

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER PRIORITIES AND NAC SIGN-ONS BY U.S. PROVINCE LEADERS: MAY 2021

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NAC FOCUS AREA: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ISSUE: PETITION TO WALMART TO PROTECT SEAFARERS

General Content: The Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAH) is launching a campaign to raise awareness of forced labor in the fishing industry. This year, due to the global pandemic, a new humanitarian crisis has emerged that is severely impacting all men and women who work at sea. As consumers the letter asks Walmart to uphold the safety and labor rights of one of the world's most invisible group of essential workers.

The letter is written to WALMART because Walmart's Human Rights Statement speaks to Walmart's "capabilities and influence to bring about positive change." The letter urges them to leverage their leadership by signing the Neptune Document for Seafarer Welfare and Crew Change. Their support of this global declaration would be a clear demonstration of their commitment to uphold the dignity of a very important set of workers whose labor at sea helps to make their business a success.

Sent to: Walmart

Sponsored by: CCOAH, U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, as a member of CCOAHT, Stella Maris and the Apostleship of the Sea USA

NAC FOCUS AREA: IMMIGRATION

ISSUE: OREGON PRO-IMMIGRANT, PRO-REFUGEE POLICIES

General Content: Oregon Advocacy Partners NAC and other national organizations & national faith groups to sign onto a letter in support of the following positive pieces of legislation in an effort to demonstrate that "the nation is watching:"

- SB 718, the Renewal and Expansion of Welcoming Refugees Bill, which would invest \$4.3 million in Extended Case Management (ECM) for all the 4,233 refugees, asylees, and Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIVs)
- SB 557A, which would provide dental care to low-income citizens of Pacific Islands in Compact of Free Association who reside in Oregon and lack coverage
- SB 553A, which would enable refugees and SIVs to access in-state tuition immediately upon resettlement
- SB 778, which would establish an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to oversee a statewide immigrant and refugee integration strategy

Sent to: Members of the Oregon General Assembly

Sponsored by: World Church Service

ISSUE: EXTENSION AND REDESIGNATION OF TPS FOR SOMALIA

General Content: Request to Sec. Mayorkas to extend for 18 months and redesignate TPS for Somalia, to publish a Federal Register Notice, and to launch a public information campaign to notify the impacted community of the

decision and any actions they must take by July 19, 2021. Given the COVID- 19 pandemic, we call for at least a 180-day registration period for both current TPS holders and those who would benefit under redesignation.

Sent to: Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Sponsored by: Masa Group

* Also Covid-19

ISSUE: PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

General Content: Request that the Biden administration prioritize the inclusion of a pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, essential workers, and their families, in the next economic recovery legislation that moves forward via budget reconciliation.

Sent to: President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice President Kamala Harris, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

Sponsored by: CLASP

ISSUE: POLICY PRINCIPLES TO ADVANCE THE WELLBEING OF CHILDREN

General Content: Sign on to a set of policy principles to advance the wellbeing of children of immigrants in the United States, which will be featured in CTAN's June 14th My Immigrant Family launching event. The policy principles include a path to citizenship; advancement of the health, educational success, and economic security of children and their families; and promotion of child wellbeing and family unity in immigration policy.

Sent to: President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice President Kamala Harris, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Speaker of the House, Rep. Nancy Pelosi

Sponsored by: CLASP

ISSUE: APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASYLUM SEEKER CASE MANAGEMENT & BORDER SHELTER PROGRAMS

General Content: Senator Markey is leading an FY 2022 approps dear colleague supporting our community's requests for asylum seeker case management as well as border shelter pilot programs funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) - in addition to a funded study.

