Mother’s Day Action Toolkit for Immigrant Rights

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Introduction
On Mother’s Day every year, we honor the special role of motherhood in our families. Our mothers perhaps make the most impact on our childhood in shaping how we are raised and who we become. This Mother's Day we are paying special attention to the humanitarian crisis we face with our broken immigration system.

Every day, 1,100 people are deported. As a result of unfair and inhumane enforcement, detention, and deportation policies, too many mothers are ripped away from their children and families torn apart. To give one example, in just the first six months of 2011, 46,686 parents of U.S. citizen children were deported. In recent years, over 5,000 U.S. citizen children of deported immigrants have been placed into foster care in the U.S.

The time is now to act for immigrant justice, and we call on all Lutherans to contact their Representatives in the House to fix our broken immigration system and highlight the struggle of immigrant mothers in your worship services on Mother’s Day.

Thursday May 8th Mother’s Day Action Alert

Show your support for immigrant mothers who are facing the struggle of family separation. Make TWO CALLS to tell both the House of Representatives and the White House that you pray they will act to reunite families and heal immigrant communities!

- The House is refusing to act on immigration reform
- The Obama Administration must take action to alleviate the suffering and separation of families caused by inhumane enforcement, detention, and deportation practices

Both the House and Administration need to hear from you!
Immigration reform legislation has stalled in Congress as House leadership continues to refuse to bring the bill up for a vote. Each day this inaction continues, the less likely it becomes that the House will vote on immigration reform this year. We need all Representatives to hear from people of faith that delay is unacceptable, and that we need House leadership to make compassionate immigration reform a reality.

Every day that the House delays, 1,100 individuals are deported from their families and communities. There are bold, concrete actions that President Obama can and must take to stop the pain caused by our broken immigration system. These actions include broader and increased use of prosecutorial discretion at in law enforcement decision-making to reduce harmful enforcement practices and family separation, a move to end to the arbitrary use of detention and to the detention of vulnerable migrants such as asylum seekers and survivors of torture, improvements to access to justice for detainees, and support for increased availability of community-based alternatives to detention.

We need to hold both the House and the White House accountable to keep families and communities together!

Call your Representative through the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or find your Representative's direct line at www.house.gov. Here's a sample script:

"I'm from City, State, Congregation/Community and as a person of faith, I am dismayed that the House has failed to pass immigration reform. The need for just and compassionate reform is urgent. On Mother’s Day, I am praying for the many loving mothers who have been separated from their children because our broken immigration system tears families and communities apart. I urge the Representative to insist that House leadership work to enact immigration reform that reunites families, protects vulnerable migrants, and leads to citizenship for our undocumented community members.”

Then call the White House Comment Line at 1-888-907-2053. Here's a sample script:

"I'm from City, State, Congregation/Community and as a person of faith, I urge President Obama to ease the pain and family separation caused by inhumane detention and deportation practices. The President has the authority to alleviate the suffering of our undocumented community members. As our broken immigration system tears families and communities apart, the President cannot neglect his authority to end unnecessarily high rates of detention and deportation. On Mother’s Day, I am praying for the many loving mothers who have been separated from their children and continue to suffer at the hands of unsafe detention and deportation practices.”

Follow up on your calls with an in-person visit to your Representative using our Neighbor to Neighbor Toolkit.
Worship Resources

Opening Prayer
God of dignity and life, today we honor the mothers, who have born and raised us, who shaped us into who we are today. We remember the struggle of so many mothers to raise their children, especially those who have seen their families torn apart from our broken immigration system. Some mothers are ripped away from their children by deportations; others miss their husband who might have died in the desert while trying to join their families in the United States. God we pray for all those mothers in our congregation and throughout our country struggling for their families. May you bless them all this Mother's Day.

Call to Worship

Leader
O God we pray for all the mothers throughout the world.

People
We thank you for our own mother’s guidance and love that has nurtured us into adulthood.

Leader
We pray for those mothers who even in poverty work to provide for their family and put their kids through school.

People
O God, blessed are the mothers among us. Let the inaction of our policy makers end here and now, as we pray to keep families together and alleviate the pain felt by so many in detention and deportation.

Benediction
Our God has nurtured and counseled us, brought us in when others rejected us, shown us the tender care that only a Mother, God could bring. We follow in the footsteps of our mothers who have shown us the way along our path. We are ready to work towards keeping mothers and fathers with their children, to keep families together, and to welcome all people regardless of their immigration status.

Sample Bulletin Announcement

National Call In Day to Congress and the White House to Keep Families Together on Mother’s Day
On Thursday, May 8th faith-based organizations are holding a call in day to tell President Obama to reduce harmful deportation and detention practices (call 1-888-907-2053) and to ask the House of Representatives to take a vote on immigration reform (call (202) 224-3121). We invite our congregation to join us in voicing our concern for mothers and children who are separated because of our broken immigration system.
Social Media Opportunities
Mother’s Day is a great opportunity to share with your friends online how important family unity and immigration reform are to you. Use Facebook or Twitter to tell others about the action you are taking.

Urge @WhiteHouse and your Representative’s Twitter name (found on their website, www.house.gov) to do their part to reunite families and heal communities.

Sample tweets:
@RepWOLFPress As a person of faith from Virginia I want you to champion #immigrationreform. What are you doing for #ForOurMoms this Mother’s Day?

@DaveReichert As you celebrate your mom today, please remember the thousands of deported mothers separated from their kids. #ForOurMoms #immigrationreform

@WhiteHouse As a person of faith I want you to use your authority to alleviate the pain of undocumented mothers. #keepfamiliestogether

@BarackObama Too many families are separated this #MothersDay. Our nation’s families need relief #familyunity

@RepName, we need genuine #ImmigrationReform this #MothersDay. #TimeIsNow

@SpeakerBoehner, stand with Moms this #MothersDay. Schedule a vote on #ImmigrationReform.

Join me in calling the @WhiteHouse @ 1-888-907-2053 and stand with families this #MothersDay. #familyunity

Join me in calling Congress this #MothersDay @ (202) 224-3121 and support #ImmigrationReform

Use the hashtags #ForOurMoms #immigrationreform #familyunity #MothersDay #TimeIsNow #keepfamiлистogether.