

DREAM SABBATH TOOLKIT

STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH IMMIGRANTS
ENACT THE DREAM ACT



*A resource by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition
Updated September 2017*

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INTRODUCTION

The Dream Act has the power to protect over 1.5 million undocumented members of our community who arrived in the United States as children. This is the only home they have ever known. As their friends, allies, and faith leaders, it is our responsibility to do what we can to lift their voices and advocate for their safety.

This is even more imperative now that President Trump has rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that kept almost 800,000 immigrant youth protected from deportation. Congress has less than six months to act and ensure these individuals are not betrayed by the U.S. government and deported.

It is critical that Congress pass a “clean” Dream Act 2017, without enforcement provisions or other negative proposals. Unfortunately, some politicians have already signaled that they are treating the Dream Act 2017 as an opportunity to enact draconian enforcement and anti-family provisions. Dreamers must not be used as a bargaining chip for paying for escalating detention, deportation, and border militarization. We cannot use these young people's plight as an excuse to escalate raids on their parents and community members. More resources against additional enforcement funding, and against the anti-family, anti-refugee, and anti-immigrant RAISE Act can be found at bit.ly/NoMoreEnforcementFunding, bit.ly/CallInDayDefundHate, defundhatenow.org, and interfaithimmigration.org/family.

We invite people of all faiths to stand in solidarity with immigrant youth by organizing a Dream Sabbath. The Dream Sabbath enlists churches, synagogues and mosques across the U.S. to dedicate time during or around their regular weekly worship service to a conversation about the Dream Act. This can mean committing your worship service to the stories of dreamers, or other events like vigils, meetings with Senators and Representatives, etc. While we encourage you to host Dream Sabbath events until Dream Act 2017 is enacted, we hope to create a lot of noise by hosting as many as possible before the end of **October 2017**. Please make sure to put your event on this map: bit.ly/DreamSabbathMap.

As an interfaith group, we understand that these actions will look differently within each community. This guide will provide you with a variety of tools and ideas that can be tailored to fit your group's needs. We encourage you to build upon these ideas and share your work on as many platforms as possible. Your efforts matter. The awareness they raise matters. Together, we can galvanize support for a bill that not only recognizes the humanity of our brothers and sisters, but weaves it into the legal fabric of this nation as well.

About the Interfaith Immigration Coalition

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) is a partnership of faith-based organizations committed to enacting fair and humane immigration reform that reflects our mandate to welcome the stranger and treat all human beings with dignity and respect. Coalition members work together to advocate for just and equitable immigration policies, educate faith communities, and serve immigrant populations around the country.

For more information on how you can support our immigrant brothers and sisters, follow [@InterfaithImm](https://twitter.com/InterfaithImm) on Twitter and “like” the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithImmigrationCoalition) on Facebook to receive up-to-date alerts.

5 WAYS TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY W/ DREAMERS

NOW is a critical time! President Trump has terminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. No new DACA applications filed will be considered, and DACA recipients will see their protection revoked starting in six months. Here's what everyone needs to do to get our elected leaders to enact a clean Dream Act of 2017 and protect immigrant youth!

1. Dedicate a worship service to sharing the stories of Dreamers and moving your congregation and community to action in support of the Dream Act.

Use this toolkit to dedicate a worship service to sharing the stories of Dreamers. Invite your Members of Congress and local reporters. Have your congregation and community make calls, write letters, and take to social media in support of the Dream Act. Put your event on the map at bit.ly/DreamSabbathMap.

2. Organize a vigil or press conference supporting the Dream Act.

Use this toolkit to organize an event to educate your community and policy makers about the importance of passing the Dream Act. Make sure to invite your policy makers and local reporters, take pictures, Facebook live the event, and promote the event on social media. Put your event on the map at bit.ly/DreamSabbathMap.

3. Call your Members of Congress and urge your congregation and community members to do the same. Tell them to enact a clean DREAM Act!

Please call your 1 Representative: 1-888-496-3502 and 2 Senators: 1-888-410-0619

Sample Script: *"I'm your constituent from [City, State]. I strongly oppose President's Trump's announcement to end DACA. DACA provided nearly 800,000 youth the opportunity to work, go to school, and pursue their dreams. I urge you to support a clean passage of the Dream Act of 2017 (S.1615/H.R.3440) and do everything in your power to protect immigrant youth."*

4. Write an Opinion Editorial or Letter to The Editor of your local newspaper

Writing for your local newspaper is a great way to both educate your community members, demonstrate support for Dreamers, and ensure your Members of Congress know that their constituents want them to enact the Dream Act. See tips and samples in this toolkit.

5. Engage your Members of Congress on Social Media

Find your [Senators/Representatives'](#) Twitter handles and tweet at them and [@realDonaldTrump](#). Follow [@InterfaithImm](#) on Twitter & "like" the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) on Facebook. Here are some sample social media posts:

- Faith communities call on [Senator / Rep] to pass #DreamAct! Immigrant youth are #HereToStay #Dream2017
- My faith community stands with our immigrant neighbors & call on [Senator / Rep] to pass #DreamAct #HereToStay #Dream2017
- Faith communities urge [Senator / Rep] to pass #DreamAct & protect 800,000 immigrant youth #HereToStay #Dream2017

SUGGESTED EVENTS AND PLANNING RESOURCES

The Dream Sabbath enlists churches, synagogues and mosques across the U.S. to dedicate time during or around their regular weekly worship service to a conversation about the Dream Act. While we encourage you to host Dream Sabbath events until the Dream Act is enacted, we hope to create a lot of noise by hosting as many as possible before the end of October 2017. Make sure to put your event on the map at bit.ly/DreamSabbathMap.

Take a moment to reflect on you community's capacity, resources, and members. What type of Dream Sabbath event would animate both their passion for this subject and their best skillset? Here are some suggestions:

- Dedicate a Worship Service to having DREAMers share their stories
- Organize a Vigil, March, or Public Demonstration
- Plan a Press Conference Visit to a local, state, or national politician
- Host a [Know Your Rights](#) training
- Organize your congregation to volunteer for a local immigrant rights organization

Don't see an event you identify with on the list? Come up with your own! The next page contains a sample agenda that can be adapted for any event, followed by tailored examples for specific events.

Regardless of what you decide to do, remember to promote it within your community, your town or city, and online. Share your Dream Sabbath plans with tinyurl.com/DreamSabbath17 so that we can support them nationwide!

Resources include:

1. Sample Event Agenda – p. 5
2. Sample Vigil Program – p. 6
3. Foot Washing Ceremony – p. 7
4. Local District Faith Leader Sign On Letter – p. 8
5. Faith Leader Invitation Template p. 9
6. Member of Congress Invitation Template – p. 10
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10. Action Alert: Tell Congress to Enact a Clean Dream Act! – p. 14
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12. Guidelines: Writing an Op-Ed By FWD.US – p. 16-17
13. Immigration Talking Points – p. 18

[SAMPLE] Dream Sabbath: Event Agenda [SAMPLE]

This is a general event agenda, **do not hesitate to modify it to fit your needs!** Feel free to get creative and include interpreters, music, poetry, skits when planning your agenda. Whatever you decide to do, it is recommended that several different people take different pieces of the agenda to encourage leadership, while a person designated as the chair opens and closes the event. Try to keep each speaker's time under five minutes. Make sure to practice the entire agenda at least once or twice, but don't be alarmed by any imperfections – they're what will make the event feel genuine, meaningful, and even sacred.