Sent to: Sen. Patty Murray, Chair and Sen. Roy Blunt, Ranking Member - Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Sponsored by: Church World Service

ISSUE: PARDON PROCESS MUST ALSO INCLUDE IMMIGRATION

General Content: Letter urging the President to adopt a pardon process that includes immigration. President Biden is developing a pardon process that focuses on racial equity. Organizations working at the intersection of the immigration and criminal legal systems, welcome this news, and at the same time think it critical to highlight that this process must include immigration from the beginning. Immigration, too, is a racial justice issue, and must be integrated into the administration's work in this area. Previous criminal justice reforms have frequently left immigrants behind in ways that have undermined the purpose of these processes. For example, in 2015, when the U.S. Sentencing Commission revised the guidelines for certain drug crimes, nearly 6,000 people were released early as a result. Almost 20% of those people were noncitizens; instead of walking out on the street to rejoin their families and communities, they were transferred directly to ICE custody and deported.

Sent to: The White House, Susan Rice, *Director, Domestic Policy Council*, Dana Remus, *White House Counsel*, Danielle Conley, *Deputy Counsel, Office of White House Counsel*, Tona Boyd, *Special Counsel, Office of White House Counsel*, Lauren Moore, *Associate Counsel, Office of White House Counsel*, Sponsored by: BAJI, National Immigration Project, and the National Immigrant Justice Center.

* Also Racism

ISSUE:

General Content: Letter led by the No Muslim Ban Ever Campaign, ACLU, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice urging the administration to provide relief to those harmed by the Muslim and African Bans. The administration needs to take steps to address the harm caused by the Muslim and African Bans. They need to redress the harm for those that received visa denials before January 20, 2020, provide guidance to the communities that were denied visas, create a process for diversity lottery visa winners during the period of the bans, and restore consular services.

Sent to: President Biden

Sponsored by: No Muslim Ban Ever Campaign, ACLU, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice, National Immigration Law Center

* Also Racism

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY

ISSUE: LONG-TERM HOUSING SOLUTIONS

General Content: The letter calls for new investments in rent assistance, expanding the supply of affordable homes, ensuring emergency rental assistance, and expanding renter protections! Nationwide, there is a shortage of nearly 7 million affordable and available homes for the lowest income renters. As rents continue to rise and wages remain stagnant, there are now zero counties in the U.S. where a minimum wage earner working full-time can afford a two-bedroom apartment. There are numerous proven solutions that can address the affordability crisis, but current funding levels from Congress leave 3 out of 4 eligible households receiving no assistance at all.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Low-Income Housing Coalition

ISSUE: PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT OF 2021 (H.R. 1065))

General Content: Last year, US Provinces and NAC signed on to a similar version of the bill. It has returned to the House with a new number. PWFA would ensure that pregnant workers can continue safely working to support their families during their pregnancy by requiring employers to provide reasonable, temporary accommodations to pregnant workers so that they can remain in the workforce throughout their pregnancy.

Sent to: House of Representatives

Sponsored by: Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

ISSUE: MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS)

General Content: Letter and documentation for recommendations to expand access to Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) AND address the needs of the direct care workforce that provides those services. President Biden included a \$400 billion investment in these areas, it is important to show a broad base of support for this policy and this desperately needed funding.

Sent to: White House and Congress

Sponsored by: The Arc

ISSUE: WALL STREET TAX ACT OF 2021

General Content: Letter urging Members of the House of Representatives to cosponsor the Wall Street Tax Act of 2021 introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.). In the face of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the economic suffering it has caused across the country, it is a grave injustice that Wall Street's profits are soaring. Reinstating a Wall Street tax, also called a financial transaction tax (FTT), in the U.S. is an important step toward having Wall Street pay more of its fair share of taxes. While creating significant revenues, it would help reduce financial sector risk and volatility, reorienting Wall Street's focus away from speculation toward long-term investments that support Main Street businesses. Additionally, it is one way to begin to take on the rampant economic inequality in America.

