

**TOOLKIT FOR ACTION TO SUPPORT  
DEFERRED ACTION FOR PARENTS OF  
AMERICANS &  
DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD  
ARRIVALS- EXPANDED**

**APRIL 18- JUNE DECISION**

**ACTIONS, INTERFAITH SERVICES, PRAYER VIGILS**

**JOIN THE FAITH VOICE TO THE LARGER MOVEMENT**

**KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER, HELP PROVIDE RELIEF FROM  
DEPORTATION FOR OVER 5 MILLION UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE**

**IMPACT THE PUBLIC NARRATIVE AND LIFT UP THE MORAL  
IMPERATIVE TO WELCOME IMMIGRANTS IN OUR MIDST**

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## What is DAPA and expanded DACA?

### Background:

In November, 2014, President Obama issued several executive immigration initiatives, including vital administrative relief programs for millions of immigrants. Key provisions of the reforms included expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). Together these initiatives would defer the deportations of millions of immigrants living in the United States. At its core, the goal of DACA/DAPA is to protect and keep families together. The programs are intended for people with close family ties to U.S. citizens and residents and do not pose a safety or security threat.

Almost immediately, several states filed a federal lawsuit, *Texas v. United States*, challenging President Obama's authority to enact these changes. Eventually, 26 states joined on as challengers. In February, 2015 a Texas federal district court blocked implementation of the DACA/DAPA programs. In response, the Department of Justice petitioned the Supreme Court to hear the case. The case will be heard by the Supreme Court on April 18<sup>th</sup> with a decision expected in June.

### What is DACA/DAPA?

Both DACA and DAPA are programs that provide temporary relief from deportation, also called "deferred action," for undocumented immigrants. The key word is temporary. Deferred action is not permanent nor does it provide any kind of legal status. Under these programs, recipients have the opportunity to apply for a work permit. With this work permit, immigrants are able to obtain a social security number. This allows undocumented immigrants to do many things U.S. citizens deem normal, such as obtain a driver's license, attend college, and work legally. But most importantly, it alleviates much of the fear that undocumented immigrants have lived with for a long time.

The major difference between DACA and DAPA is which immigrant population each program impacts. However, both would keep millions of families together by providing undocumented immigrants protection from deportation.

## **Who is eligible for the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program?\***

To be eligible for deferred action under DAPA, you must:

- Be the parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- Have continuously lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010.
- Have been present in the U.S. on November 20, 2014. It's also likely that you will need to be present in the U.S. every day from Nov. 20, 2014, until you apply for DAPA.
- Not have a lawful immigration status on November 20, 2014. To meet this requirement, (1) you must have entered the U.S. without papers, or, if you entered lawfully, your lawful immigration status must have expired before November 20, 2014; and (2) you must not have a lawful immigration status at the time you apply for DAPA.
- Have not been convicted of certain criminal offenses, including any felonies and some misdemeanors.

## **Who is eligible for the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program?\***

To be eligible for the expanded DACA program, you must:

- Have come to the United States before your sixteenth birthday.
- Have continuously lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010.
- Have been present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012, and on every day since August 15, 2012.
- Have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or "be in school" on the date that you submit your deferred action application. See our [DACA FAQ](#) for more information about meeting the "be in school" requirement.
- Have not been convicted of certain criminal offenses. See our [DACA FAQ](#) for more information.

**\*This comes from the National Immigration Law Center, please see more at <https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/dapa-and-expanded-daca-programs/>**

## **Why are DACA and DAPA important?**

DACA and DAPA are important step to protecting immigrant's right until comprehensive immigration reform is passed. They provide tremendous economic benefits to everyone in the United States. DACA recipients, who tend to be young and highly employed, will sustain U.S. citizens expecting retirement benefits. And U.S. citizens with DAPA parents are in danger of becoming impoverished if their parent is forced to leave. For example, the enactment of these programs would "reduce the federal deficit by \$25 billion by 2024 and increase the GDP by \$230 billion over the next ten years." On the flip side, preventing these programs costs the GDP almost \$30 million, not to mention the high administrative costs of deporting undocumented immigrants.