1. **Opening Prayer or Reflection** – Focus on the moral call to support immigrants and the situation of 800,000 DACA recipients. Use this moment to tie our values and the prophetic voice to the work we are doing to support our immigrant brothers and sisters.
2. **Credential & Purpose** – Describe who you are, what you are doing, and why you've organized this event.
3. **Share Stories** – Have two or three Dreamers, family/friends, or allies (teachers, pastors, social workers etc.) briefly talk about their experiences. Make sure they understand the risks of sharing their stories with the public and take precautions to protect them if necessary (change their names or have friends or family members share their stories on their behalf). If no Dreamers feel comfortable speaking, ask for audience volunteers to read the stories within this packet aloud.
4. **Provide Positive Research Findings** – Spend three to five minutes strengthening your argument by providing data. Use the links found in the *About the Dream Act* section of this guide to jumpstart your search.
5. **Make an Ask** – This is when you ask the people with power (elected officials, institutional leaders, etc.) to take a specific action to support your cause. While this can be done without said person being present, you should always make an attempt to have them attend your event. In this case, it would be optimal to invite your Senators and Representatives and urge them to co-sponsor and pass the Dream Act, but you could also invite city council members or state politicians. Don't be afraid to think outside the box – university presidents, large business owners, and other powerful people are make great and influential allies. Their participation will produce more media and further public education on the issue.
6. **Call to Action** – Provide the next steps your community must take after the event. Suggestions include a sign onto a letter or petition, writing/calling/visiting their representatives, or even joining an immigration committee that will meet on a monthly basis. Even something as simple as encouraging everyone to sign up for action alerts via [@InterfaithImm](#) on Twitter or by "liking" the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) on Facebook is a good start. Hand out the one-pager of how people can be involved in winning the DREAM Act. Choose the best match for your community.
7. **Closing Prayer and/or Reflection** – Repeat step one and thank everyone for coming.

While planning the event, don't forget to:

- Promote the event
- Put your event on the map!
tinyurl.com/DreamSabbathMap
- Estimate a headcount
- Invite local, state, and national policy makers
- Invite media outlets
- Consider the need for interpreters
- Confirm the location is accessible
- Choose the best date and time possible
- Offer food and beverages, if possible
- Rehearse
- Take photos
- Have someone cover the event on social media, via Facebook Live and Twitter

[SAMPLE] Dream Sabbath: Vigil Program [SAMPLE]

A vigil provides a time for quiet reflection and prayer, so it differs from the straightforward educational event/rally outlined in the previous sample. A vigil can be as simple as ten people gathered to pray for 20 minutes or as elaborate as a formal program with music and art. Below is one example of how a vigil may be organized, but your agenda may look different. Feel free to incorporate your church choir, local poets, sign language translator or any other beautiful contributions your community has to offer.

1. **Welcome** — Describe who you are, what you are doing, and why you've organized this event.
2. **Song** — Ideally, you should choose a well-known song that conveys the sentiment of solidarity and compassion. You might invite a church choir or an instrumentalist to provide appropriate music or simply recruit a few strong singers to lead participants in singing.
3. **Reading** — Choose a reading that will help your community best connect with the Dreamer experience. For inspiration, review the *Talking Points and Theological Reflections* section of this guide.
4. **Speaker** — Have a Dreamer or ally; pastor, rabbi, imam or lay leader share their fears, hopes, and solidarity with Dreamers.
5. **Prayer** — Have one person, faith leader, or several lead a prayer according to their traditions. Involve vigil participants in praying a refrain throughout your prayer time. Consider offering prayers in multiple languages.
6. **Reprise Song**
7. **Speaker** — Have another Dream student or ally; pastor, rabbi, imam or lay leader share their fears, hopes, and solidarity with Dreamers.
8. **Closing** — Reiterate the focus and purpose of your vigil: for Congress to pass a clean Dream Act of 2017, without attaching it to enforcement funding. At this time you might also invite vigil participants to join your group at a future event.

Foot Washing Ceremony

The root of religious feet washing are found in the hospitality customs of ancient civilizations, especially where sandals were worn. A host would provide water for guests to wash their feet, serve the guests by washing their feet, or provide a servant to wash the feet of the guests. This is mentioned in several places in sacred scripture for example as well as other religious and historical documents.

Holding a foot washing ceremony for DACA recipients and young undocumented people is a way to bring ritual symbolism to the street in a way that creates dramatic tension and ethical spectacle to show the solidarity that faith communities have with young undocumented people.

Sample Program Outline

Welcome and Opening Prayer

3-4 Faith leaders speak on their support for the Dream Act

Scripture reading

Introduction of the Foot Washing Ceremony

Song

Invite undocumented youth forward 2-3 at a time

Closing Prayer

Sample Introduction to Ceremony

Israelites, wore sandals instead of shoes, and as they usually went barefoot in the house and an important duty of the host was to provide water and wash the guests feet, this is represented our sacred texts such as Genesis, Samuel and Judges.

In the Christian tradition, Jesus washed his disciples feet as described in John 13:1-7. This was a powerful gesture to symbolically show that we should all serve one another and love one another. As this President has abandoned DACA recipients, we as people of faith are calling on Congress, the administration and the broader public to pass the Dream Act. This foot washing is a celebration and call to service. It is a celebration because we believe that even though it looks like hope has been lost we will be victorious in the end. It is a call to service and advocacy alongside brothers and sisters in the immigrant and refugee community.

Strategic Location

To raise the prophetic nature of this action, consider bringing this ceremony to the public square, which could be in front of an ICE office or outside of the office of a Senator or Representative's office whose vote we need for the Dream Act.

Materials

2 chairs, 2 Towels, 2 Bowls, 2 pitchers filled with water

(the amount of materials will depend on the amount of people having their feet washed)

Sample Foot Washing Ceremony in Washington DC on Capitol Hill

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/clergy-wash-young-immigrants-feet-ask-congress-do-jesus-did-n801051>

Local District Faith Leader Sign-On Letter

Faith communities are calling on Congress to act immediately and pass a clean Dream Act of 2017. The Dream Act would not only protect DACA recipients from deportation and detention, it would also create a pathway to citizenship for immigrants who grew up in the United States.

A local faith leader letter from a representative's district has the potential to sway a representative to vote for the Dream Act. Consider launching a faith leader sign on letter from people in your representative's district. See the Interfaith Immigration Coalition [sign on to this faith leader letter](#) in support of the Dream Act of 2017 that you can use as a template to start a local district sign on letter.

You could start your own [google form](#) to collect signatories, or have faith leaders email you their name, title, congregation/organization and city.

Once you have garnered enough signatories, which could be anywhere from 10-100 faith leaders, consider how you would like to deliver the letter.

