



# Immigrant Rights Are Under Attack. What Do We Do? Stand Up, Fight Back!

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”  
—James 2:26, NKJV

“[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?”

—Micah 6:8, NRSVUE

## LEARN

- Know your rights. Review this resource from Immigration Law & Justice Network: [iljnetwork.org/know-your-rights](https://iljnetwork.org/know-your-rights).
- Build relationships with immigrants in your community and listen deeply to each other’s stories. Reach out cross-culturally, where possible, to build solidarity across nationality, language, class, and ethnic identity.
- Join an email alert or WhatsApp group for a local immigrant rights organization to receive reliable information, real-time updates, and local action opportunities.
- Watch the free five-part video series *Vital Conversations on Immigration* by the General Commission on Religion and Race. Use the study guide to facilitate a discussion with your United Women in Faith unit or your local church.  
Link: [r2hub.org/library/vital-conversations-on-immigration](https://r2hub.org/library/vital-conversations-on-immigration).
- Learn about the roots and foundations of the violence we are seeing now. For a great, short primer, check out Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III’s Minneapolis Is Under Siege on YouTube ([youtu.be/OEIUIoNff-8](https://youtu.be/OEIUIoNff-8)). Also explore the *Racial Justice Time Line* available in English, Spanish, and Korean ([uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10396&catid=2209](https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10396&catid=2209)). Understanding our history helps us to change our future.
- Check out United Women in Faith Reading Program book selections on immigration, racial justice, and global migration at [uwfaith.org/read](https://uwfaith.org/read).

- Use materials from the General Board of Church and Society: [umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/civil-and-human-rights/immigration-to-the-united-states](https://umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/civil-and-human-rights/immigration-to-the-united-states).
- Make connections between issue areas. How does the current attack on immigrant rights connect to climate justice, ending mass incarceration, and other justice concerns, both local and global?
- Revisit the Immigration and the Bible Mission u Study on Amazon ([a.co/d/0IT4imgQ](https://a.co/d/0IT4imgQ)). Listen to recordings of *Faith Talks, Voices From the Field*, and other programs related to immigration. Join live trainings and webinars whenever you can.
- Explore the resources compiled by United Methodist Communications: [resourceumc.org/en/content/what-churches-can-do-to-support-immigrants](https://resourceumc.org/en/content/what-churches-can-do-to-support-immigrants).

## ACT

- Join public actions to show your support for immigrant rights. Participate in the February 25, 2026, Faithful Resistance event in Washington, DC, in person or online: [faithfulresistance.org](https://faithfulresistance.org).
- Send emails, make phone calls, and join lobby days to push your elected officials to protect immigrant communities. Visit [uwfaith.org/action](https://uwfaith.org/action) to access all current digital advocacy actions from United Women in Faith.

Pause reading to take this quick and relevant action right now, from home:

[win.newmode.net/unitedwomeninfaith/tellcongressdontstandbywhileimmigrantcommunitiesareunderattack](https://win.newmode.net/unitedwomeninfaith/tellcongressdontstandbywhileimmigrantcommunitiesareunderattack).

Tell Congress to:

1. Stop pouring funds into the ICE and CBP budgets to criminalize and attack immigrant communities without restraint.
2. Pass strong, proactive measures like the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act to protect civil and human rights.
3. Protect sensitive locations such as churches and other houses of worship, schools, and hospitals.
4. Demand true accountability.

- Work with interfaith coalitions, community organizations, worker centers, mutual-aid networks, advocacy groups, and legal clinics. Amplify and center the voices of directly impacted individuals and uplift solutions from immigrant-led coalitions and organizations.

- Support the racial and ethnic caucuses of The United Methodist Church, which have long been on the front lines of immigrant rights and racial justice. Read their January 28, 2026 news release, Public Statement Condemning the Violence, Militarization, and Dehumanization Carried Out by ICE and Border Patrol ([bit.ly/4kzAf7J](https://bit.ly/4kzAf7J)).
- Model in your behavior a posture of openness to new people. Be a bridge-builder in small, tangible ways. Bring a meal or write love-shower cards to welcome a family new to the country. Volunteer in an ESOL program and/or teach yourself at least some of a language that is commonly spoken in your community besides English. Build relationships across lines of difference.
- Connect with a local immigrant-serving National Mission Institution and find out how you can volunteer during this increased time of need.  
Link: [uwfaith.org/what-we-do/what-we-fund/national-ministries](https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/what-we-fund/national-ministries).
- Support families in their efforts to create safety/preparedness plans and create your own safety/preparedness plan ([ilrc.org/resources/step-step-family-preparedness-plan](https://ilrc.org/resources/step-step-family-preparedness-plan)) if your family is at risk.
- Connect with and support your local Immigration Law & Justice Network (formerly Justice for Our Neighbors) affiliate: [ijnetwork.org](https://ijnetwork.org).
- Go with a neighbor to their immigration court hearing to be a public witness and a personal support. Join a court watch or accompaniment program. Provide transportation to legal appointments.
- Vocally oppose policies that contribute to the criminalization of communities of color. Oppose the construction of new immigrant detention facilities or the repurposing of closed prisons and jails to hold more detainees. Oppose local and state governments signing 287(g) agreements. Advocate for sanctuary policies at the municipal and state level. Advocate for humane immigration policies that respect the sanctity of the family and human dignity and abide by the highest standards of human rights and binding international law.
- Protect the rights of immigrant students. These rights are granted under the SCOTUS Plyler decision and, so far, efforts to chip away at them through state legislation have failed, but vigilance is necessary to ensure that public education remains available to all students, both on the books and in practice.  
See: [education4all.us](https://education4all.us).
- Resist rhetoric that participates in the criminalization of communities of color. Push back on racist public narratives (“dangerous,” “perpetual foreigner,” etc.), whether they appear on the front page or at the dinner table. Oppose the divide-and-conquer strategy of separating migrants into “bad” and “good” groups.

- Do your best to make your church a safe space for all people, regardless of immigration status. You can't guarantee safety. Recently, immigration officials have been violating the sanctity of houses of worship and arresting people on church campuses. (See: [calpacumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/North-Hills-United-Methodist-Church-of-the-California-Pacific-Annual-Conference-.pdf](https://calpacumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/North-Hills-United-Methodist-Church-of-the-California-Pacific-Annual-Conference-.pdf)) But we all can and should do our best to make our churches **as safe as possible**. Learn more about what you can do if ICE, CBP, local police, or other entities try to come onto your church property to detain, arrest, or harass people. See [ijnetwork.org/know-your-rights](https://ijnetwork.org/know-your-rights) and [resourceumc.org/en/content/what-churches-can-do-to-support-immigrants](https://resourceumc.org/en/content/what-churches-can-do-to-support-immigrants). Talk to local immigration and faith networks and your annual conference leadership for additional guidance, training, and technical support.
- Reflect on your personal safety and risk level to make faithful decisions. If you have more safety than others, challenge yourself to take on more risk. If you are more vulnerable, remember the importance of self-care. Be sensitive to others' decisions. Recognize that for many actions, the risks will vary significantly from person to person. Contribute what you can and remember that each contribution is important.

## LEAD

- Challenge yourself to go one step further. If you are already showing up in support of immigrant communities, ask yourself who you can bring with you. Lean into our connectional nature. Organize your United Women in Faith sisters, friends, neighbors, pastor, your kids, parents, and everyone else you know to learn and act with you. We need all of us. It is too much for any one person to take on alone, but, thankfully, God did not make us to be alone.

Together we are building a strong, united, and unstoppable movement.

“To stay updated about opportunities to learn, act, and lead for racial justice, sign up for our email list using this QR code.”