But above all, these programs keep families together. DACA/DAPA is expected to provide relief for over 5 million undocumented people. More than 6.1 million U.S. citizens live with a family member in danger of deportation. If the Supreme Court does not uphold the executive orders, allowing the implementation of DACA/DAPA, countless families will continue to live in fear of deportation and separation.

## **Who can be impacted? DACA and DAPA Stories**

Below are some of the stories of those who have been impacted by DACA and who could be positively impacted by the implementation of DAPA. It is important to remember why we are doing the work we are doing. It is not simply because it is morally just, but because the policies we are advocating for will directly impact real people and keep families together.

### **Life After DACA: DACA's Impact on Past Recipients**

#### **Diana's Story**

I was born in Michoacan, Mexico, and at the tender age of three years old, my family and I immigrated to the United States. My father first came searching for employment. A year later, the rest of my family joined him. We came to the U.S. in search of work and a better life. However, growing up as an undocumented immigrant proved to be much more difficult than we'd ever imagined. The opportunities were not as endless as we thought. Just getting by was a struggle for most of my childhood.

In 2012, DACA changed my family's life. Out of my family of six, five of us are undocumented; only my youngest brother is a U.S. citizen. In 2012 when DACA was announced, my younger and older brothers and I were of age to apply for DACA, and we did. DACA gave us work permits which allowed us to receive a social security number. That long-coveted nine-digit number allowed us to obtain a driver's license—a common rite of passage that to us meant belonging and safety. But more importantly, we received a two year protection from deportation. We could finally get jobs, drive, and plan for our future knowing we now had one. We could now attend state colleges and could be employed upon graduation, a very real fear of many undocumented college students.

DACA enabled my family to pay for my first three years of my college because, despite earning a full tuition scholarship, it took every member of my family working, including my two high school brothers and me, to cover the costs of room and board. Growing up, my family struggled a lot financially. I remember money always being tight and watching my parents make difficult decisions of what to pay this month and what to hold off on. Before DACA, just getting by was a struggle. Four years later, our financial circumstances have shifted 180 degrees. We still face financial challenges like many families, but we no longer worry about where our next meal is coming from. For us, that is a victory. I can only imagine the change my family would experience if my parents were afforded the same opportunities for advancement. I often wonder, what kind of job would my mother qualify for with her incredible spirit and talent for working with people? Would my father finally step back from the physically demanding job that is taking a toll on his body and pursue a different, higher paying career? Would my older brother finally be able continue his education?

If DAPA were implemented, how would the lives of immigrant families across the U.S. change? How would our nation be impacted? For my family, I know that DAPA would provide for my parents what DACA provided for my brothers and me in 2012. It gave us hope and a chance at the better future we came to this country for.

## Potential DAPA Recipients

### Jacqui's Story

Born in Kenya and the daughter of a former diplomat, Jacqui came to the U.S. 16 years ago on a student visa to complete a degree in nursing. She would be eligible for DAPA.

When she graduated from nursing school, a tragedy took place back home. Someone had entered Jacqui's family's house and shot her mother and seriously injured her father.

"That was very emotional for me. I was in the process of going back to school," shares Jacqui. In order to keep her legal immigration status, she needed to start another program. "With all that happening, I just fell out of status," she says.

Jacqui's sisters later followed in her footsteps, coming to the U.S. for college. "My parents did so much for us and worked so hard to get us here," she says. Her father, also a lawyer has since retired and resides with her mother in Kenya.

Jacqui eventually got married and had four U.S. Citizen children, ranging from two- to nine-years old. "I just try to provide for them and for my parents," she says.

Recently, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers came to Jacqui's home and arrested her in front of her children.

Recently, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers came to Jacqui's home and arrested her in front of her children. "What hurt me is that my kids didn't know [why], and they still don't know what was going on," she shares. "They still ask me who those bad people [were]."