- A drop by visit or setting up a meeting with the district office to deliver the letter with local clergy, make sure to invite media and take pictures for social media.
- Announce it at a press conference, public event, vigil or foot washing ceremony
- Tweet out an electronic copy of the letter at the Representatives twitter handle

Faith Leader Invitation Template

Replace all green text with the corresponding information and modify the letter if needed.

Dear [Monsignor/Father/Pastor/Rev./Rabbi],

Members of [your organization/parish/mosque/synagogue/etc.] would like to invite you to participate in our *Dream Sabbath* event on [date and time], which is being promoted by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) in support of our immigrant youth. It is the hope of the IIC that congregations across the country will plan events and/or masses, prayers and homilies in support of the Dream Act and to Congress to enact the Dream Act and protect immigrant youth.

We hope to put a human face on an otherwise political issue through personal stories and testimonies. We seek to educate our parishioners about this critical issue and call on them to voice their support for Dream Act, and urge Congress to do everything in their power to protect Dreamers from deportation. In doing so, we attempt to ensure that our faith values become the cornerstone of all dialogue about regarding immigration reform. We are a country of immigrants who all seek the way of life highlighted in our constitution and supported by our longstanding faith traditions here in the United States.

In light of this, we ask for your help in making our “Dream Sabbath” [Friday/Saturday/Sunday] a success. Your participation will help raise awareness about the Dream Act while moving our country towards more humane and just immigration policies. Your involvement would not only strengthen the message of this endeavor, it would serve as an inspiration to those who forget that the word of the Lord supersedes our own imperfect law.

For more information on the Dream Act, visit <https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-reform-and-executive-actions/dreamact/dream-act-2017-summary-and-faq/>.

Please let us know when you would have time to meet about planning this important service. Thank you for your support, we hope you will join us for this meaningful event.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress Invitation Template

Replace all green text with the corresponding information and modify the letter if needed. For more information on how to contact elected officials, see page 52 of this guide. If you receive a response, be sure to let IIC know by filling out this survey: tinyurl.com/DreamAct17-Congress

[Date]

Dear Representative [name]/Senator [name],

We would like to invite you to attend [name of congregation or organization]'s worship service on [date] at [location]. During this service we will [hear testimony from a Dreamer and will remember Dreamers in our prayers] as part of Dream Sabbath, a national project including hundreds of diverse faith communities from across the country. We will be praying with and honoring Dreamers' lives and their hopes to attain full recognition of their contributions to our communities.

As you know, the bipartisan Dream Act 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440) would protect young Dreamers from deportation by offering them a path to legal status and eventual citizenship. Since President Trump has terminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, Dreamers now live with the understanding that they could be deported, separated from their families and their homes on any given day. They have every reason to live in fear, withdrawing from their community and the world, and yet they have proven themselves to be people of profound faith, modeling for us what it means to trust God and live in the spirit of the Psalmist's confession:

*In God I trust and am not afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?
(Psalm 56:4)*

Communities of faith have joined Dreamers in fighting for the Dream Act. We hope you will offer your support as well as we continue educating, organizing, praying and speaking out for the Dream Act. Congress must pass Dream Act 2017 by March, or thousands of Dreamers will be at risk of deportation.

We look forward to having you join us on [date] to learn more about the reality of Dreamers' lives and to pray with them and for our country, as well as for our elected leaders, that they will have the moral courage to address the immigration crisis through just and humane immigration legislation.

[Title/description of event]

[Date]

[Location]

[Organizing sponsors]

Sample Press Release

Replace all green text with the corresponding information and distribute this press release online and to local media organizations one week before the event, followed by a reminder the day before the event.

The Dream Sabbath

[Your organization], will hold a [rally/vigil/press conference/worship service/etc.] on [date] in support of immigrant youth and the Dream Act

WHO: Students, families, Dreamers, and faith leaders. [from ____ who are (insert their involvement), including...]

[Insert names, brief bios of local spokespersons and clergy leaders]

WHAT: *The Dream Sabbath:* [Your organization's] families, youth and clergy across the country will [dedicate their worship service / host a candlelight vigils/events/masses/etc.] in support of immigrant youth. We will pray for the deliberations of Congress, that they will show moral leadership and vision by enacting the Dream Act and protecting undocumented youth.

WHEN: [Time and Date]

WHERE: [Location]

[Insert visual of clergy, students and families with candles and signs saying "Please don't deport me to a country I've never known," etc.]

About the Dream Act: Thousands of hard working young people have been brought to the United States as infants or children. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provided 800,000 of them some measure of protection, but now that President Trump has terminated DACA, Dreamers risk being locked up in federal detention centers and deported to a country they hardly remember.

The passage of Dream Act 2017 would give undocumented youth an opportunity to earn legal status if they attend college, are employed for three years, or enlist in the military, and pass a government background check. As people of faith, we support the Dream Act because we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being and allowing everyone to reach their God given potential.

Background on participating organizations: [Insert background on your organization, the broader Dream Sabbath initiative, and the IIC]

Sample Bulletin Insert

Modify this template to promote your event, and encourage other faith communities in the area to organize their own Dream Sabbath event.

PRAY AND TAKE ACTION FOR THE DREAM ACT

Dream Act 2017 would not only protect thousands of young people from deportation, it would allow them to further their education, obtain work, and continue contributing to this great country.

The Dream Act would give undocumented immigrants who have grown up in the United States the opportunity to earn legal status and citizenship through work, education, or military service.

President Trump has terminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that allowed 800,000 Dreamers to work and attend school. Starting in six months, DACA recipients will start to see this status expire. Congress must act before March to pass the Dream Act to protect these young people.



Take Part in Dream Sabbath Events on [date]!

Put your faith into action to support our Dreamers:

- Plan a vigil or public event in support of immigrant youth and the Dream Act
- Incorporate prayers, homilies, and testimonies in support of our Dreamers into your congregation's weekly services
- Call, write, and e-mail your members of Congress and ask them to pass a clean Dream Act 2017 immediately. Call, write, and email President Trump and ask him to endorse the Dream Act 2017! Visit tinyurl.com/IIC-DreamActionAlert to learn how.

As people of faith, we support Dream Act 2017 because we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, allowing everyone to reach their God given potential.

DREAMER DINNERS: Fight for Dreamers One Dinner at a Time America's Voice

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, America's Voice (AV) launched the "DAPA Dinner" campaign to create a space for candidates and elected officials to meet in a casual setting with DAPA and DACA-eligible individuals, to learn about their lives, and demonstrate support. Members of Congress, Governors, state legislators participated in DAPA Dinners across the country. Now, AV is launching a new campaign called "Dreamer Dinners." The next couple of months will decide the fate of nearly 800,000 young people who came to the United States as children, often referred to as "Dreamers." The Trump Administration has decided to rescind DACA. We're asking all elected officials and others in positions of power to host a "Dreamer Dinner" and express their support for America's Dreamers. This is a national campaign with a local focus, aimed at defending Dreamers one dinner at a time.

WHY "DREAMER DINNERS"?

Through Dreamer Dinners, elected officials can show their support for America's Dreamers and the need for a permanent solution like the bipartisan Dream Act 2017. It is an opportunity to break bread with Dreamers and their allies, learn about the way that DACA has transformed their lives, and show support for these young Americans.

