

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

Prepared by Brigid Lawlor, RGS

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: TEMPORARY EXTENSION AND REDISGNATION FOR BURMA

General Content: Letter to the administration requesting an extension and redesignation of TPS for Burma. As the decision date approaches on Sept. 25, 2022, we request Secretary Mayorkas, (1) to provide an 18-month extension for current TPS holders from Burma, (2) to expand the protections to more recently arrived Burmese individuals present in the United States by redesignating Burma for TPS, (3) to provide a 180 day registration period for beneficiaries under the redesignation and the current designation's extension, and (4) to provide educational resources and public engagement for the impacted community.

Sent to: President Biden, Secretary Blinken, US Dept. of State, Secretary Mayorkas, US Dept. of Homeland Security

Sponsored by: Masa Group

- Also US Policy that affects Good Shepherd Ministries in other countries

ISSUE: TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE STATUS FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

General Content: urge your administration to designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala. This letter follows previous petitions from organizations and members of Congress since the start of your administration. Redesignating TPS for Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and designating TPS for Guatemala must be considered as an essential part of the U.S. strategy to address the root causes of migration from Central America. TPS designations are also critical in the context of increasing climate-related disasters affecting the region. Not extending protections for TPS beneficiaries from Central America would have devastating impacts for TPS beneficiaries, their families, and communities in the United States, and potentially destabilize Central America further.

Sent to: President Biden, Secretary Blinken, US Dept. of State, Secretary Mayorkas, US Dept. of Homeland Security

Sponsored by: Latin American Working Group

- Also US Policy that affects Good Shepherd Ministries in other countries

ISSUE: IMPROVING CENTRAL AMERICAN MINORS (CAM) PROGRAM

General Content: First, the administration must increase awareness of and meaningful access to the program among eligible families. Second, the administration must improve the transparency and efficiency of case processing, to increase trust in the process, safety for applicants, and to ensure prompt case completion. Third, the administration must ensure that children have access to counsel in and fair adjudication of refugee interviews. Fourth, the administration must improve access to services for families reunified through parole.

Sent to: President Biden, Secretary Blinken, US Dept. of State, Secretary Mayorkas, US Dept. of Homeland Security

Sponsored by: Interfaith Immigration Coalition

- Also US Policy that affects Good Shepherd Ministries in other countries

ISSUE: TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR ETHIOPIA

General Content: a letter to the administration requesting Secretary Mayorkas to immediately designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ethiopia for 18 months in response to the escalating humanitarian crisis and violence unfolding in the country. We are requesting the administration to immediately designate Special Student Relief (SSR) for Ethiopia and to cease deportations while TPS and SSR are being implemented. This letter will serve as a companion to a subsequent Congressional letter.

Sent to: Secretary Mayorkas, US Dept. of Homeland Security

Sponsored by: Masa Group

- Also US Policy that affects Good Shepherd Ministries in other countries (We remain connected with the ministries and lay partners in Ethiopia. There are no sisters)

NAC FOCUS AREA: POVERTY/FAMILY

!

ISSUE: THE LIFETIME BAN ON INDIVIDUALS WITH A PAST FELONY DRUG CONVICTION FROM RECEIVING SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF).

General Content: In 1996, Congress imposed a lifetime ban on individuals convicted of a drug felony from receiving SNAP and/or TANF. Although Congress gave states the ability to opt-out as part of the 1996 ban, many states still bar individuals and impose onerous and costly requirements that create barriers to restoring eligibility. The drug felony bans on SNAP and TANF imposed by Congress undermine efforts by individuals striving to transition successfully into their communities and to provide for their families.

Sent to: Members of Congress Chairing and Ranking Members: Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Boozman and Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Thompson.

Sponsored by: Interfaith Justice Coalition

ISSUE: PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT

General Content: Letter to Senator Schumer urging that he bring the bill to a vote this month. CDC just published that 4 out of 5 maternal deaths are preventable. The PWFA is one of many solutions needed to address this despicable reality that impacts Black and Latina women at shamefully higher rates, as workplace accommodations can prevent dire complications such as preeclampsia.