Many families are still struggling to regain their footing even more than a decade after the 2008 financial crisis, and the current COVID-19 economic crisis has further entrenched financial insecurity for some. This is especially true for communities of color. A financial transaction tax could play a role in addressing the nation's deep racial wealth inequality. As a result of public policies that systematically excluded Black, Latino, and other families of color from wealth-building opportunities that benefit White families, stock ownership is extremely racially skewed. In 2019, 92.1% of corporate equity and mutual fund value was owned by White households, while Black and Hispanic households each owned less than 2% of the total value. Yet people of color are often the hardest hit when Wall Street speculation undermines good jobs and drives productive investment out of communities. By redirecting resources from short-term speculation to investments in the real economy, a financial transaction tax would be a force for greater equity for Americans of all backgrounds.

Sent to: Members of the House of Representatives

Sponsored by: Public Citizen's Congress Watch

* Also RACISM, COVID-19

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

ISSUE: GLOBAL FRAGILITY STRATEGY

General Content: The goal of this letter is to demonstrate broad support among the GFA Coalition and to urge recently confirmed USAID Administrator, Ambassador Samantha Power to address the delays in finalizing the Global Fragility Strategy and selecting the priority countries/regions.

Sent to: USAID Administrator, Ambassador Samantha Power

Sponsored by: Alliance for Peacebuilding

ISSUE: FIX UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

General Content: Over the last few weeks as many governors have announced they will prematurely cut off federal unemployment benefits, leaving millions of women – and the families who depend on them – without adequate income as they search for work. Women account for 55.1% of net job loss since February 2020, and nearly 1 in 18 (5.6%) women ages 20 and over were unemployed in April 2021. Reported unemployment rates do not capture people who have left the labor force entirely, as they are no longer counted among those who are unemployed. This includes the nearly 2 million women who have left the labor force since February 2020, many of whom were pushed out due to caregiving responsibilities. The COVID-19 stimulus packages included desperately needed supports for the UI system, which allowed millions to survive during the pandemic and stimulated the economy, but also laid bare the long-simmering problems in the system, including outdated eligibility, inadequate benefit levels, and rickety administration and technology.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: National Women’s Law Center

* Also COVID-19

ISSUE: CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)

General Content: Letter urging Congress to make the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) permanent for over 9 million children and hundreds of thousands of pregnant women who rely on CHIP for their coverage.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: First Focus Campaign for Children

ISSUE: PRICING REFORM AND MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION IN AMERICAN FAMILIES PLAN

General Content: Letter calling on the Biden Administration and Congress to include Medicare drug price negotiation in the American Families Plan package and to reinvest significant savings from negotiations in the Medicare program, alongside other critical investments in health equity, coverage, and affordability. By using the savings to improve dental, vision, and hearing services, capping out-of-pocket costs, lowering the Medicare eligibility age, and taking other bold steps to improve our nation’s health, the Biden administration and Congress would be delivering on key promises and improving the lives of millions. The American Families Plan must center the needs and priorities of BIPOC communities and expanding Medicare would help to increase coverage and access to care for communities of color who are disproportionately uninsured or underinsured.

Sent to: Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi

Sponsored by:

* Also Racism

ISSUE: FY 2022 Labor-HHS-Education Bill 302(b)

General Content: Without a substantial increase in the Subcommittee’s allocation, it will be impossible to support the President’s request for new investments in important initiatives such as: public health emergency preparedness and infectious disease surveillance; targeting efforts to reduce maternal mortality rates among women of color; overcoming disruptions in learning disproportionately affecting students of color, with disabilities, and with low incomes; continuing to improve college affordability and completion; responding to the opioid epidemic; improving mental health services; and achieving the intended innovation of the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act. We urge you to commit to improving the lives of Americans by

significantly boosting the allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education bill for FY 2022 at least to match the President's request in order to provide needed services for the American public.

Sent to: Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Richard Shelby, Senate Appropriations Committee; Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Rep. Kay Granger cc: Chairs and Ranking Members, House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Sponsored by: Coalition on Human Need, Coalition for Health Funding, Committee for Education Funding (CEF), and Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce -

* Also COVID-19, Racism

OTHER RELATED AREAS

ISSUE: THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S ROLE TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY AND FOLLOW-UP TO HRC RESOLUTION 43/1

General Content: Follow-up to OHCHR report on systemic racism and police violence letters (2) addressed to the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of African States urging them to support the demands made by families of victims of police violence, civil society organizations and UN Special Procedures in June 2020.