Dreamer Dinners do not need to technically be dinners. Past events have included lunches, coffees and roundtables. They can take place at community centers, churches, local restaurants or family homes. To spread the message the furthest, we advise that media be invited to these events if agreeable to all participants.

NEXT STEPS

If your office is interested in conducting a Dreamer Dinner event, they are easy to organize. The first step is to reach out to local DACAmented youth and local community groups in your district to help arrange the event. If you need help making that connection, we are here to assist you.

Once your event has been arranged, email Matt Hildreth at America's Voice (Matt@AmericasVoice.org). America's Voice will assist with media outreach and lift up your dinner on social media using the hashtag #DreamerDinners.

For more information and sample materials, visit AmericasVoice.org/DreamerDinners

Action Alert

URGENT ACTION NEEDED NOW:

Tell Congress to Enact the Dream Act of 2017 and Protect Immigrant Youth!

President Trump has announced an end to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, turning our nation's back on undocumented immigrant youth who are valued members of our communities. The consequences of repealing DACA are immediate, devastating, and profound. No new DACA applications filed after today will be considered, and current DACA recipients will see their protection revoked starting in six months. DACA has protected nearly 800,000 immigrant youth from deportation and allowed them to work, attend school, and raise a family. DACA's termination puts these lives at risk, threatens the sanctity of family unity, and jeopardizes our communities and economy. We need to make our voices heard today and call on our elected leaders to do everything in their power to support a clean passage of The Dream Act of 2017 and protect immigrant youth!

CALL CONGRESS TODAY!

Representatives: 1-888-496-3502

Senators: 1-888-410-0619

*Please call your 1 Representative and then your 2 Senators

Sample Script to Representative/Senators: *"I'm your constituent from [City, State]. I support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and strongly oppose President's Trump's announcement to end it. DACA has provided nearly 800,000 immigrant youth the opportunity to work, raise a family, and pursue their dreams. I urge you to support a clean passage of the Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615/H.R.3440) and do everything in your power to protect immigrant youth."*

Please also tweet your [Senators/Representatives](#) and [@realDonaldTrump](#). [Click here](#) for social media graphics. Sample social media posts:

- Faith communities call on [SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE] to pass #DreamAct! Immigrant youth are #HereToStay #Faith4DACA
- Over 5 yrs DACA has provided work permits to undocumented youth +invigorated our communities #HereToStay #DreamAct #Faith4DACA
- My faith community stands with DACAmented immigrant neighbors & call on [SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE] to pass #DreamAct #HereToStay #Faith4DACA
- Faith communities urge [SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE] to pass #DreamAct & protect 800,000 immigrant youth #HereToStay #Faith4DACA
- Ave hourly wages rose by 69% after DACA=more tax revenue for cities, states, & U.S. <https://www.americanprogress.org/?p=437956> #HereToStay #Faith4DACA #DreamAct
- 16% of DACA recipients bought houses, 5% started businesses <https://www.americanprogress.org/?p=437956> #HereToStay #Faith4DACA #DreamAct
- At least 72% of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies employ DACA beneficiaries <https://www.americanprogress.org/?p=437956> #HereToStay #Faith4DACA #DreamAct

Please spread the word and send this alert to your networks!

Follow [@InterfaithImm](#) on Twitter and "like" the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) on Facebook to receive up-to-date alerts.

[Please tell us if you take action \(opens a new webpage\)!](#)

How to Contact Your Elected Officials

Courtesy of USA.gov

<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

Learn how to get in touch with your federal, state, and local elected leaders.

Contact Federal Elected Officials

- President Donald Trump - Contact the President of the United States by filling out the online contact form available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact> or by calling the White House switchboard at 202-456-1414 or the comments line at 202-456-1111 during business hours.

Members of the U.S. Congress

- U.S. Senators - Get contact information for your Senators in the U.S. Senate by visiting: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
- U.S. Representatives - Find the website and contact information for your Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

Contact State Elected Officials

- State Governors - Learn how to get in touch with your state governor by visiting: <https://www.usa.gov/state-governor>
- State Legislators - Find the names and current activities of your state legislators by visiting: <https://www.congress.gov/state-legislature-websites>

Contact Local Elected Officials

- U.S. Mayors - Locate mayors by name, city, or population size by visiting: <http://www.usmayors.org/mayors/meet-the-mayors/>
- County Executives - Search on a map or by your ZIP code to find the head of the executive branch of government in your county by visiting: <http://explorer.naco.org/> (The county executive may be an elected or an appointed position.)
- Other Local Government Officials - Get contact information for your city, county, and town officials in your state by visiting: <https://www.usa.gov/local-governments>

Guidelines: Writing an Op-Ed

By FWD.US

1. **Purpose:** To raise awareness about, advocate for, or oppose circumstance surrounding DACA, immigration reform, and/or Dreamers.
2. **Length:** Word limit is typically between 500-700 words.
3. **Timeline:** It usually takes at least two weeks for an op-ed to be published, from the time it is pitched to an outlet.
4. **Before you write:** Local outlets that cover the community where you live, work and study are excellent places to publish an op-ed. After you identify a target outlet, research its editorial guidelines around op-eds, including word limits, audience and publication schedule. a. Check out The Washington Post Op-ed Submission Guidelines as an example.
5. **News hook:** An outlet is more likely to run your piece if it is timely, relevant and/or directly linked to recent reporting that the paper has done. To ensure your op-ed is timely, link your personal story to a prominent news issue.
6. **Content:** Make sure your story is coherent, informative, and timely. Be sure to include specific examples and personal anecdotes in the piece; the voices of “real people” lend authenticity to your writing. Utilize statistics to back your case wherever possible.
 - a. **Introduction:** Your opening lays the foundation for your argument. Begin with an anecdote that illustrates your personal point of view. Suggested openers are: a strong claim, a surprising fact, a metaphor, a mystery, or a counter-intuitive observation that entices the reader into reading more.
 - b. **Body:** Answer the following
 - i. Do I have a clear point to make?
 - ii. What is it?
 - iii. Why will this message resonate with my audience? (Who are you trying to convince? Why is it important for your audience to support your message?)
 - iv. Is there substance to my argument? What specific facts and anecdotes support my claims? Use data points and real-life examples to illustrate why your claim is correct.
 - c. **Conclusion:** Finish strong, and connect back to your thesis. An effective conclusion echoes the introduction and calls the reader to take specific, actionable steps.
7. **Call to action:** Include a clear call to action - what do you want your readers to do after reading your piece? E.g. contact your member of Congress and ask them to co-sponsor the Dream Act, reflect on their family’s immigrant journey, or engage directly with elected officials at a certain event.
8. **Headline:** Always recommend a headline to accompany your article rather than allowing editors to choose a headline for you.
9. **Examples:**
 - a. [Commentary: Congress should extend program to help undocumented kids](#)
 - b. [DACA is smart immigration policy](#)
 - c. [On the Five year anniversary of DACA, let's put those in the program on a path to citizenship](#)
 - d. [Kevin Brackmeyer, guest columnist: Time to rally for ‘Dreamers’ for viable U.S. workforce, stronger society](#)
 - e. [Coalition fighting for ‘dreamers,’ immigration reform](#)

Example Op-Ed: Red: Hook / Orange: Call to action / Purple: Thesis / Blue: Reiterate call to action

In recent days we have received three petitions — from faculty members, alums and graduate students — urging Brown to offer sanctuary to protect undocumented members of the Brown community from deportation. The first of these was published Monday in the The Herald (“Faculty, staff: Make Brown a sanctuary,” Nov. 14).