Sent to: Senator Schumer

Sponsored by: National Women's Law Center

- Also anti-racism

ISSUE: HEALTH FUNDING

General Content: Letter calling on US Congress to provide at least \$26.9 billion in urgently needed health funding for the COVID-19 and Monkeypox Virus (MPXV) response, as recently requested by the White House.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Oxfam America and Public Citizen

NAC FOCUS AREA: US POLICIES THAT AFFECTS GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION WORLDWIDE

ISSUE: EXPAND MEDICAID IN CENTRAL AMERICA FOR PUERTO RICO

General Content: Letter asking for increased funding to address the impending Medicaid "fiscal cliff," which will result in decreased funds for the territories as of December 13th of this year. Given the impact of Hurricane Fiona and the need for health coverage, it is CRITICAL for the money to ride on the upcoming Current Resolution.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: WISC Healthcare Committee

OTHER RELATED AREAS

AREA: US SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGES

ISSUE: Support and Pass the Afghan Adjustment Act

(S4784/HR8685 as part of the upcoming FY2023 Continuing Resolution)

General Content: Faith based organizations urge Congress to pass Bipartisan legislation that provides a roadmap to permanent status for evacuated Afghans resettled in the US to ensue they have a chance to apply to become lawful permanent residents, and makes clear that the administration continues to prioritize the relocation to safety the vulnerable Afghan allies left behind.

Sent to: Members of Congress

Sponsored by: Church World Service Global

STATEMENTS / ACTIONS WITH OTHER GROUPS

ISSUE: AN AD URGING DIPLOMACY, CLEAN ENERGY, DISARMAMENT

Statement urging the President and Members of Congress to “choose sanity now for people and the planet.” It addresses the need to redirect military spending to address the challenges presented by the pandemic, the climate crises, racial oppression and economic injustice.

Sponsored by: Pax Christi Metro Dc-Baltimore and Pas Christi USA

ISSUE: GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION FOR JUSTICE AND DEBT CANCELLATION

The statement is asking the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and Lending Institutions to cancel Debts accumulated at national level that are driving countries further into poverty. An estimated 71 million more people are reported to have been pushed into extreme poverty in the wake of dire spillovers of soaring food and energy prices worldwide. Countries names include Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Argentina, Pakistan, Egypt, and Kenya. Austerity measures are usually put in place as a way to pay the debt - meaning that public services are curtailed or abolished.

Sponsored by: Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)

ISSUE: PASSAGE OF INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022

Statement on the historic investments in clean energy and climate in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. *“Many people in our community, on Capitol Hill, and all over the U.S. have worked tirelessly to ensure passage of this watershed legislation, and we applaud their successful efforts and dedication. At the same time, we also know that the struggle is not over, and we will continue to work in partnership together and with all who seek to turn the tide of the climate crisis, uphold environmental justice, and protect Earth, our Common Home, once and for all. Together, we can end the era of fossil fuels and build a clean energy future where all can thrive.”*

ISSUE: PETITION & AD on ANNIVERSARY OF DEL RIO, TX HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES / REMOVAL OF HAITIAN MIGRANTS

On the one-year anniversary of the human rights disaster in Del Rio, TX, among co-sponsors delivering a petition to the White House calling on the Biden administration to halt all removals of Haitian migrants, including interdictions and repatriations at sea. The petition also [appeared in The Hill](#) and included over 600 individual signatures alongside co-sponsoring organizations.

Sponsored by: The Quixote Center

ISSUE: VIGIL AT CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION HQ AND MARCH TO WHITE HOUSE TO HONOR 2021 ASYLUM SEEKER VICTIMS IN DEL RIO, TX

Immigrant advocates, faith groups, and Haitian leaders rallied outside the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) headquarters and marched to the White House for a faith vigil in honor of the Black asylum seekers who were subjected to [abuse and mistreatment](#), and [chased and lashed at](#) by armed Border Patrol officers on horseback in Sept 2021.

Sponsored by: Haitian Bridge Alliance and Interfaith Immigration Coalition.

ISSUE: SOLIDARITY WITH DEBT-RIDDEN DEVELOPING NATIONS

Paper chain making as part of a "Change, Not Chains" Campaign to represent the chains of debt and poverty felt by impoverished people around the world; to be shared with global leaders at IMF/World Bank Meetings in October.

Sponsored by: Jubilee USA Network

ACTION ALERTS

September 7, 2022: SUPPORT PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WORKERS!

(Urge your Senator to support the Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) to floor for a vote)

September 13, 2022: SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

(Urge your senators to support the MAT Act to reduce overdose deaths, increase treatment access, and reduce stigma.)

September 21, 2022: IT'S NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK (SEPTEMBER 19 TO 25, 2022)

(Tell your senators to enable dreamers to help build our country's future).

OTHER NEWS

Signing-on' Matters!

Regarding the letter to the administration to extend and redesignate TPS for Burma. DHS Secretary Mayorkas' supported the decision to extend and redesignate TPS for Burma! On September 26, the DHS and the Biden administration announced the redesignation and extension for #TPSfor Burma. This decision will protect 970 current beneficiaries and 2,290 Burmese individuals who fled after the prior expiration date.