Sent to: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of African States (after consultation with GSIJPO)

Sponsored by: American Civil Liberties Union

* Also RACISM

ISSUE: VOTING RIGHTS APPROPRIATIONS

General Content: Letter urging House/Senate Sub Committees on Appropriations to designate increased funding for DOJ's Civil Rights Division for the addition of positions in the Voting Section to enforce the Voting Rights Act's protections against discrimination in elections. As advocates for full and equal participation in American democracy, we are alarmed by the accelerating adoption of state and local policies that make voting disproportionately more difficult for members of communities that have historically been the subject of blatant and targeted disenfranchisement efforts. There is no other entity that can as ably represent the interests of voters of color and voters from language minority communities with the authority, expertise, and deep resources available to DOJ, and so we call on Members of Congress to ensure that the agency has what it needs to rise to the present challenge and preserve the broad access to the ballot that our foundational civil rights laws promise.

Sent to: House/Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Commerce-Justice-Science

Sponsored by: Anti-Defamation League

* Also Racism

ISSUE: RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD (RES)

General Content: Letter calling on Congress to pass a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) in the infrastructure package that rejects gas and other false climate solutions. The climate emergency and rising energy injustice demand bold and just solutions. The Clean Electricity Standard (CES) outlined in recent bills like the CLEAN Future Act isn't it. CES proposals like this cement the fossil fuel industry's stronghold by including fracked gas and carbon capture. This would exacerbate climate injustice throughout the country. Instead, a RES will achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030 and advance proven renewable energy

technologies like solar and wind while also excluding gas, CCS, biomass, and nuclear. A RES is the way forward towards the just energy future all deserve.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Center for Biological Diversity - Energy Justice Program

* Also Environmental Degradation

ISSUE: JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT OF 2021.

General Content: Letter seeing to advance civil rights and government accountability urging an end qualified immunity and restore the full force of our civil rights laws that provide accountability when government officials deprive individuals of their rights. The letter It connects the 14th Amendment to USC 42 Section 1983 which was enacted to further protect communities of color and vulnerable populations from violations of constitutional rights by government officials. It also rightly points out that JPA only reforms qualified immunity (QI) allowing cases to move forward only against state and local law enforcement not other government officials like correctional officers.

Sent to: Sen Charles Schumer, Majority Leader and Sen. Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader

Sponsored by: Constitutional Accountability Center

* Also Racism & Violence

ISSUE: GEORGE FLOYD JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT (HR 1280) – SENATE IMPROVEMENT

General Content: Letter urging the Senate improve upon the House passed George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (HR 1280), as the Senate prepares to introduce their own version of the bill. At this most critical time, weeks after a jury found Derek Chauvin guilty of murdering George Floyd, and in the wake of several law enforcement caused fatalities of people of color within less than a month's time, including Daunte Wright, Adam Toledo, Ma'Khia Bryant, Mario Gonzalez and Andrew Brown Jr., to demand the Senate make meaningful improvements to the House-passed George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (JPA),² as a bipartisan group of legislators look to advance a version of the JPA with deliberate speed. Ten amendments are included.

Sent to: Senator Durbin, Senator Booker, Senator Scott, Senator Graham, and Congresswoman Bass, CC: Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leaders McConnell, CBC Chair Representative Joyce Beatty

Sponsored by: The Law Enforcement Reform Working Group (LERWG) of the Justice Roundtable

* Also Racism, Poverty, Violence

ISSUE: STATEHOOD FOR WASHINGTON, DC

General Content: Leaders from many faiths in and around Washington D.C. have come together to advocate for D.C. to become the 51st state in our nation. We joined in a call to give the residents of D.C. voting representation in Congress and the full rights of statehood. We believe that statehood for D.C. would go a long way to undoing this grave injustice of disenfranchisement that is rooted in racism. The District of Columbia has a population of 712,000 more than Wyoming (572,000) or Vermont (627,000); and almost as much as Alaska (730,000) and North Dakota (760,000) but lacks full representation in Congress despite paying full federal taxes. Legislation for D.C. Statehood passed the U.S. House of Representatives on April 22nd and is now headed for consideration in the U.S. Senate.

