

# Looking for ways to engage your students on immigration issues?



- 1** Show a film and hold a discussion. Visit [cliniclegal.org/cst/parish](https://www.cliniclegal.org/cst/parish) for suggestions.
- 2** Host activities for students of different cultural backgrounds to get to know one another, their hopes and needs.
- 3** Stay up to date on proposed legislation that would affect immigrants in your community and ask your students to advocate for laws that honor the dignity of immigrants.
  - Sign up to receive action alerts through the Justice for Immigrants campaign at: [justiceforimmigrants.org/take-action](https://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/take-action)
  - Visit [cliniclegal.org/programs/advocacy/state-and-local](https://www.cliniclegal.org/programs/advocacy/state-and-local) for information on common issues CLINIC sees arising in state and local legislation and resources on how to address them.
- 4** Join us in praying with and for immigrants and refugees. Visit [cliniclegal.org/cst](https://www.cliniclegal.org/cst) for prayer resources, Catholic teachings on migration, words from Pope Francis, and ways you can help.
- 5** Encourage your students to get involved
  - Explore volunteer opportunities with a local immigration legal service provider. Locate a CLINIC affiliate near you at [cliniclegal.org/directory](https://www.cliniclegal.org/directory). High school students may be able to help with administrative tasks in immigration offices or support an immigration workshop for the public at your school.
  - Host a fundraiser to raise money for your local immigration legal service provider or to help defray the immigration application fees.
  - Support ESL learners within your own school or at nearby programs by tutoring or hosting conversation hours.
  - Have your history class visit a local citizenship test preparation class and help immigrants prepare for their tests on U.S. history.
  - Help immigrants understand their rights. Get materials in English and Spanish about rights in the workplace, at school and when interacting with law enforcement at [cliniclegal.org/resources/know-your-rights](https://www.cliniclegal.org/resources/know-your-rights).



# Why Your School Should Care About Immigration



*"Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet's resources which are meant to be equitably shared by all. Don't we all want a better, more decent and prosperous life to share with our loved ones?"*

Pope Francis

Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Jan. 17, 2016

- 1** The Catholic Church is rooted in a history of migration. We are an immigrant church that embraces our call to "welcome the stranger" among us. We are encouraged by biblical teachings that remind us every human being is made in God's image and that our treatment of our neighbor is a reflection of God in us.
- 2** Existing immigration laws and policies undermine families and communities instead of keeping families together. More than 5 million children in the United States are in mixed-status families, where the children are U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented parent.
- 3** There are global inequities and root causes that force the separation of families, such as extreme poverty and violence. Every person has an equal right to receive from the earth what is necessary for life—food, clothing and shelter.
- 4** The United States continues to detain immigrant families—mothers with children—who are fleeing violence in Central America. These families pose no threat to anyone and detaining them is inhumane and costly to taxpayers. Viable alternatives to detention exist, including community-based case management services that ensure families meet their legal obligations and also receive the help they need.
- 5** As people of faith, we know that each person matters and is sacred. During a time of increased immigration enforcement, our system should honor human dignity and ensure that every person is given due process.