

ADVOCACY CENTER PRIORITIES AND NAC SIGN-ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS DECEMBER 2020

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COVID – 19 RELATED

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: EXTENSION OF TPS FOR HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, EL SALVADOR AND GUATAMALA

General Content: Two separate letters to the Trump Administration and the incoming Administration of President-Elect Biden asking them to take immediate action to protect communities impacted by the devastation caused by Hurricanes Iota and Eta. The letter asks for an immediate TPS redesignation for Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador and asks for Guatemala to be added.

Both hurricanes impacted Central America with strong winds and heavy rains damaging critical infrastructure such as airports in Honduras, hospitals, schools, bridges, roads, and water systems. Remote communities, already suffering from the health and socio-economic fallout of COVID-19 are particularly vulnerable to the double burden of a pandemic and the devastation wrought by Eta and Iota. Initial reports of the impacts of both Hurricanes Eta and Iota on these countries estimate even greater devastation than what Hurricane Mitch caused.

Sent to: President Trump and President-Elect Biden

Sponsored by: Alianza Americas

- Note: Also focus areas: Poverty and U.S. Policies that affect our Good Shepherd Mission in other Countries

ISSUE: DAY 1 EXECUTIVE ORDERS TO END SEVERAL IMMIGRATION BANS

General Content: The goal of this letter is to urge the incoming Biden administration to issue an Executive Order on day one of his administration ending the Muslim Ban, the African Ban, The Asylum Ban, the Refugee Bans, the Health Care Proclamation, the Presidential Memorandum Enforcing and any expansion of the Immigration Ban, and to restart our immigration and refugee system by processing visas expeditiously and safely and increasing the refugee admissions goal.

Sent to: President- Elect Biden and the Biden Transition Team

Sponsored by: Church World Service

ISSUE: ENSURING IMMIGRANTS EQUITABLE ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES

General Content: Letter to the CDC and the Biden Transition COVID-19 Taskforce, addressing concerns about ensuring immigrants have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. The letter addresses recent concerns about the potential of inappropriate data collection and sharing that could chill immigrant uptake of the vaccine, as well as the need for robust outreach funding.

Sent to: CDC Director Dr. Redfield and to the co-chairs of the Biden Transition COVID-19 taskforce

Sponsored by: National Immigration Law Center

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: COVID RELIEF LETTER TO CONGRESS

General Content: COVID-19 relief package should enact the following policy priorities:

- Increase maximum SNAP benefits by 15%
- Allocate more money for housing, homeless assistance, and extend the moratorium on evictions
- Extend expanded unemployment assistance
- Expand the EITC and Child Tax Credit
- Authorize another economic impact payment
- Authorize Pandemic TANF Assistance Act

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Bread for the World

ISSUE: FIRST YEAR HEALTH POLICY PRIORITIES FOR BIDEN TRANSITION TEAM

General Content: Letter urging the Biden transition team and incoming Biden Administration to take bold and immediate action to address the country's urgent health and health equity needs, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes them to: > Take bold and immediate action to address the COVID-19 pandemic. > Pursue common-sense reforms that make health coverage and care affordable for all families in America. > Bring down health care costs and transform our health care system by ending health industry abuses and prioritizing high-quality, consumer-centered health care. > End racial injustice in health and health care, and ensure all individuals and families have equal opportunity to live a healthy life, free from health disparities and barriers to care because of who they are, where they live, what language they speak, or how they identify.

Sent to: President-elect Biden and Presidential Transition Team Co-Chairs

Sponsored by: Families USA

- Also Racism focus area

ISSUE: FEDERAL EVICTION MORATORIUM

General Content: National [letter](#) urging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent a catastrophic wave of evictions this winter by extending, improving, and enforcing the federal eviction moratorium.

Sent to: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Sponsored by: National Low Income Housing Coalition

ISSUE: BIDEN: WORK WITH CONGRESS FOR GLOBAL RECOVERY VIA IMF SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS

General Content: As part of the future Administration's COVID-19 response efforts, The Biden Administrations is committed to strengthening U.S. global leadership to fight the pandemic. This letter requests President Biden to work with Congress and our international allies to urgently support an issuance of 2 trillion Special Drawing Rights, building on 2020 legislation, in the first days of your administration.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: Action Corps

NAC FOCUS AREA: RACISM

NAC FOCUS AREA: US POLICIES THAT AFFECT OUR GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION IN OTHER COUNTRIES

ISSUE: HUMANITARIAN AID TO CENTRAL AMERICA AFTER HURRICANES ETA & IOTA

General Content: Two historic, back-to-back hurricanes have devastated communities in southern Mexico, Central America, and parts of the Caribbean. While we recognize the assistance already channeled via USAID, the magnitude of this disaster—which is affecting over [5.2 million](#) people—merits a much more robust aid response. In addition, we urge the administration to immediately suspend deportations to these countries, which are reeling with the combined impact of the hurricanes and the global pandemic.

Sent to: Secretary Pompeo, Acting Secretary Wolf, and Acting Deputy Administrator Barsa

Sponsored by: Latin American Working Group

- Also Immigration and Poverty Focus Areas

NAC FOCUS AREA: VIOLENCE

ISSUE: TRANSITION MEMO TO THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION URGING THE PRESIDENT TO END THE USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

General Content: Ending the practice of solitary confinement would end the pain, torture, and trauma of tens of thousands of people languishing in harsh and harmful conditions...including the increase of #s in solitary as a result of the COVID 19 virus. Applauding the promise of the Biden-Harris "Strengthening America's Commitment to Justice" plan we support the ending solitary confinement by executive, congressional, and administrative action. The letter includes the establishment of a working group and the engagement of several Federal Offices.