We join our faculty members, students and alums in expressing the feelings of deep empathy and desire to protect members of our community that have motivated these petitions. Many of the statements that the president-elect articulated during the campaign with regard to immigration and undocumented members of communities across the United States have prompted fear and anxiety.

Even before the recent election, Brown had taken concrete actions to increase support for undocumented students and students enrolled in the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. These measures have included providing increased guidance and support through a faculty advisor; offering services through the new First-Generation College and Low-income Student Center; and eliminating the distinction between domestic applicants and undocumented and DACA-status students in the admission process — continuing to meet 100 percent of these students’ demonstrated financial need at Brown.

Now, the potential risks to undocumented and DACA-status students are heightened, given possible changes in policy and practice that may come under the new administration. For example, President-Elect Donald Trump has stated that among his first actions as president would be to rescind many executive orders enacted by President Barack Obama’s administration, including the one that established the DACA program.

Though we do not know what specific changes may occur, Brown will continue to support members of our community to the fullest extent possible while complying with the law. This support includes not taking any actions that could place individual members of our community at risk of deportation.

In making a request for Brown to establish a sanctuary protocol, the signatories of the petitions have referenced a 2011 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement memo that contains a discussion of enforcement priorities of the current administration. The petitions suggest that Brown (and other universities and colleges) may have a special ability to prevent law enforcement officials from entering campus to enforce immigration policy.

Based on consultation with legal counsel, we have come to understand that private universities and colleges do not have such protection to offer legal sanctuary from members of law enforcement or Immigration and Customs Enforcement. While we wish we could offer absolute protection to members of our community who are threatened by possible changes in policy, it would be irresponsible to promise protections that we cannot legally deliver.

The University feels strongly that we must not take any action that would jeopardize the status of undocumented members of our community.

We care deeply about the welfare of our community members who are undocumented or hold DACA status and continue to provide them with as much information as we can make available regarding the law and potential outcomes if policies change under the new administration. In the days and weeks ahead, we will work with elected officials locally and nationally to understand any potential policy changes or legislative efforts, to advocate for maintaining the DACA Program and to promote policies that are fair and supportive of our students and their families.

We are bringing legal experts to campus to advise students, faculty members and staff members of their rights, responsibilities and potential options. And provided that DACA continues to be an option, we will assist current students in applying for DACA status or renewal if they choose (including providing financial assistance if needed), allowing them to pursue eligibility for a Social Security Number, a stay of deportation and work authorization.

Threats of deportation personally affect many individuals at Brown, their friends and families and — as a result — our entire campus. We are fully dedicated to continuing to work with affected members of our community in the coming months to ensure their safety and security.

Immigration Talking points

These are general talking points to counteract common myths about immigration. We encourage you to expand on them as you do more research on the Dream Act and the impact of DACA termination.

1. ***Immigrants do not take away jobs from Americans***

Immigrants work in niche occupations; including many areas U.S. workers don't choose to work in. Studies have shown no correlation between high unemployment and immigrants. Most undocumented immigrants are here to escape poverty, oppression, domestic violence and other unlivable circumstances. Many undocumented immigrants would be qualify as refugees if they had been given the proper legal assistance in time.

2. ***Immigrants do not increase crime***

New immigrants are *less* likely to commit crimes than native-born Americans. While immigration has increased since 1994, including doubling undocumented populations, violent crime rates fell by 34.2%.

3. ***Immigrants pay taxes***

All immigrants pay taxes (income, property, sales, etc.). Immigrants pay \$90-\$140 *billion* a year in federal, state, and local income taxes. Undocumented immigrants also pay income taxes, evidenced by the Social Security Administration's "suspense file" (taxes that cannot be matched to workers' names and social security numbers). In 2002, this suspense file grew by \$56 billion in reported earnings, with \$7 billion in Social Security taxes and \$1.5 billion in Medicare taxes largely paid by immigrants who will *never* enjoy these programs. Immigrants contribute \$611 billion to our Social Security system; a moratorium on legal immigration would raise the deficit 31% over 50 yrs.

4. ***Immigrants contribute economically to society***

The immigrant community is not a drain on the U.S. economy but, in fact, is a net benefit. Research reported by the CATO Institute and the President's Council of Economic Advisors reveals that the average immigrant pays a net \$80,000 more in taxes than they collect in government services. For immigrants with college degrees the net fiscal return is \$198,000. Furthermore, The American Farm Bureau asserts that without guest workers the U.S. economy would lose as much as \$9 billion a year in agricultural production and 20 percent of current production would go overseas. Immigrants have a high rate of entrepreneurship, opening businesses and creating jobs.

5. ***Immigrants do want to learn English***

Immigrants learn English today at the same rate as Italian, German, and E. Europeans who emigrated in the 19th & early 20th centuries. There are not enough English classes to accommodate all the immigrants who want to learn.

6. ***It's very difficult to immigrate legally from certain countries***

There are no legal possibilities for many immigrants. Visa caps, complex laws including 1996 changes in the law means if an immigrant leaves and tries to apply to re-enter, they could be separated from their family for 10 years or more. There are virtually no permanent employment visas for unskilled immigrants; the wait is 8 years and no employer will hold a job open that long. Immigrants can't wait in line, because there is no line.

APPENDIX A: WORSHIP SERVICE TOOLS

The pieces in this section are meant to inspire communication about immigration issues through the lens of different faiths. Read them, reflect on them, and allow them to guide you as you develop your own approach to the issue.

Resources include:

1. The Dream Act Presented in Different Faiths
 - a. Lectionary Texts for Protestant and Catholics – p. 19-23
 - b. Jewish mini-service for Justice and Peace – p. 24-25
 - c. The Dream Act and Islamic Social Justice – p. 26-27
 - d. Dream Act Mock Graduation – p. 28
 - e. Undocumented, Unafraid: God’s Messengers in Our Time – p. 29-30
2. Immigration and Faith: A Study Guide – p. 31
3. Additional Theological Tools – p. 32

The Dream Act Presented in Different Faiths: *Lectionary Texts for Protestant and Catholic Texts and Summary*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Reading I: Exodus 16:2-15 or Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

Summary

**Exodus*: God listens when the Israelites complain against Him, and gives them food in a miracle in the middle of the desert.

**Jonah*: God's mercy is not just for Israelites alone. Jonah hated the Ninevites, simply for being from a country he despised, but God's mercy is not limited by tribal rivalries or human conflict. Jonah responds to God's compassion toward his (Jonah's) enemies by putting, and God scolds Jonah for his failure to understand and give thanks for the wideness of God's mercy.