Her husband is from Belize, and just received his citizenship. Jacqui and her husband were in the process of applying for her status when the raid happened. "It's amazing how much my life changed within a day. I lost everything that I have worked for through all these years...That's basically when you hit rock bottom and rebuild everything."

DAPA would mean that Jacqui no longer has to live with the fear and stress of being ripped from her family and deported from her current deportation order.

"It's amazing how much my life changed within a day. I lost everything that I have worked for through all these years."

Jacqui's biggest fear is that, if she is arrested and removed from the country, her children won't have a mom to raise them. "Every day, I just look at them and keep praying that I am able to stay here." In the past year, ICE also arrested Jacqui's sister, who has four children of her own. She was recently released after spending two months at a detention center. "They'd ask, 'Is my mom dead? Has mommy left us? Is she coming back?'" says Jacqui of her sister's children. "They thought their mom just abandoned them, not knowing what was going on."

## Estrella and Alejandro's Story

Estrella and Alejandro are a married couple and family of five from Grand Junction, Colorado. Estrella has been living in this country since the age of one and Alejandro first arrived in the United States at the age of 11. Their three children are all United States Citizens.

Estrella and Alejandro have had a complicated journey navigating America's broken immigration system. As high school students in a pre-DACA America they were told not to follow their dreams because they would not be able to enroll in college. They followed their dreams and graduated high school anyway. After high school the couple moved in together and started growing their young family. Unfortunately, they soon learned that Alejandro had cancer. While he has thankfully survived, he is left with a nerve disease that has damaged nerves in his feet, yet he still continues to work construction, when able, to provide for his family struggling through it all.

In 2012 President Obama announced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which Estrella qualified for. DACA has enabled her to go back to school and pursue her dreams of earning a college degree. Nevertheless, the stress of raising three small children, attending school and being a provider for her family with the reality that in an instant Alejandro could be deported is quite a struggle.

"It's really sad when your children know this struggle. When they understand what can happen to their parents, and they're really worried about it."

"It's really sad when your children know this struggle," says Estrella, "When they understand what can happen to their parents, and they're really worried about it. When you have to explain to your kids what would happen if you're taken away – that's something no parent should ever have to tell anybody, you know? 'This is what happens, this is your emergency, this is who you call, this is what you have to do if we're taken away.' You know your children shouldn't have to go through that. They should be worry-free."

"Everything that we do, we see it as our story but it is everybody's story, it's not just for us but for more than 11 million of us," says Estrella. "That's why we're here. We don't represent ourselves, we represent everybody... We are everybody's voice."

DACA would mean security and stability for Alejandro and Estrella's family.

\*Jacqui and Estrella and Alejandro's stories are from [fightforfamilies.org](https://www.fightforfamilies.org)  
See further stories at <https://www.fightforfamilies.org/stories/>

## Arturo's Story

The Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition welcomed Arturo into sanctuary October 19th at First Unitarian Society of Denver. Arturo is a loving husband, father of two children and small business owner who has lived in the US for 15 years. His home is here in Colorado with his family where he can fulfill his dream of seeing both his daughters off to college one day. He and his family have exhausted every resource and legal recourse to stay together over the last four years and need your participation to stay together now.

Arturo Hernández has been married for 18 years and has two daughters- Mariana, a 16 year old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipient and Andrea, 10 year old U.S. citizen. He and his family have lived in Colorado for 17 years.

Arturo is a small business owner and started his company as a subcontractor in the construction industry in 2008. He provides employment for an average of 8 to 9 people annually, and he also contributes to a bible study in the Catholic Church as well as service projects.

In 2010, Arturo was unfairly arrested by local police, but was proven innocent in court and all charges were withdrawn. Unfortunately, even though he was acquitted, he was detained by immigration and deportation proceedings continued.

ICE continues to deny Arturo's appeals, saying that the suffering of his family is not reason enough to stop his deportation. How can we accept this immoral answer? When Arturo's sick father died in Mexico last year, Arturo could not be with him for fear of aggravating his immigration status and placing the stability of his family in jeopardy.

