



## OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION ISSUES

The 220th General Assembly  
(2012)

Resolution on the plight of immigrant  
people in our neighborhoods and  
communities of faith

### Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The 220th General Assembly (2012) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) urges our church to take the following actions concerning the plight of immigrant people in our neighborhoods and communities of faith:

1. Renew our commitment to the “Resolution Calling for a Comprehensive Legalization Program for Immigrants Living and Working in the United States” (216th General Assembly [2004]) (*Minutes*, 2004, Part I, pp. 737ff.)

2. Renew our commitment to the action of the 217th General Assembly (2006) on “Advocacy and Welcome for All Immigrants” (*Minutes*, 2006, Part I, p. 880 ff).

3. Renew our commitment to the action of the 219th General Assembly (2010) regarding a call to stand with immigrant Presbyterians in their hour of need (*Minutes*, 2010, Part I, pp. 879–81.)]

4. Mindful that the problems addressed in the actions above have continued and in many cases been exacerbated since 2006, we recommend that our church councils be called upon to act in the following ways:

a. To address the plight of students who are undocumented and therefore unable to access many of the benefits of our educational institutions, specifically by advocating for the passage of the DREAM Act.

b. To address the rapid growth of detention centers and the violation of human rights by overcrowding, poor medical service, lack of access to legal aid, and inhumane treatment, specifically by urging the federal government to adopt enforceable standards of care.

c. To address the separation of families through long incarcerations in detention centers, and the imprisonment of many who have no criminal record, specifically by advocating for greater use of alternatives to detention.

d. To address the indiscriminate deportation of hundreds of thousands of persons through the merger of the criminal justice system with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), specifically by advocating for an end to the cooperation between federal immigration officials with state and local law enforcement in the following forms: (1) the 287(g) contracts with state and local police, (2) the Secure Communities (S-Comm), (3) the Criminal Alien Program (CAP) and (4) similar programs that might emerge in the future. These programs have adversely affected community safety, increased racial profiling, stigmatized persons as criminal aliens, created fear in our communities, and resulted in denial of due process and unnecessarily separated families.

e. To address the confusion created by enforcement-only laws by several states, like Alabama, Arizona, and Georgia, specifically by calling for an acknowledgement that comprehensive immigration reform needs to take place at the federal rather than at state and local levels.

f. To direct the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness to make immigration reform one of the top policy issues in their work with members of congress and the White House.

g. To direct the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness and PC(USA) related agencies to actively seek and engage denominational partners and faith-based organizations that are working on immigration reform.

h. To direct the GAMC and related agencies to work together with the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC), the Office of Immigration Issues, and PC(USA) racial ethnic caucuses in a coordinated strategy with interested presbyteries to create political will towards immigration reform.