-Roman Catholic: **Isaiah 55:6-9**

-United Methodist & ELCIC: **Exodus 16:2-15**

Reading II: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 145:1-8

Summary

*"O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples." (Psalm 105:1)

*"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made." (Psalm 145:8-9)

-Roman Catholic: **Psalm 145:2-18**

-United Methodist: **Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78**

Reading III: Philippians 1:21-30

Summary

* "Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents." (vv 27-28a)

-Roman Catholic: **Philippians 1:20-24, 27**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16 **The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard*. "Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Dream Sabbath Themes

*The stories we hear in Exodus, Jonah, and the Gospel reading for this day all point to a kind of justice that ranges far outside our understandings of retributive justice. God's justice does not merely consist of deserved compensation—either "deserved" punishment or reward—but is shaped by mercy and generosity, and is not limited by human tribal or national boundaries. Our sense of fairness and justice, in turn, should not be colored by envy or feelings of entitlement, but will be shaped by mercy and generosity, if it is of God.

*"The last shall be first and the first shall be last" (Matthew 20:16). The alienated immigrant, the hungry stranger, the parentless child – all these are considered "last" to the world and "first" to Christ. We should treat them according to these truths.

*In light of these readings, what kind of justice do you think God desires for Dreamers and their families?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

Reading I: Exodus 17:1-7 or Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

**Exodus*: The Israelites complained and tested God by grumbling against God's prophet, Moses. God then had Moses strike a rock, and water came from it.

**Ezekiel*: "Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live." (Ezekiel 18:31-32)

-Roman Catholic: **Ezekiel 18:25-28**

-United Methodist & ELCIC: **Exodus 17:1-7**

Reading II: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 or Psalm 25:1-9

Summary

**Psalm 78*: "Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth...We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." (vv1, 4)

**Psalm 25*:

"Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees." (vv. 8-10)

-Roman Catholic: **Psalm 25:4-9**

-United Methodist & ELCIC: **Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16**

Reading III: Philippians 2:1-13

Summary

*"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..." (vv. 3-5)

-Roman Catholic: **Philippians 2:1-11**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

Summary

*"[Jesus said to them,] 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.'" (vv. 28-31a)

*Jesus commends tax collectors and prostitutes, those viewed as mere sinners and criminals, as those who are most able to understand and accept God's mercy.

-Roman Catholic: **Matthew 21:28-32**

Dream Sabbath Themes

*The reading from Philippians reminds us what is central to Christian faith and life: to think and act in the mind of Christ, looking not to our own interests, but to the interests of others. How might we hear the stories of immigrants in our country differently if we listened “in the mind of Christ”? How can our questions and conversations about immigration policy reflect the mind of Christ?

*Throughout Scripture we hear stories of God’s particular care for those who are deemed unworthy, unclean, or transgressors by their own communities or broader society. Dreamers are often told they are transgressors who do not belong in the U.S., and they sometimes feel they do not belong *anywhere*. The Gospel reading for this day suggests that those on the margins of society, those who “do not belong”, may understand and know God’s grace better than others. What do we learn of God’s grace from the stories of Dreamers?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017

Reading I: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 or Isaiah 5:1-7

Summary

**Exodus*: The Ten Commandments are given to the Israelites so that they would know how to live while they wandered throughout the world.

**Isaiah: The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard*. “For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!” (v. 7)

-Roman Catholic: **Isaiah 5:1-7**

-United Methodist & ELCIC: **Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20**

Reading II: Psalm 19 or Psalm 80:7-15

Summary

**Psalm 19*: “...The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.” (vv. 8-9)

**Psalm 80*: “Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.” (v. 7)

-Roman Catholic: **Psalm 80:9-20**

-United Methodist & ELCIC: **Psalm 19**

Reading III: Philippians 3:4b-14

Summary

*“Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.” (vv. 7-9)

*Paul reminds the church at Philippi that righteousness comes to us not by anything we do, but by God’s grace.

-Roman Catholic: **Philippians 4:6-9**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

Summary

*God’s beloved vineyard is exploited by the tenants who have leased it, who kill God’s son in order to claim some right to the vineyard.

*“Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?”’ (v. 42)

-Roman Catholic: **Matthew 21:33-43**

Dream Sabbath Themes

*We are not our own. We are, like the vine of the Hebrew people, planted and cared for in a new and strange land. We are all strangers on this earth, and all belong to God alone

*The readings for today present a tension present throughout Scripture: Paul is clear that his righteousness (and ours) comes not from adherence to any law, but as a gift from God through faith in Christ. But the readings from Exodus, Isaiah, the Psalms and Matthew remind us that God “expects justice”—that our actions *do matter*. How might we hear the stories of immigrants in our country differently if we hold to both of these points?

*God gave the Commandments to the Hebrew people to shape and order their lives in the desert. They were commanded first to have no other gods before God; they owed their first loyalty to God and God’s law above all others. Every law that comes after these commandments is secondary.

*Some view the problem of illegal immigration as a simple problem of individuals choosing not to obey the law. But if we accept, as our faith teaches us, that there are laws to which we owe higher loyalty, how might that change our understanding of the varied decisions people make about migrating? What about children or youth who honor their father and mother by accepting their decision to migrate?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017

Reading I: Exodus 32:1-14 or Isaiah 25:1-9

Summary

**Exodus*: “The Lord said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.’ But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, ‘O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?’...And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.” (vv. 9-11, 14)

**Isaiah*:

O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you...

For you have been a refuge to the poor,

a refuge to the needy in their distress,

a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat....

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,

of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples,

the sheet that is spread over all nations;

he will swallow up death for ever.

(vv. 1, 4, 6-8a)

-Roman Catholic reading: **Isaiah 25:6-10A**

-United Methodist & ELCIC reading: **Exodus 32:1-14**

Reading II: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 or Psalm 23

Summary

*Psalm 106: Praise for God’s mercy and goodness, and a confession of sins: “Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.” (v. 6)

*Psalm 23: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” (vv 4-5)

-Roman Catholic reading: Psalm 23:1-6

-United Methodist & ELCIC reading: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23, Psalm 19 or Psalm 80:7-15

Reading III: Philippians 4:1-9

Summary

*“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (v. 8)

*“I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through [God] who strengthens me.” (vv 12-13)

-Roman Catholic reading: **Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

Summary

**The Parable of the Wedding Banquet.*

-Roman Catholic reading: **Matthew 22:1-14**

Dream Sabbath Themes

Dreamers live with the understanding that they could be deported away from their families and their homes on any given day. They have every reason to live in fear, withdrawing from their community and the world, and yet they have proven themselves to be people of profound faith, modeling for us what it means to trust God even in the midst of those who want to do harm. They model for us what it is to live with confidence like Paul’s that God is sovereign, and in the spirit of assurance of Psalm 23. How can the leadership in faith of Dreamers instruct us in our lives and faith journeys? How can we live with faith in the midst of uncertainty and danger, trusting in God’s goodness and power?

The Dream Act Presented in Different Faiths: *Jewish mini-service for Justice and Peace*

Our tradition says that God created us through one human being to teach us that whoever destroys a single human soul has destroyed an entire world.

And whoever sustains a single human soul has sustained an entire world.

