

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER (NAC) PRIORITIES AND NAC SIGN-ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: March 2022

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The NAC Focus Areas are issues that primarily impact women, children and families on the margins, including but not limited to human trafficking, immigration, poverty and U.S. policies that affect the Good Shepherd mission worldwide. Related areas include the root causes (that underlie the concern, or current situation). They include but are not limited to: Covid-19, environmental degradation, families, racism, and violence.

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: STOPPING THE USE OF TITLE 42 FOR ALL

General Content: Letter expressing disappointment that the Administration is continuing to use Title 42 to expel families and single adults seeking protection from persecution and torture. Although we are relieved that you have published guidance exempting Ukrainians and an order excluding unaccompanied children from Title 42, the underlying basis for these decisions apply as forcefully to the Haitians, Central Americans, and other refugees at the southern border who are also seeking protection.

Sent to: President Biden, Vice-President Harris, Secretary Mayorkas, Amb. Rice, Advisor Sullivan, Secretary Blinken, and Dr. Walensky

Sponsored by: Haitian Bridge Alliance and Immigration Hub

ISSUE: DELAYED TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE STATUS (TPS) DESIGNATIONS

General Content: For some time there have been reports of the State Department obstructing immigrants from certain countries in the U.S. from receiving protection under TPS. The TPS-DED Administrative Advocacy Coalition is leading a letter to Secretary Anthony Blinken expressing our concern regarding these reports and demanding accountability. This letter requests the immediate review of, at a minimum: Cameroon, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Lebanon, and Mauritania for a TPS designation. In addition, we request stakeholder engagement with Blinken's office and other relevant offices to discuss these issues.

Sent to: Secretary Blinken, Director – State Department

Sponsored by: The MASA Group

ISSUE: ADOPTEE CITIZENSHIP ACT

General Content: The Adoptee Citizenship Act recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives as an amendment to the America COMPETES Act. This is the first time the bill has passed the House. The Adoptee Citizenship Act is a straightforward policy solution that simply changes the effective date of the Child Citizen Act of 2000 (CCA), ensuring that internationally adopted individuals—regardless of age—have the same basic citizenship rights as their parents' biologically born and domestically adopted children. Since its introduction in the 117th U.S. Congress, the Adoptee Citizenship Act has amassed wide bipartisan support. The sign-on letter

to U.S. House and Senate leadership, asks for inclusion of an intact Adoptee Citizenship Act amendment in the final negotiated bill package.

Sent to: Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, and Republican Leader McConnell

Sponsored by: Adoptees For Justice and National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC)

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: CHILD TAX CREDIT (CTC)

General Content: Letter urging Congress to focus on the needs of the families and children being squeezed by inflation and make extending the expanded monthly Child Tax Credit (CTC). In particular, Congress must not extend tax breaks for big corporations without also delivering real relief for families by extending the CTC, including to immigrant children, as a step toward a permanent child allowance.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Automatic Benefit for Children Coalition

NAC FOCUS AREA: U.S. POLICIES THAT AFFECT GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION IN OTHER COUNTRIES

ISSUE: VULNERABLE UKRAINIANS AND UPHOLD PROTECTIONS FOR DISPLACED AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS

General Content: Letter urging the administration to support vulnerable Ukrainians and uphold protections for displaced and at-risk populations. The specific asks to the administration included in the letter are:

1. Do everything in your power to see that the United States continues to invest in humanitarian and displacement assistance and to support UNHCR's emergency response efforts to ensure people have access to shelter, food, medicine, and other forms of humanitarian aid in Ukraine and neighboring countries;
2. Ensure swift processing of pending refugee applications for Ukrainians, and non-Ukrainians who had been in Ukraine, at all potential processing locations and especially in Ukraine's neighboring countries;
3. Facilitate family reunification processing to reunite loved ones, such as by processing Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians who had been displaced in Ukraine with pending I-130 family petitions through the U.S. resettlement program;
4. Support non-governmental organizations in Ukraine and neighboring countries to assist internally displaced individuals or individuals seeking asylum in Ukraine and other host countries;
5. Recognize unique barriers encountered by stateless persons displaced in and fleeing Ukraine and better identify and protect such individuals; and
6. Immediately designate Special Student Relief (SSR) to protect Ukrainian students in the United States.

