CBF Immigration Values and Principles

CBF Advocacy is committed to seeking justice for the migrant, the immigrant, the asylee and the refugee among us[1]. These efforts complement our Global Missions commitment to ministry in the context of global migration. Across the globe and here in the United States, our field personnel, pastors and church members befriending those forced to make the hard decision to leave their homeland. Most migrants are escaping violent conflict, environmental degradation or extreme poverty.

The United States has long been a refuge for those fleeing desperate circumstances and seeking safety and a better life for their families. In numerous ways, our current immigration system is broken and no longer addresses the needs of immigrants and refugees, as well as the economic and workforce realities in our own country.

We believe and hope our Christian values of welcoming the stranger and loving our neighbor will inform our policies and the best of our American tradition has been compatible with these values. We are concerned the cultural and political climate has strayed from these values and, instead, seems rooted in apathy, fear, mistrust, and hostility toward others.

CBF Advocacy Team for Immigrants & Refugees is calling for increased advocacy at this critical moment when the future of our country will be shaped by how our generation addresses the brokenness our current immigration policy. Our goal is to equip and encourage impactful advocacy for a complete reform of our immigration system. In so doing, we ask supporters to advocate for and urge our elected leaders to support legislation that respects the following values and contains these core principles:

- The God-given dignity, worth, civil rights and human rights of all people who desire to come to the United States to contribute to our country and way of life.
- The careful attention and protection of migrant children and their well-being.
- The safety of our citizens and protection of our country's sovereignty, through a nondiscriminatory, humane, and modern border security and enforcement system.
- The safety and unity of our communities.
- The protection, care and right of due process for refugees and asylees without prejudice of creed, race, political party, etc.
- The right of every human being to seek asylum from persecution in our country and the guarantee that no person will be returned to a country where they could face torture or persecution.
- Policies that honor and respect the importance of the family. Our laws should continue our tradition of promoting family unity by allowing U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to petition for legal permanent residency on behalf of their close family members, and for U.S. citizens to petition for citizenship on behalf of family members who are legal permanent residents.
- The equal rights of all U.S. citizens regardless of whether they are citizens by birth or naturalization.

[1] A migrant is someone who changes his or her country of usual residence, irrespective of the reason for migration or legal status. A refugee is someone who has fled his or her country of origin and is unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. An asylum seeker is an individual who is seeking international protection to become a refugee. An immigrant is a person who enters a country to take up permanent residence. Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Migrants | Amnesty International.

- A path toward legal status and/or citizenship for:
    - DREAMers, according to DACA requirements
    - Recipients of Temporary Protected Status
    - Parents of American citizen children
    - Military personnel and servicemembers
    - Essential workers who provided vital services to our citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The commitment to address the root causes of migration and the conditions that generate the forced displacement of families to our borders.
- The workforce and economic needs of our country, immigrant workers and their immediate families.
- The use of community-based alternatives to detention of non-violent immigrants.
- The accountability of the immigration enforcement agencies and its officials.