Because of the significant suffering his deportation would cause his daughters, his wife and the families of his employees, the Metro Denver Sanctuary Movement has been asking for his deportation be stopped immediately and that he be granted a stay of removal. After nine months of living in Sanctuary, ICE eventually gave assurances they would not be targeting Arturo for deportation, but did not approve a stay of removal. Arturo and his family are waiting on DAPA to be implemented to ensure he and his family can live in peace, without the fear of deportation.

Here is a video about his time in Sanctuary, going home and what's left :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpIJbyxMjlk> OR <http://www.afsc.org/video/arturo-hernandez-garcias-life-sanctuary>



## Planning your Interfaith Service, Prayer Vigil or Action

### Why Host an Event?

Hosting an action, interfaith service or prayer vigil around the country provides people of faith an opportunity to reflect on the deep scriptural, spiritual roots while also working alongside work to support immigrants' rights coalitions to highlight the real-life consequences of our outdated and unjust immigration policies that makes DAPA and DACA+ a critical temporary solution until we are able to win commonsense immigration reform. These actions by faith communities are also part of a larger strategy to express influence the public narrative as the Supreme Court makes these critical decisions that will impact so many immigrants lives.

**Oral Arguments will be heard April 18th we are asking people to organize or join an action or vigil sometime *between April 18 and June* when the court makes their decision**

- Coordinate a public prayer vigil with other places of worship, inviting community members and by our senators and representatives. Publicize through bulletins, websites and flyers.
- Plan a prayer vigil for your faith community, and invite an immigrant to share how their lives would be impacted by DAPA and DACA+. Invite your senators, representatives and local press outlets.
- Add an educational focus on DAPA and DACA+ to an existing event—community meal, ESL classes, legal clinic, or discussion for your faith community. Let your senators, representatives and local press know you're doing it!
- Encourage your clergy or lay leaders to offer a sermon, litany or other major focus on immigration in worship as we approach May 1st where we will see large marches throughout the country. Let your senators and representatives know.

Whatever form your event takes, your prayers will be joined by the prayers and actions of other people of faith around the country.

### Planning your Prayer Vigil/ Action/ Interfaith Service

Before planning an event, it's helpful to define your goals. Who do you want to reach? What specifically do you want this event to accomplish? Examples include: "We want 100 people to sign a postcard to their member of congress" or "We want media coverage to show that the people of faith want to see DAPA and DACA+ implemented." Make sure that all speakers find a way to incorporate this vision into their prayers, songs, etc. To make your vigil effective in showing your elected officials your support for the President's immigration executive actions that prioritize family unity while they work to enact humane immigration reform that provides a pathway to full citizenship:

- Identify your senators and representatives who need to hear that people of faith support immigration reform, and research their faith background to reach out to leaders of that tradition
- Host your vigil in a strategic location, such as in front of their local offices
- Include the senators and representatives' names in the materials and event program
- Make and display signs that have your message for full citizenship and family unity
- Invite the local media – this will help decision maker know this is important (see Media toolkit)
- Take pictures; write Letters to the Editor, Opinion Editorials and blog posts; post on Facebook
- and send press clips to the decision maker when you set up a meeting with them

## **Drawing on Symbolic and Creative Traditions**

A prayer vigil for DAPA and DACA+ should showcase the diversity of faiths present. While not everyone might pray in a certain language or with a certain emphasis, all faith traditions should be vibrantly expressed. Rather than asking participants to only use interfaith language, encouraging all participants to pray in their own faith tradition and voice can add power to a prayer vigil. The set up for the vigil should ensure that all faiths are respected and welcomed with awareness and consciousness.