In the letter, the administration is also urged to robustly respond to protection needs of all displaced and at-risk populations without discrimination, including displaced individuals of Black and African-descent, stateless people, among others

Sent to: President Biden and his Administration

Sponsored by: Church World Service

ISSUE: SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

General Content: Letter calls on Congress and the Administration to enact humane and equitable immigration policy reforms. U.S. policies on immigration and refugee resettlement should recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of immigrants and refugees, ensuring justice and protection for all. Our platform is rooted in our interfaith principles, which call us to ensure that our laws promote and protect the dignity of each individual.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Interfaith Immigration Committee

ISSUE: PENTAGON SPENDING

General Content: The letter names priorities for the FY23 defense bill (NDAA) like decreasing Pentagon spending, ending CIA drone strikes, repealing AUMFs, ending the 1033 military surplus program, and more.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: American Friends Service Committee

NAC: OTHER RELATED AREAS

AREA: COVID-19

ISSUE: COVID EMERGENCY FUNDING

General Content: Letter urging Congress to pass emergency funding for COVID vaccines, treatments, and testing, including global vaccine distribution. The Biden Administration has made it clear that funds for these purposes are running out, so this is urgently needed to address the current reality and potential future health-related outbreaks.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Coalition on Human Needs

ISSUE: COVID FUNDING

General Content: A follow-up letter to Congress stressing the importance of the funding in light of the reality of the national and global situation of shortage of vaccine.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Coalition on Human Need

AREA: VIOLENCE

ISSUE: FY 2023 STATE, FOREIGN RELATIONS OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS (SFOPS) GENDER BASED VIOLENCE(GBV) APPROPRIATIONS

General Content: Letter requests support for the largest amount of funds ever to prevent and respond to GBV Globally. For FY2023 we are calling on Congress to appropriate \$414 million to support programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) globally in the FY2023 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations bill.

GBV is a practice affecting every country and community in the world. Globally, an estimated 736 million women and girls – about one out of every three – have faced GBV at least once in their lives. This global issue is estimated to bear an economic cost of USD \$1.5 trillion, equivalent to approximately 2% of the global gross domestic product (GDP), or roughly the size of the entire Canadian economy.

Sent to: House and Senate Appropriation Committees chairs and ranking members; Chairwoman Lee and Chairman Coons, and Ranking Members Rogers and Graham

Sponsored by: The Coalition to End Violence against Women and Girls Globally

ISSUE: THE FY23 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

General Content: In the spirit of seeking dignity and wellbeing for all people, investing in global collaboration, and re-imagining of what “security” can look like, the letter submits the following urgent priorities for consideration within the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act:

Decrease spending on weapons, move towards global nuclear disarmament, ensure sanctions do not hurt innocent people, exercise Congressional War Powers authority, demilitarize our communities, and invest in new approaches to public safety in the U.S. invest in nonviolent approaches to civilian security, ban CIA Drone Strikes, stop exporting war, end the Selective Service System.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: American Friends Service Committee

ISSUE: PENTAGON BUDGET

General Content: Letter urging President Biden to call for a lower Pentagon topline in his FY23 budget request to Congress. “We write to make abundantly clear that despite what the military-industrial complex and its advocates in Washington may suggest, true national security will not be achieved by pouring more money into military might. Rather, the people of this country require serious, non-military investments to be truly secure, such as pandemic relief, jobs, healthcare, and climate crisis solutions.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: Public Citizen

ISSUE: ENDING THE WAR IN THE UKRAINE

General Content: Letter to President Biden urge you to think creatively about how to end this catastrophe rather than maintaining it through violence and escalations. 1) to amplify the courageous and creative actions of nonviolent resistance, 2) to encourage President Zelensky to

do all he can to find a diplomatic agreement with Russia to end the war, even if the outcome includes limits to NATO influence or other concessions from the west, 3) to call on donors, governments, and multilateral institutions to support unarmed civilian protection to nonviolently protect civilians, 4) to re-humanize all stakeholders, including adversaries. This is done through the language, labels, and narratives you choose to use, and 5) to consider strategic delegations or a humanitarian airlift into Ukraine to generate time and space, i.e. peace zones, for interrupting the hostilities.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: Justice and Peace Studies, Georgetown University

STATEMENTS

U.S. Province Leaders signed on to a letter that joined other spiritual leaders in a letter of support to the spiritual leaders of the Ukraine. “We affirm this is a time of great trauma, pain and suffering. The unjust war foisted upon Ukraine and her peoples is a great tragedy. We reach out to you in solidarity, friendship and faith. . . .”

ACTION ALERTS

April 2022

Sisters, partner-in-mission, benefactors and friends were invited to individually sign on to the following NAC Action Alerts:

1. Support Pregnant Workers - Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (S.1486)
2. End Black Maternal Health Crises – Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act of 2021 (S-346/H.R. 359)
3. Restore Asylum – End Title 42
4. End labor trafficking in the fishing industry – The Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Prevention Act (H.R. 3075)