

Highlights of Presbyterian Church (USA) policy on migrant rights and immigration

PC(USA) and antecedent denominations General Assembly policy statements are expressions of the relationship with communities within and beyond the Church experiencing the effects and impact of migration and resettlement informed by a Reformed theological witness. They reflect history and context.

FIRST STATEMENT:

Questioning the constitutionality, Christian conviction, and the lawfulness and care of the Chinese people in the U.S., the Assembly speaks out against the Chinese Exclusion Act (1893)

REFUGEE RIGHTS AND WELCOME:

"We believe that it is the will of God that the hungry be fed, the naked clothed, the homeless sheltered...We seek to serve God's purpose in our lives and in our national policy."

"We call upon our Church to uphold the tradition of sanctuary for the oppressed, and to help our uprooted [siblings] to re-establish themselves." (1947)

"The refugee [crisis] is a continuing one, and real solutions must be based on political and social justice, international cooperation, and the recognition of fundamental human rights." (1959)

- Called upon U.S. government to support refugee resettlement agencies
- Called upon Congress to increase admission of refugees and displaced persons
- Called upon the Church to provide welcome and support. (1947-1975)

SANCTUARY MOVEMENT AND ASYLUM PROTECTIONS:

"[T]he church is committed to a ministry of compassion and justice for those who have fled their homelands due to fear of political persecution and the cycle of violence..." (1987)

- Urged protections for asylum seekers and refugees and church workers:
 - Resolution in Support of Refugees from Central America and Public Sanctuary: <https://bit.ly/CAmer-refugees-sanctuary> (1986)
 - On Dealing with Concerns Regarding the Sanctuary Movement and Refugees: <https://bit.ly/sanctuary-and-refugees> (1987)

ACCOMPANIMENT AND ADVOCACY ALONGSIDE IMMIGRANTS/MIGRANTS:

1. Transformation of Churches and Society Through Encounter with New Neighbors: <https://bit.ly/encounter-new-neighbors> (1999)
2. A Study of the Effects of Immigration Detention: <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/1541> (2008)
3. On Advocating for Comprehensive Immigration Reform: <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3903> (2012)
4. Global Crisis for LGBT People and Their Families - <https://bit.ly/LGBT-refugees-asylees> (2014)
5. Stop the Separation of Families: <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3000471> (2018)
6. On Declaring the PC(U.S.A.) to be a Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church: <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3000862> (2022)
7. Regarding the Treatment of Refugees: <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3000881> (2022)
8. Internal Displacement Crisis in the US: <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001159> (2024)