



NETWORK STATEMENT ON IMMIGRATION

NETWORK stands with other faith leaders in calling for a just solution to our nation's broken immigration system.

Every year, thousands of individuals risk everything to create a better life for themselves and their families either by making the treacherous journey across the U.S. border without documentation or by overstaying their visitor visas.

Why do they take these risks? They come to meet the need for low-skill workers in the U.S. hospitality and agriculture industries. They come to be reunited with their loved ones. They come to participate in the "American Dream."

Tragically, current flaws in our immigration system can shatter that dream.

For example, deportation, or the fear of it, can tear families apart and force hardworking people into the shadows of society. Legally present workers whose immigration status ties them to only one employer are vulnerable to exploitation.

It is our moral obligation to find a solution to this human problem, one that protects the basic human rights of the people involved. This can only be done through comprehensive reform of the immigration system as a whole. The patchwork of enforcement measures enacted over the past two decades have only exasperated the problem, not solved it.

We, as a society, are called to live out our faith-based principles underlying global solidarity to care for and defend the human rights and dignity of one another and to bring gospel values to bear on the pressing issues of the day.

NETWORK, through education and advocacy and in partnership with the Justice for Immigrants campaign works to bring about more just immigration policy and greater understanding of the immigrant community.

To be just and workable, an immigration reform measure must include: the means for earned legalization with a pathway to citizenship for those who desire it; family unification through a diminishment of the backlog of family visas; provisions to combat exploitative labor conditions; and effective border policy that is both just and humane.

NETWORK is committed to these principles for a just immigration policy. We call on Congress and other leaders to support legislation that encompasses comprehensive immigration reform.

NETWORK—a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace—educates, organizes and lobbies for economic and social transformation. Founded in 1971 by 47 Catholic sisters, NETWORK is supported by thousands of groups and individuals committed to working for social and economic justice. For more information, see www.networklobby.org.