

HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN HELP

1. Hire an attorney to head a program.
2. Develop a program that is recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals to legally provide immigration legal services.
3. Group together with other churches to provide funding for an immigration legal services program (new or existing).
4. Work with authorized office as partners.
5. Learn the legitimate immigration providers in your area.
6. Make referrals.
7. Tell people to make sure they are getting help from a lawyer or BIA-accredited individual, not a notary or "notario."
8. Provide financial donations and/or donations of office equipment or supplies.

RESOURCES

World Relief, www.wr.org
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, www.cliniclegal.org
Lutheran Refugee and Immigrant Service, www.lirs.org
Church World Service, www.churchworldservice.org
Justice for Our Neighbors, <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/refugees/justiceforourneighbors.cfm>
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, www.hias.org
Episcopal Migration Ministries, <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/emm>
International Rescue Committee, www.theirc.org

American Immigration Lawyers Association can make referrals for immigration attorneys nation-wide, www.aila.org

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



Mission Support USA/Canada
Multicultural Ministries
17001 Prairie Star Parkway
Lenexa, KS 66220
sgrube@nazarene.org
800-738-7167

YOUR CHURCH AND IMMIGRATION

A Biblical Response to the Immigration Challenge



Biblical and Moral Principles

We believe that all people, regardless of national origin, are made in the “image of God” and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect (Genesis 1:26-27, 9:6).

We believe there is an undeniable biblical responsibility to love and show compassion for the stranger among us (Deuteronomy 10:18-19, Leviticus 19:33-34, Matthew 25:31-46).

We believe that immigrants are our neighbors, both literally and figuratively, and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves and show mercy to neighbors in need (Leviticus 19:18, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:25-37).

We believe in the rule of law, but we also believe that we are to oppose unjust laws and systems that harm and oppress people made in God’s image, especially the vulnerable (Isaiah 10:1-4, Jeremiah 7:1-7, Acts 5:29, Romans 13:1-7).*

* Extracted from the *Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform*

THE ISSUE

Currently there are an estimated 12 million “undocumented” persons in the US without any official legal status.

Eventually legislation may create a path for them to apply for legal status and eventually citizenship.

If this passes, there will be a HUGE need for immigration legal services.



HOW LEGALIZATION MIGHT AFFECT CHURCHES

May be a possibility for churches and other non-profit organizations to become trained and registered to help fill out immigration forms.

Will be many other needs to support immigration applications as well, such as helping establish good moral character and physical presence in the U.S.

English classes and other needs.

Who Is Legally Entitled to Provide Immigration Law Assistance Under Current Law?

Attorneys who are licensed in any U.S. state or the District of Columbia.

Individuals who have applied for and received, accreditation through the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) through the Department of Justice.

What is Legal Advice?

Any advice or action that tells someone what to do regarding immigration law, whether it is:

- Telling them which form to fill out.
- Filling a form out for someone.
- Telling them they should go back to their country to fix their immigration problems.

Consequences

- All of these actions, while they may be well-meaning, can cause problems for the immigrant.
- Only attorneys and BIA-accredited representatives should give advice.
- The stakes are very high for misinformation, including possible detention and deportation, and denial of immigration cases.