



# CBF Advocacy

## Immigration Reform: Values and Principles

*The following is a statement of values and principles in support of immigration reform developed by the CBF Advocacy Action Team for Immigrants and Refugees. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Advocacy Team and see a list of its members. For information about how the Biden administration's priorities line up with these principles see this article by Elket Rodriguez. For more background from the initial 2018 release of these principles, click [here](#).*

CBF Advocacy is committed to seeking justice for the migrant, the immigrant, the asylee and the refugee among us. 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 minister alongside and befriend 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. We also believe that 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.

The Advocacy Action Team for Immigrants and 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 deported 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 lawful permanent residents to petition for lawful 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 lawful permanent residents.



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- The equal rights of all U.S. citizens regardless of whether they are citizens by birth or naturalization.
- 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.

## Christians United for Immigration Reform

Across denominational lines, differing theological convictions and ideological divides, Christians demonstrate remarkable consistency about the need for just and humane immigration reform. This rare level of agreement is due in large part to the consistent teaching of scripture and the witness of Jesus Christ in the Gospels. CBF has worked alongside many of the organizations below and has participated in several broad coalitions calling for immigration reform. Each of these statements has informed our values and principles. When people of faith can work together toward the same goal despite other deep differences, they create an opportunity for impactful advocacy and a witness for unity in Christ.

Interfaith immigration Coalition – [Interfaith Immigration Platform](#)  
 Evangelical Immigration Table – [Evangelical Statement of Principles for Immigration Reform](#)  
 National Immigration Forum – [Bibles, Badges, and Business Principles](#)  
 Bread for the World – [Statement of Faith Voices for Immigration](#)  
 World Relief – [Statement in Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#)  
 Christian Churches Together – [Statement on Immigration Reform](#)  
 National Association of Evangelicals – [Open Letter on Immigration Reform](#)  
 Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission – [Evangelical Leader Statement of Principles on Dreamers](#)  
 Southern Baptist Convention – [2018 Resolution on Immigration](#)  
 United Methodist Church – [United Methodists Position on Immigration Reform](#)  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in American – [A Social Message on Immigration](#)  
 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – [Presbyterian Policy on Immigration](#)  
 The Episcopal Church – [Coalition Letter to House: Immigration Principles to Support](#)  
 Alliance of Baptists – [A Statement on Just and Humane Immigration Reform](#)  
 Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas – [In Support of DACA](#)  
 United Conference of Catholic Bishops – [Catholic Church's Position on Immigration Reform](#)  
 American Immigration Council – [Focusing on the Solutions: Key Principles of Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#)



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## **CBF Global Missions – Serving Migrants across the Globe**

Three core commitments drive the work of CBF Global Missions: bearing witness to Jesus Christ, cultivating beloved community, and seeking transformational development. Our field personnel do this work in three contexts: global poverty, the global Church and global migration. The field personnel below work directly with migrants, immigrants and/or refugees.

Many other field personnel are working to improve conditions in other countries thereby preventing the need for migration.

### **Europe, Africa and Middle East**

Matt and Michelle Norman, Spain  
Janee Angel, Belgium  
Eddie and Macarena Aldape, Spain  
Chaouki and Maha Boulos, Lebanon  
Missy Ward Angala, Uganda  
Karen Alford, Togo  
Jade and Shelah Acker, Uganda  
Dianne and Shane McNary, Slovakia  
Jon and Tanya Parks, Slovakia  
Karen, North Africa  
Christine, Middle East

### **Asia**

Kirk and Suzie, Thailand  
Cindy and Eddy Ruble, Indonesia

### **North America**

Nell Green, SC  
Kim and Marc Wyatt, NC  
Mira and Sasha Zivanov, MO  
Karen Morrow, TX  
Lita and Rick Sample, CA  
Steve Clark and Annette Ellard, KY  
Greg and Sue Smith, VA  
Rick Burnette, FL  
Hannah Turner, NC



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