Drawing on the faith traditions and rituals can make vigils much more powerful, raising the creative and dramatic tension. Use images and symbolism that draw attention and showcase the powerful solidarity people of faith show in working for just immigration like DAPA and DACA+ Here are some examples:

- Ask Clergy attending to wear collars, stoles, robes and any other appropriate attire
- Foot washing of individuals impacted by immigration policies
- Procession with candles to symbolic location
- A Prayer Wall with handwritten prayers for family unity and full citizenship
- Utilize special events (e.g. Valentines with hearts that say “love thy neighbor”)
- Invite lawmakers to read scriptures/ sacred texts supportive of immigrants’ rights
- Lift up stories from community members and compare to stories in sacred texts
- Highlight passages in scripture and present to members of congress
- Collect and deliver prayers for the implementation of DAPA and DACA+ to your senators and representatives
- Make visuals – photos, drawings, art, etc. that show the consequences of immigration enforcement policies and family separation

## **Planning Checklist**

### **4 weeks before your event**

- \_\_\_ Organize a team of congregants, faith leaders, and community members to help plan the event.
- \_\_\_ Contact your local immigrants’ rights coalition or day labor center to make sure you are coordinating with local efforts already moving, and to make sure impacted leaders are involved
- \_\_\_ Set a date and time. Keep the length of the vigil realistic, as even an hour can be a large time commitment for some.
- \_\_\_ Invite your senators and representatives, using the below sample invitation letter. If your member cannot attend, make sure they receive the press releases and coverage.
- \_\_\_ Secure a location that will be accessible to those attending and strategic in getting the attention of your members of congress. Apply for any permits needed for the location; reserve or order any equipment you’ll need such as microphones, cameras, banners, candles, projectors; and make sure you can access electrical outlets.
- \_\_\_ Choose a time of day best for attendance and Media (6pm works well for the evening news)
- \_\_\_ Invite speakers, Are there prominent faith leaders in your community who could offer a prayer? Who might serve well as a leader/emcee to get the vigil started?
- \_\_\_ Remember to register your prayer event at [interfaithimmigration.org](http://interfaithimmigration.org)!

### **2 to 3 weeks before your event**

- \_\_\_ Create promotional materials and invite people through word of mouth, newsletter, bulletin, website, social media, and listservs. Distribute event information to other organizations to get the word out.

\_\_\_ Gather the equipment you'll need—sound equipment, extension cords, chairs (especially for the elderly), a projector, etc. Might people need water or warm beverages?

\_\_\_ Adapt the media materials (see Media toolkit) with quotes from your speakers and send to local press outlets. Have one of your speakers write a Letter to the Editor or Opinion Editorial calling attention to the vigil. Email [nandersen@cwsglobal.org](mailto:nandersen@cwsglobal.org) for help with media outreach.

### **One week before your event**

\_\_\_ Go over action/vigil/ interfaith service program (see attachment) and identify the appropriate prayers and speakers, try to have an interfaith faith influence.. It's good to have just a few speakers to lead and to make sure they stay within their time frame, often 2-5 minutes.

\_\_\_ Make sure you have all equipment ready for the next day, your speakers and the emcee for your event are prepared, and everyone knows their role (sign-in table, taking pictures, handing out programs, welcoming press & handing out news release)

\_\_\_ Prepare a sign-in sheet so you can continue to communicate with participants after the event.

### **The day of your event**

\_\_\_ Arrive early—give yourself and your team plenty of time to set-up sound equipment, tables, etc.

\_\_\_ Greet participants, give them a copy of the program and ask them to sign up for future updates.

\_\_\_ Greet reporters, give them your press release and ask them to sign in (name, media outlet, email address and phone number) to follow up and to establish relationships for the next event

**After the event:** Send thank you notes, photos, video, and press clips from your event to attendees and your senators and representatives. Consider writing a blog post or opinion editorial for your organization or local paper.

**Track Your Event:** Please let us know about your event. Email us a flier to any contact at the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, or do please fill out this tracking form- <http://goo.gl/forms/y1krTSc5d7>

## Sample Vigil or Interfaith Service Program

Below is one example of how a vigil might be ordered, but your program may look very different—consider the resources within your community or core planning group (an exceptional church choir or cantor, local poet, sign language translator, artist, etc.), and use them to plan your vigil program.