Sent to: Senators Schumer (Majority Leader) and McConnell (Minority Leader); cc: Sen. Gary Peters Chair, Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee and Sen. Rob Portman Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee

Sponsored by: Franciscan Action Network

* Also Racism

Explanation of RELATED AREAS (Root Causes, implicated in the Concern, or Current Situation)

These would generally be contained within a FOCUS AREA listed above and noted to assist NAC with statistics for grant writing, etc. **COVID-19, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, FAMILIES, RACISM, VIOLENCE, OTHER**

STATEMENTS

Joint Statements with other Advocacy Organizations

ISSUE: STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S VALUE AND ECONOMY (SAVE) FOR ALL PRIORITIES

For a decade, Strengthening America's Values and Economy (SAVE) for All has been a campaign to bring advocates together to fight to transform our nation's priorities. Now, when the Biden Administration has proposed plans to dramatically reduce poverty, create good jobs, and invest in our future, we have updated the SAVE for All statement to help with this once-in-a-generation effort. SAVE for All is based on four key points:

- Protect and Empower People with Low Incomes
- Promote Job Creation and Strengthen the Green Economy
- Require the Wealthy and Corporations to Pay Their Fair Share of Taxes
- Cut Wasteful Spending in the Pentagon and Elsewhere

To be used in meetings with legislators at State and Federal Levels

Sponsored by: SAVE Lobby Working Group, NETWORK & Coalition on Human Needs

ISSUE: TO CONDEMN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PLANS TO FORCIBLY DISPLACE PALESTINIANS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM

A call on the administration to uphold international law and act in accordance with the urgency of the moment to intervene and prevent the Israeli government's forced displacement of thousands of Palestinians. A support for the demands listed in a recent letter led by Congresswoman Marie Newman (IL-03) and signed by members of Congress calling for the Biden administration to:

1. Immediately send the strongest possible diplomatic message to Israel to desist from its plans to demolish Palestinian homes in Al-Bustan and evict Palestinians from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah;
2. Publicly reiterate that U.S. policy opposes Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem and that East Jerusalem is Occupied Territory under international law;
3. Undertake an expeditious review of previous Congressional requests that the State Department investigate whether Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes with U.S. weapons violates the Arms Export Control Act (AECA);
4. If Israel proceeds with its plans to demolish Palestinian homes in Al-Bustan and evict Palestinian residents from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah, then the U.S. Embassy to Israel should send observers to document Israel's forced displacement of Palestinians, including details on the military units involved in

these operations and the usage of any U.S. weapons for purposes of oversight and accountability regarding Leahy Law and AECA violations.

Sponsored by: American Muslims for Palestine, Friends of Sabeel North America, Jewish Voice for Peace Action, Power Change, US Campaign for Palestinian Rights

AMICUS BRIEFS

In December 2020, we signed on to an amicus brief in support of Mr. and Mrs. Rranxburgaj in sanctuary. They were finally able to leave sanctuary on May 18, 2021 after 3 years of protection with the members of the Central United Methodist Church. Mr. Rranxburgaj visited the Detroit ICE office and was placed under an order of supervision, pursuant to the settlement that the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reached with the government. This is a huge success for Mr. Rranxburgaj—he was granted the remedy that he would have received upon winning his Supreme Court case, and he avoided having to remain in sanctuary for many more months while the case progresses. The ACLU said that they could not have done it without all the groups who signed on to the amicus brief and expressed gratitude.