And a single human being was created for the sake of peace, that none might say: my lineage is greater than yours.

I call heaven and earth to witness: Gentile or Jew, man or woman, manservant or maidservant -- all according to our deeds does the spirit of God rest upon us.

Speak to the whole community of Israel, and say to them: "You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God am holy."

As God is merciful and gracious, so shall you be merciful and gracious.

When we oppress the poor, we offend their maker.

But we honor their maker when we are kind to the needy.

Let your neighbor's property be as dear to you as your own.

And let your neighbor's honor be as dear to you as your own.

You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

You shall not insult the deaf, or place a stumbling-block before the blind.

You shall not rejoice when your enemy falls.

You shall not exult when your enemy stumbles.

Never say: I will do to them as they have done to me; I will repay them according to their deeds.

You shall not hate another in your heart; but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

O God, You have called us to peace, for You are Peace itself. May we have the vision to see that each of us, in some measure, can help to realize these aims;

Where there are ignorance and superstition,

Let there be enlightenment and knowledge.

Where there are prejudice and hatred,

Let there be acceptance and love.

Where there are fear and suspicion,

Let there be confidence and trust.

Where there are tyranny and oppression,

Let there be freedom and justice.

Where there are poverty and disease,

Let there be prosperity and health.

Where there are strife and discord,
Let there be harmony and peace.

Our God and Creator, we thank You for the sense of justice You have implanted within us, and which always seeks, though at times haltingly, to express itself in daily life.

Make us, O God, more steadfast in our desire to do Your will. Teach us that the men and women around us are brothers and sisters, and fill us with such love for our fellow creatures that we will never wrong them, or exploit them, or take advantage of their weakness or ignorance.

Kindle in us a passion for righteousness. Grant us the vision to see that only justice can endure, and that only in being just to one another can we make our lives acceptable to You.

May we by our thoughts and our deeds hasten the time when wrong and violence shall cease, and justice be established in all the earth.

Let Justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Hinei Ma Tov

Henei ma tov umanaim Shevet
achim gam yachad Sinei ma tov
umanaim Shevet achim gam
yachad

Behold how good and
How pleasant it is
For brothers to dwell together
Behold how good and
How pleasant it is
For brothers to dwell together

Mi Shebeirach ~Debbie Friedman

Mi shebeirach avoteinu M'kor hab'racha l'imoteinu
May the source of strength,
Who blessed the ones before us,
Help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing, and let us say, Amen.

Mi shebeirach imoteinu
M'kor habrachah l'avoteinu

Bless those in need of healing with r'fuah sh'leimah, The
renewal of body, the renewal of spirit,
And let us say, Amen

וַיְנַחֵם כַּמִּים מְשַׁפֵּט,
וַיְצַדֵּקָה כְּנַחַל אֵיתָן.

For further Jewish resources on the global refugee crisis and program ideas for building out your Shabbat program, please visit www.hias.org/resources. HIAS is the world's oldest, and only Jewish, refugee resettlement agency.

The Dream Act Presented in Different Faiths: *The Dream Act and Islamic Social Justice*

Our nation was founded on a set of principles that seeks to uphold justice, liberty and dignity of the human being. Our laws are meant to embody those principles. In working “toward a more perfect union” there are times and cases where laws and the legal system fall short of these fundamental principles. Sadly these shortcomings are nowhere more apparent than in our nation’s current immigration system.

While the issue of immigration reform may not always be thought of as directly connected to Islamic teachings, surprisingly it has a strong link to Islamic values. At its most basic level immigration reform crosses paths with Islam’s strong sense of justice.

In the Qur’an, Islam’s holy book, God calls upon believers to stand firm in support of justice in Chapter 4, Verse 35:

O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for God can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye swerve, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily God is well-acquainted with all that ye do."

He repeats this theme later in Chapter 5, Verse 8: *O you who believe! Be steadfast witnesses for God in equity...Deal justly, that is nearer to your duty.*

However justice is not the only Islamic value that comes into play when it comes to immigration reform and especially the Dream Act.

Individual Responsibility and Accountability

One of the issues that sets Dream Act 2017 apart from most others is that it focuses almost exclusively on undocumented youth. All of the youth eligible under the Dream Act were brought here as children and had no say in the decision of the parents to arrive undocumented or overstay their visas.

Punishing these children who, for all intents and purposes are Americans, because of the decisions of their parents, runs contrary to Islamic values. The Qur’an is absolutely explicitly clear about individual responsibility and accountability.

In chapter 35, verse 18, it states: *And no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. And if a heavily laden soul calls [another] to [carry some of] its load, nothing of it will be carried, even if he should be a close relative.*

The Qur’an reiterates this point earlier in chapter 2, verse 286: *On no soul does God place a burden greater than it can bear. It gets every good that it earns, and it suffers every ill that it earns.*

The fact that talented youth who grew up in this country as Americans, but are being punished with possible deportation because of the decisions of their parents runs completely contrary to this bedrock Qur’anic principle.

Dignity of the Human Being

Far too often, in heated debates about public policy issues, including immigration reform, there is a tendency to forget about the people such policies affect. Worse is when individuals are dehumanized, given derogatory labels and treated poorly. The Qur'an makes it clear that this is unacceptable.

Each human being is seen as a vicegerent of God, as stated in chapter 2, verse 30 of the Qur'an: *Behold, thy Lord said to the angels: "I will create a vicegerent on earth."*

As God's vicegerents, human beings are endowed by the Creator with an inherent dignity that cannot be violated (17:70): *NOW, INDEED, We have conferred dignity on the children of Adam, and borne them over land and sea, and provided for them sustenance out of the good things of life, and favored them far above most of Our creation.*

As Islamic values show, people are entitled to be treated with dignity regardless of their legal status.

Compassion and Hospitality

Having an open door and an open heart for those in need is also a fundamental Islamic value. This is especially applicable in an immigration justice context like the Dream Act.

In early Islamic history, we can see how the values of compassion and hospitality were applied between the local Muslim communities in the city of Medina (the "Ansar"), those who were emigrating from the city of Mecca (muhajireen). The muhajireen were tired and made the trek to Medina under harsh desert conditions. However upon their arrival, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) told each Ansar to pair himself or herself up with an emigrant and take care of them in order to establish bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood.

Once the Ansar were able to establish themselves, the Prophet ensured the emigrant muhajireen have opportunities to work and contribute to the general welfare of their society. According to a narrated saying of the Prophet:

The Ansar said to the Prophet, "Divide our date-palms between us and our emigrant brothers." The Prophet said, "No." The Ansar said to the emigrants, "You may do the labor (in our gardens) and we will share the fruits with you." The emigrants said, "We hear and obey." (Citing Sahih Bukhari, Vol. 3, Book 50, No. 880)

The Dream Act Presented in Different Faiths: *Dream Act Mock Graduation*

Rabbi Charles Feinberg
July 20th 2010
Washington, DC

Friends:

As we gather together to give our support the Development, Relief, and Education For Minors Act, otherwise known as the DREAM Act, I ask you to recall a young man who was a Dreamer in a strange land. This young man was the favorite of his father, a very capable young man with big Dreams for himself and his family. Yet, this young man fell on hard times. His brothers sold him into slavery and he became an illegal in a strange land. Because God had blessed with insight and intuition, he was able not only to Dream but also he was capable of interpreting Dreams. Because he was so adept at Dream interpretation, he became the second most powerful man in his adopted land. This young man's genius, his capability, his great skill, along with God's watchful care, helped him to realize his Dreams.

