

Sanctuary Action Steps

Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity, until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our workforce rather than expelled from our country. – Barack Obama

Bed Quota

A US immigration detention “bed quota law” requires U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to fill 34,000 detention beds daily. This detention costs tax payers \$5.5 million daily, but could be reduced by 80% by allowing immigrants who post no risk to public safety to be released to their families while awaiting immigration hearings.

www.immigrantjustice.org

Action Steps – Speak Out!

Check out the One Voice Sanctuary page for web links to these action steps, or scan this code for legislative action alerts.

1. Greet your immigrant neighbors. Invite them to dinner.
2. Support businesses, restaurants, music events, and festivals run by Minnesota immigrants.
3. [Read books](#) by immigrant authors.
4. Talk to your friends, family and colleagues about the value of MN immigrants.
5. Talk to your community of faith about becoming a sanctuary organization.
6. Support [Green Card Voices](#) in their effort to share immigrant stories.
7. Join the [ACLU](#) in urging ICE to abandon plans to significantly expand immigrant detention centers.
8. Join the [Interfaith Coalition on Immigration](#) for their monthly Faith Action vigil at the Ramsey County Detention Center.

Who are Refugees?

- “Refugee” is a legal status offering resettlement in the US to protect people fleeing persecution. All refugees are immigrants. Not all immigrants are refugees.
- There are 21.3 million refugees worldwide—the largest refugee crisis since WWII—and half are children. Many live in refugee camps over 10 years and some for generations; less than 1% will have the option of permanent resettlement.
- Congress sets a quota for the number of refugees that the US will accept. In 2016 the number was 100,000. In Jan 2017, an Executive Order reduced that number to 50,000, the lowest number on record.



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- Refugees go through a screening process that lasts a minimum of 18-24 months and involves 8 different federal security agencies.
- Refugees to the US receive a loan of \$1,500-1,800 to assist with their first year here. They have three years to pay it back and 75% do.
- In 2015 refugees to MN contributed \$227.2 million in state and local tax revenues.

Did You Know?

- The 10 largest groups of foreign-born residents in Minnesota, in descending order, are: Mexico, India, Laos, Somalia, Vietnam, China, Thailand, Ethiopia, Korea, and Canada.
- The US government is spending \$2.1 billion on four new immigrant detention centers. One of them is planned for Minnesota.
- Immigrants are 25% less likely to commit crimes than US born individuals.
- Last fall, President Trump ordered an end to the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (or DACA) that shields young adults brought to the US illegally as children and gives them the right to work legally. As early as March, these youth may be deported.
- In 2017, 43% of fortune 500 companies were founded by an immigrant or the child of an immigrant. These companies produced \$5.3 trillion in global revenue and employed 12.1 million workers.
- US immigrants include Albert Einstein, Madeleine Albright, Levi Strauss, Liz Claiborne, Joseph Pulitzer, author Isabel Allende, the founders of Google, YouTube, Whatsapp and the Huffington Post, many professional athletes and artists... and this is only the tip of the iceberg!
- As our population grows older, Minnesota needs to attract more than 60,000 newcomers by 2020 in order to maintain our state workforce and economy.