Sent to: President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris

Sponsored by: National Religious Campaign Against Torture

NAC FOCUS AREA: OTHER RELATED AREAS

ISSUE: RESTORE THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS

General Content: Request to President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris that will help restore the soul of our nation and set us on track to defeat COVID-19, heal and strengthen our economy and communities, and celebrate the diversity so key to our nation's prosperity at home and abroad – to restore the above-named office.

Sent to: President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris

Sponsored by: Vote Common Good-Catholic Outreach

ISSUE: SUPPORT FROM U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO MOVE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF EFFORTS FORWARD

General Content: Calling on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to urge Senate Republicans to stop blocking coronavirus relief efforts unless the proposal immunizes businesses from coronavirus-related lawsuits. Millions of people need relief now – and could get it – if Republicans dropped their corporate immunity handout.

Sent to: Thomas J. Donohue Chief Executive Officer U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Suzanne Clark, President U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Sponsored by: Public Citizen

NON-COVID-19 RELATED

NAC FOCUS AREA: RACISM

ISSUE: Proposal to establish a White House Task Force on Black Immigrants:

General Content: Black immigrants and Black immigrant families are often overlooked, undercounted, and sometimes altogether erased in the U.S. debate surrounding immigration and yet are often disproportionately impacted by anti-immigrant policy or failures to act. Examining and addressing issues affecting Black immigrants in the U.S. immigration system is necessary to meaningfully address systemic, anti-Black racism in America, as the Biden administration has pledged to do

Sent to: Biden Administration

Sponsored by: Haitian Bridge

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NAC FOCUS AREA: OTHER RELATED ISSUES

ISSUE: STATEHOOD FOR DC

General Content: The bill will be identical to the version (H.R. 51) the House passed this year. As you may know, findings in support of D.C. statehood were included in H.R. 1.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Congressional Office of Eleanor Holmes Norton

ISSUE: LETTER TO CFPB ON PAYDAY LOAN DISCLOSURE TESTING

General Content: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has hired a contractor to test payday loan disclosures with consumers, believing that providing more paperwork will replace meaningful consumer protections. First, these disclosures do not protect people from debt traps without a substantive ability-to-repay provision, which the CFPB took away from consumers earlier this year. Second, the CFPB already knows this approach has limited effectiveness; the bureau's [own research](#) concludes that disclosures result in only a “marginal” reduction in loan volume.

The CFPB should be focused on real, proven policies that protect people from predatory lenders, not wasting time rehashing ineffective solutions.

Sent to: Comment Intake, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Attention: PRA Office

Sponsored by: Our Financial Security

ISSUE: RESTORE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (IRF)

General Content: Request Biden- Harris Transition Team to restore the Office of International Religious Freedom (IRF). The IRF and S/RGA work best as separate offices under the Secretary of State. and designate the Special Advisor to the Secretary as its head. The Special Representative and Office of Religion and Global Affairs can once again serve the United States as a valued nexus between U.S. policymakers and people of faith in addressing international concerns.

Sent to: Biden Harris Transition Team

Sponsored by: Church of the Brethren

AMICUS BRIEFS THAT NAC and RGS - USA JOINED:

1. AMICUS BRIEF ON IMMIGRATION ADDED TO A CASE SPONSORED BY THE ACLU IN LOUISIANA

Situations like that of Mr. Rranxburgaj and his family are far too common. As a Congregation of Religious Women, all immigrants or descendants of immigrants to this country, we know the need for a safe sanctuary for those fleeing from persecution, searching for a better life just like our foremothers and forefathers. Providing social work services for nearly 200 years in our country like many other congregations has been a key factor in building the country in which we now thrive. Sanctuary has been a means to attain a just solution to an overwhelming situation for those involved as well as for those who have to set just and compassionate policies.

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd is located in over 70 countries. We have members in countries who care for the immigrants and who also rely on us to care for those from their countries who arrive on our shores. We need sanctuaries in order to live out our mission of reconciliation and provide hope for those most marginalized.

2. AMICUS BRIEF ON BEHALF OF A COALITION OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. THE BRIEF WILL SUPPORT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S MOTION TO ENJOIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM DIVERTING OTHERWISE-ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WALL ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER.

The **Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces** represents Sisters who, with their Mission Partners address the needs of thousands of low-income people in 21 states of the United States and overseas each year. Dedicated to serving girls, women, and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability, and marginalization, the Congregation and their lay partners minister to immigrants and victims of human trafficking here and abroad as well as persons in situations of domestic violence. Communication is key to our networking within the US and in the other 71 countries where the Congregation is located in order to positively meet the challenges our program participants face.

In our work with people living in poverty both here and in other countries, we know firsthand the hardships that immigrants and refugees must face on a daily basis. We are opposed to building a wall to keep people out who come seeking our help. Instead of wasting money on a wall, the money could be better spent by providing food and shelter to those who need it.

OTHER: January in National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, The Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Bishops, co-developed by the [Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking](#) has excellent ways to work to end human trafficking in your community and with your parish. [NAC and the Congregational of Our Lady of charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces are listed as resources.](#)