and the sojourner. Remind us that love and compassion is not a sign of weakness but of our direct resolve to be like Jesus.

Give us the courage to advocate and affirm the dignity of refugees and other immigrants fleeing the most horrifying of circumstances. Prompt us to move, rooted in a faith anchored in love. May the Holy Spirit serve as our dependable guide, showing us the way.

Amen.



[Listen to the recording here.](#)





[*Listen to the recording here.*](#)

A PRAYER FOR OUR RELATIONSHIPS AND DISCOURSE

by Kathryn Freeman, National Advocacy and Operations Specialist

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the gift of community and the difference in creativity, knowledge and abilities that exist within our community. Lord, we are in a challenging time where difference threatens to divide us rather than unite us under a common purpose to love you and our neighbors. This divide has made it difficult to share our hearts and our struggles. But Lord, we know you are bigger and nothing will conquer your Bride — the church.

So, we pray for wisdom and discernment in our conversations about the very real issues facing our neighbors and our families. Things that seem political but have an impact on the flourishing of those around us, on their ability to work, feed their families, send their kids to school, breathe clean air, drive on safe roads and live healthy and fulfilling lives. Knowing this, we pray against the spirit of fear that would silence us when we need to be loud and the spirit of pride that keeps us from listening to others share their hearts and struggles.

We pray that in discussing the real impacts of policy decisions by our elected leaders that we would be led by the fruits of the spirit: kindness, peace, gentleness, self-control, joy, patience, and most of all, love. Love for justice, love for our neighbors and their well-being, love for the least and the lost but most of all, Lord, love for you, God.

Amen.



A PRAYER FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND OTHER IMMIGRANTS IN MEXICO AND AT THE BORDER

by Pastora Adriana, Pastor of Church Partner in Tijuana, Mexico

Original Spanish:

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,

Te damos gracias por este nuevo amanecer, el cual trae nuevos retos. Rogamos por los retos de las personas en movilidad, para que encuentren a su paso, personas, iglesias y comunidades que les den un espacio para descansar, un alimento para recobrar fuerzas y una palabra de aliento, en donde sea reflejada tu paz, que sobrepasa el entendimiento.

En el nombre de Jesús.
Amén.

Translated from original Spanish:

Our Father in heaven,

We thank you for this new dawn, which brings with it new challenges. We pray for those on the move, that they may find their way, people, churches and communities that can offer them a place of rest, food to regain strength and words of encouragement, where your peace, which surpasses all understanding, may be reflected.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



A PRAYER FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND IMMIGRANTS AT THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/MEXICO BORDER

by Rev. Liliana Reza, Director of Border Engagement

God of great mercy and love,

Be with those who find themselves on the migrant journey. We pray for unaccompanied children, families and individuals who are desperately seeking refuge and safety. For many, the journey is long and full of unknowns so we pray for courage, strength and peace.

Holy Spirit be near.

God of great mercy and love,

You are not bound by walls and borders. Grant us the courage to be the church, you have called us to be. Grant us the boldness to be a people that live generously out of kindness and compassionate hospitality. Jesus, we want to be more like you.

Holy Spirit guide us.

Amen.