Make sure to engage faith leaders from multiple traditions such as Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist. It is extremely important to show solidarity with Muslim brothers and sisters as the atmosphere of islamophobia continues to grow.

**Welcome**—a few words about the focus and purpose of your vigil. Why now? What’s the concern? Who’s affected? How can this vigil influence the Supreme Court decision on DAPA/DACA+. How can it convince your members of congress to support humane immigration reform? What values shape your faith traditions’ response to these concerns? This may take the form of brief comments from one of your speakers, or a welcome and an opening prayer.

**Opening Prayer:** Ask clergy or key lay leader to open with a prayer

**Song**—A singer, choir or instrumentalist can perform, or a few singers can lead participants in singing.

**Reading**—*for ideas see suggested readings below.*

**Speaker**—A personal story from a local community member of how the broken immigration system has impacted families. More than one story can be integrated throughout the program as well.

**Creative Ritual:** Integrate creative symbols or rituals from faith traditions that draw more attention to the importance of implementing DAPA and DACA+. *See below for creative ritual ideas.*

**Prayer**—One person may lead the prayers, or you might invite several faith leaders to pray according to their traditions. Involve vigil participants in praying a refrain throughout your prayer time, or pray in a circle so everyone has the opportunity to pray. Consider offering prayers in multiple languages. *See also suggested prayers below.*

**Song & Closing**—reiterate the focus and purpose of your vigil, and send participants off with a call to welcome newcomers and raise their voices in the public sphere for compassionate immigration policies and reform. Consider a procession or march to another symbolic and strategic location.

## Sample Invite to Your Member of Congress

Dear Honorable Senator / Representative,

We would like to invite you to attend [CONGREGATION/ORGANIZATION]’s prayer vigil on [DATE] at [LOCATION]. The event is part of a national effort to show support for the President’s 2014 executive actions on immigration that work to keep families together: expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA).

Families are the basic unit of strong communities. Thousands of families have been and are being separated by deportation. As people of faith, we cannot sit by as families are torn apart. Until we reform our immigration system, we risk further destruction in our communities. These programs would provide millions of immigrants with protection from deportation and separation.

We hope you will join us at this vigil to pray for the Supreme Court's upcoming decision on DAPA and DACA+. We encourage you to join faith and community leaders in [DISTRICT] to stand up for immigration policies that prioritize family unity and treat all persons with dignity and respect. Please contact [CONTACT NAME] at [NUMBER] to RSVP or for additional information.

Thank you,

[List all vigil organizers]

## Prayers for Immigrants

### A Prayer for Citizenship

Creator God, we bring before you in prayer the needs of our immigrant community. Bless and protect all who have fled their homelands to seek asylum in the United States, especially those in detention. Grant them strength and hope to endure the difficulties of beginning a new life in this land. May each of us resist the natural urge to fear the stranger and to hate those who are different from us. May we have the courage to be a voice for the voiceless and to stand up for the powerless. May we love them as people like ourselves for we too were once strangers in this land. We lift up this prayer in your name, because with you all things are possible. Amen.

Sister Margaret McGuirk, OP in Richfield, Minnesota

\*Source: NETWORK 2016 Lenten Toolkit

### Prayers of the People

God of love, God of mercy and God of liberation, bless this movement to gain immigrants the dignity that all people deserve. We lift this over two million families up, who have already faced deportation and separation over the several years. Today we pray for relief from deportation for more than five million immigrants through DACA+ and DAPA. We pray that our Supreme court Justices might make the moral and just decision to implement this much needed program. We know they are the highest court in the land, but we look to a higher court and a higher law, one where we understand that loving one another and welcoming one another into one family is of the utmost importance and we ask that higher power to bless us and keep these families together. Amen

### Litany

Leader: God who led our people out of the desert and into a land of milk and honey, we pray for all those immigrants struggling on their migrant journey now.

**All: Our tradition is one of people on the move, on the journey and today we walk in prayer and solidarity with those sojourners in our midst who need our love.**

Leader: We have seen too many families separated by these outdated and unjust laws, more than 2.5 million deportations in recent years, we cry out for justice.

