

## **Welcoming the Stranger: Learning More, Taking Action**

If you want to get involved in the cause of advocacy for immigrants, here are some online sources of information.

### **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

<http://usccb.org/>

#### **Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**

<http://usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/>

Grounded by our belief in Jesus Christ and Catholic teaching, Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) fulfills the commitment of the U.S. Catholic bishops to protect the life and dignity of the human person. We serve and advocate for refugees, asylees, migrants, unaccompanied children, and victims of human trafficking. (Approved by the USCCB Committee on Migration, November 10, 2013)

#### **Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (ERDs)**

<http://www.usccb.org/about/doctrine/ethical-and-religious-directives/index.cfm>

#### **Justice for Immigrants**

<http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/justice-for-immigrants.cfm>

The page contains Strangers No Longer, resource kits, bishops' statements, the Catholic Church's position, and advocacy opportunities. The JFI campaign's primary objectives are:

- To educate the public, especially the Catholic community, including Catholic public officials, about Church teaching on migration and immigrants;
- To create political will for positive immigration reform;
- To enact legislative and administrative reforms based on the principles articulated by the bishops; and
- To organize Catholic networks to assist qualified immigrants obtain the benefits of the reforms.

### **Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC)**

<https://cliniclegal.org/>

CLINIC advocates for transparent, fair and generous immigration policies; provides programs, news and volunteering opportunities.

**CLINIC Mission Statement:** Embracing the Gospel value of welcoming the stranger, CLINIC promotes the dignity and protects the rights of immigrants in partnership with a dedicated network of Catholic and community legal immigration programs.

## **National Immigration Law Center**

<http://nilc.org/>

The NILC mission is to defend and advance the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their family members. Founded in 1979, the National Immigration Law Center is the primary advocacy organization in the U.S. exclusively dedicated to defending and advancing the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their families. The NILC envisions a U.S. society in which all people—regardless of their race, gender, or immigration or economic status—are treated fairly and humanely, and have equal access to the education, government resources, and economic opportunities they need to achieve their full human potential. Policymakers, community organizers, legal advocates, and the media recognize the NILC staff as experts on a wide range of issues that affect the lives of immigrants in the U.S., and frequently call upon us to explain the real-life impact of immigration-related laws and policies.

## **Center for Migration Studies**

<http://cmsny.org/>

The Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) is an educational institute/think tank devoted to the study of international migration, to the promotion of understanding between immigrants and receiving communities, and to public policies that safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants, refugees and newcomers ([www.cmsny.org](http://www.cmsny.org)). CMS was established in 1964 and formally incorporated in 1969 by the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles, Scalabrinians, an international community of Catholic priests, nuns and lay people dedicated to serving migrants and refugees. CMS is a member of the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), a global network of more than 270 entities that provide services to migrants, including shelters along migrant corridors and welcoming (integration) centers in receiving communities.

CMS operates as a legally distinct, tax-exempt agency, with an independent board of trustees. It carries out its mission in five principal ways. Publication of journals (including the *International Migration Review* and the *Journal on*

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## *Catholic Health Care and Immigration*



Migration and Human Security), books, conference proceedings and other papers. Sponsorship of conferences, meetings, briefings, symposia and dialogues. Production of evidence-based, policy-relevant research. Provision of expert support to local, national and international institutions, particularly faith-based institutions. Maintenance of extensive archives on the history of immigration in the United States.

CMS works with policy-makers on international, regional, national and local levels; scholars and researchers; faith-based groups; non-governmental organizations; and other civil society organizations. CMS enjoys consultative status at the United Nations.

### **Catholic Health Association**

<http://www.chausa.org/publications/health-progress/issues/march-april-2014>

*Health Progress*, March-April 2014, Vol. 95, No. 2. This issue is dedicated to the subject of welcoming the immigrant.