**All: We pray for the judges in the highest court of this land, that they may be wise and compassionate in their proceeding to lift so many millions of people out of the fear of deportation.**

Leader: We look to a higher law, a higher power that reminds us to love our neighbor and welcome the stranger.

**All: We pray for unity and love among our brothers and sisters, no matter their national origin, or documentation status, we are all children of God.**

By Rev. Noel Andersen, Church World Service/ United Church of Christ

## Suggested Readings

### Holy Text Readings:

- The Hebrew Bible tells us: "The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt (Lev 19:33-34)."
- In the New Testament, Jesus tells us to welcome the stranger, for just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40).
- The Qur'an tells us that we should "serve God...and do good to...orphans, those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer that you meet, and those who have nothing (4:36)."
- The Hindu scripture Taittiriya Upanishad tells us: "The guest is a representative of God (1.11.2)"

### Reflective Readings:

*American Dream* by Patty E Padgett  
Ancestors came across the waters  
Men, women, sons and daughters  
Ellis Island is where they'd debark  
Record numbers to make their mark  
Immigrants dreamed of no more strife  
Craving the chance for a better life  
Always unsure but determined to cope  
Never turning from their faith and hope  
Denouement unknown, they came ashore  
Reaching their destination, America's door  
Every day was an adventure anew  
As they adjusted to their new milieu  
Many saw their dreams come true  
--Calvin College Immigration Reflection Guide

“This law of shielding the alien from all wrong is of vital significance in the history of religion. With it alone true Religion begins. The alien was to be protected, not because he was a member of one’s family, clan, religious community, or people; but because he was a human being. In the alien, therefore, man discovered the idea of humanity.”

--German-Jewish philosopher Hermann Cohen (Dr JH Hertz, Pentateuch & Haftorahs (The Soncino Press, 1960), Pg 313.)

Catholic teaching affirms that all persons, even those on the margins of society have basic human rights: the right to life and those things that are necessary to the proper development of life, including faith and family, work and education, housing and health care... Our Church’s commitment to find a place at the table for all God’s children is expressed in every part of our country and in the poorest places on earth.

--Website: Sisters of Mercy, 2006

## Sample Media Tools

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**For Immediate Release**

DATE

**Contact:**

NAME, PHONE, EMAIL

### **Faith Leaders Hold Immigration Vigil Around DACA and DAPA Supreme Court Ruling**

*Local faith leaders join national movement in support of DACA and DAPA;  
urge Supreme Court to lift injunction and keep families together*

**CITY, STATE ABBREVIATION** – In solidarity with faith and immigrant communities across the United States, YOUR ORGANIZATION has organized a [vigil, rally, action, interfaith service] at LOCATION on DATE AND TIME in support of DACA and DAPA as the Supreme Court of the United States considers Texas v. United States. The national movement, organized in support of immigrant’s rights and immigration reform, will focus on the impact expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans would have on over five million undocumented individuals. Through prayers and discussion, participants will demonstrate their support for the programs and urge the Supreme Court to lift the injunction on DACA and DAPA, keeping families and communities united and without fear of deportation.

**WHEN:** DATE

**WHERE:** LOCATION

**WHAT:** YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME will host a prayer vigil in support of DAPA and expanded DACA as the Supreme Court considers Texas v. United States. Participants will peacefully partake in songs, prayers, discussion around immigrant’s rights and the impact DACA and DAPA would have on keeping families together at LOCATION.

**SPEAKERS:** List of speakers at your event. Be sure to include those who are willing to speak to members of the media

**VISUALS:** List visuals the media might find interesting. Consider including: Signs in support of immigration reform, clergy members, religious symbols, people of faith congregations, immigrant's rights activists.

**CO-SPONSORS:** List your organization or congregation and any other organizations participating

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**For Immediate Release**

**DATE**

**Contact:**

**NAME, PHONE, EMAIL**

**DOZENS/HUNDREDS/THOUSANDS Gather in CITY for Vigil Supporting DACA and DAPA Supreme Court Case**

*Over NUMBER local faith and community leaders join national movement in support of DACA and DAPA; urge Supreme Court to lift injunction and keep families together*

**CITY, STATE ABBREVIATION** – Joining a nationwide movement in support of DAPA and expanded DACA, over NUMBER of local faith leaders and activists gathered for a prayer vigil on DATE (or earlier today) at LOCATION.

Leading discussions on how the programs would help keep families together, in addition to prayers, songs, and other activities, organizers used the vigil as a time to bring attention to the importance of lifting the injunction against DACA and DAPA through Texas v. United States, the case currently before the Supreme Court of the United States. NAME of CONGREGATION, a lead organizer of the vigil, stated, "QUOTE."

With over NUMBER people in attendance, the vigil drew strong support from various faith communities. Immigration activists also attending the event, citing their commitment to working with faith leaders to ensure that the over five million families who would benefit from DACA and DAPA would have the chance to live without fear of deportation. "QUOTE," said NAME, an activist with ORGANIZATION.

"QUOTE (hopes on timely decision from the Supreme Court and final thoughts on how the ruling will impact communities and families)," said NAME.

To learn more about the vigil and view photographs of the event, please WEBSITE (IF APPLICABLE: and #HASHTAG).

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## Sample Social Media

### Live Tweeting Tips

To maximize your event's reach on social media, have your supporters live tweet your event and vigil. Please see the tips below for best practices when live tweeting.

1. Use a unique hashtag when applicable. Come up with one for your event to make it easier for supporters and the media to get up-to-date information!
2. Use the speaker's Twitter handle when applicable and look them up beforehand.
3. If you aren't certain you got the quote verbatim, don't use quotation marks. Simply attribute the phrase to them.
4. Take photos and video! Using photos and videos of an interesting scene will boost your posts in follower's news stream.
5. Don't try to tweet everything. Stick to overarching topics, interesting statistics, and strong quotes from speakers.
6. To shorten a tweet, it is acceptable to use abbreviations, but don't overuse. Shorten "with" to w/, "and" to & or +. Try not to shorten "are" to "r" or "you" to "u". For longer quotes, write them down and use on Facebook or later on to recap.
7. Use congregational, church, agency, or organizational Twitter/Facebook handles when applicable.
8. Link to outside articles, referenced resources or stories, and other resources when possible. If not immediately possible, save the quote or reference to send out later – you can always follow your event with an ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) post!
9. Don't stress! Live tweeting events can seem really fast-paced, but don't stress if you miss you a quote or statistic.

### Sample Social Media Posts

Providing your supporters with sample social media posts is an easy way to make sure your message is used and shared widely! See below for sample posts for both Facebook and Twitter. For this particular series of events in support of DACA and DAPA, we ask that you include the hashtags, #DAPA, #DACA, and #FightforFamilies to show your support for the movement as a whole!

- "All people should be treated with respect. Join us on DATE for a vigil supporting #DACA and #DAPA! #FightforFamilies (link to event details)"
- "Our faith calls for all people to be treated with respect. Join us for a prayer vigil on DATE supporting our immigrant brothers and sisters. (link to event details)"
- "Our faith commands us to treat #immigrants with respect. On DATE, we will have a vigil in support of #DACA & #DAPA. Join us! (link) #FightforFamilies"
- "Stand in solidarity with faith communities in CITY and our immigrant brothers and sisters at a vigil on DATE! (link) #FightforFamilies"
- "No family should live in fear of deportation! Stand with us at a vigil supporting #DACA & #DAPA on DATE. (link) #FightforFamilies"

### Other Resources- Change your Profile Pic

In addition to posting on social media about your event and around the decision expected in June, we ask that supporters also change their profile pictures to include a banner expressing support for DACA and DAPA. To add the banner to your profile picture in either English or Spanish, please see the example and follow the links below.

English: <http://twibbon.com/Support/fight-for-families>

Spanish: <https://twibbon.com/Support/familias-unidas>