With God's help, this young man's ability and character overcame the prejudice and hostility that people in his adopted land had for the people of his native land. Ultimately, he became a source of blessing for his family and for the people he served.

Friends, let the memory of the biblical Joseph inspire us to help the thousands of young people in our midst who have become trapped and who are on the verge of exile because of fear and prejudice. Let us remember how "the illegal" Joseph helped save ancient Egypt from years of disastrous famine. Let us realize how much these young people love our country and want to be productive and responsible citizens in our country. We must make for them a path that will lead to citizenship and allow them to live and create without fear of deportation to a land they do not know.

O God, please help our elected leaders to attain the insight and muster the courage to help the thousands of young people who want to become loyal citizens of these United States of America. Help us to overcome the fear that grips so many in our country. Give them the insight to realize that by extending a welcoming hand to young people raised in this country, we can only help ourselves. Amen.

The Dream Act Presented in Different Faiths

Undocumented, Unafraid: God's Messengers in Our Time

By Rev. Yvette Schock, Faith Lutheran Church

One day in Tucson in the summer of 2010, as I wove a path through the crowds at a demonstration against SB1070, a young woman approached and held out to me a sign from the stack she had clasped under her arm. On the front was a brightly colored image of another young woman holding a sign that read in bold, block letters, "UNDOCUMENTED, UNAFRAID: NO TENEMOS MIEDO." I stopped walking, seized by a moment of indecision—I am not an undocumented immigrant, and I do not have to fear the things an undocumented immigrant might, so, I wondered, what did it mean for me to carry this image and these words? Could it be a declaration of solidarity and support for families and students refusing to live in the shadows, and a denunciation of an economic system that requires the existence of an underclass and of a society and political leaders who accept it? Did it honor the courage of immigrant advocates, or was it just a shadow gesture made by someone who risked very little by showing up at a demonstration, in contrast to those who risked a great deal? My moment of indecision didn't last long; I decided not to overthink it (I'm often guilty of this), held the sign high, and joined in the chanting and singing of the crowd.

But the sign came home from Tucson with me; it sits propped against the wall opposite my desk, and I have had months to reflect on the significance of its message—how it speaks within the context of these times, and what it demands of me in particular. I have begun to read its words as the kind of defiant, hopeful, confident, David-confronting-Goliath statement of faith we hear again and again in the Psalms. In the face of all kinds of dangers and anxieties, the Psalmists often declared their trust in God and their defiance of any human who might harm them using these words, or something very like them:

In God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? (Psalm 56:4)

It's not just the Psalmists: very, very often in Scripture, when messengers from God arrive to bring comfort, hope and challenge to people in all kinds of precarious situations, they usually begin the same way: "Do not be afraid." Maybe it's because coming face-to-face all of a sudden with a messenger from God is a startling experience, or maybe it's because God's messengers so often appear to people with plenty of reason to be afraid, but I think it might also be because of what fear does to us. Fear causes us to shrink, to turn inward, to turn away from God and from others. When God's messengers arrive, it's usually not only to comfort and reassure, but also to challenge and move us to action. People who are shrinking in fear are in no state to hear God's promises, to joyfully dive into the powerful current of God's vision of life and abundance for our world and allow that current to redirect their lives, to answer God's call to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

And so, when God's messengers appear in the stories of our faith, they send up a flare for us: they prepare their listeners (and us, the readers) to hear and receive the promise and challenge that is coming next by reminding them (and us): Do not be afraid. God appears to Abram, elderly and childless, and declares: "Do not be afraid...Look up at the sky and count the stars...so shall your offspring be" (Genesis 15). When Abram's wife, Sarai, sends her slave, Hagar and her son (by Abram) into the desert to die, God hears their cries and promises: "Hagar, do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." (Genesis 21) God speaks through the prophet Isaiah, saying to the Hebrew people in exile, "Do not be **afraid**, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west" (Isaiah 43:5). The angel Gabriel appears to Mary to declare, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found

favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.” (Luke 1:30-32)

Fear, it seems, has no part in God’s vision of justice and wholeness for our world, nor in God’s way of working in the world. But fear has it uses for those who would wield it as their tool—human history is littered with far too many stories about political leaders stirring up fear of a particular group of people to distract from a problem the leader may not be able to address, to disguise their own shortcomings or corruption, to maintain their positions of power. Perhaps this is another reason why “Do not be afraid” is the refrain that begins each telling of God’s promises—to point out the universe of difference between God’s order and the order of empires.

Our society is no exception. It is crowded with voices that aim to stir up fear in immigrant and non-immigrant communities alike—candidates for public office, governors, state representatives, county sheriffs and Members of Congress who do not hesitate to paint immigrants in our communities as enemies, criminals, threats to our country’s security and to our families’ well-being; sponsors of state legislation that aims to make life difficult for undocumented immigrants. ICE agents waiting outside of apartment buildings or trolling in grocery store parking lots, increasing numbers of deportations that begin with a routine traffic stop, the threat of immigrant parents being separated from U.S. citizen children—all of these policies and practices are stirring up fear within immigrant communities, and for some, stirring up fear is the point. Though I don’t think the presidential administration would admit this, current immigration enforcement policy, in the absence of immigration reform, is, in effect, a program of attrition through enforcement—a strategy that banks on creating fear and suffering in immigration communities.

And yet some in those very communities are refusing to turn inward, to shrink in fear. I don’t know when the phrase “Undocumented and unafraid” first came into use in the movement for just immigration reform, but one account points to youth leaders working to pass the Dream Act as the source, which wouldn’t surprise me. A number of Dreamers walked from Florida to Washington, DC early in 2010, declaring all the way that they were undocumented and unafraid. I imagine them walking through counties with 287G agreements in operation, and meeting with unsympathetic law enforcement officials or Members of Congress, living the words of the Psalmists:

In God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

They refused to give power to fear, refused to be turned inward, away from their families, their communities, or God.

Perhaps these are messengers from God in our time—they do not come to us encouraging us “Do not be afraid”, but challenge us through their example, their declaration that *they are unafraid*.

I haven’t answered all of my own questions about the poster from the Tucson demonstration, but I have come to see it as a kind of icon—a living image that reaches out of its frame, grabs my hand, and points me to pay attention to these messengers of our time, to follow the path of the migrant Christ: the One who walks with Dreamers on the way to Washington, D.C., who lives inside apartment buildings where ICE agents wait outside, who sits with school children as they wait for their parents to come home from work, half afraid that they might not arrive; the One who calls us to reject a life shadowed by fear and to seek justice for all people.

Immigration and Faith: A Study Guide

Religious teachings ask us to help the stranger, to welcome and protect the sojourner, and to treat them with love. Read the religious quotes from different faiths and discuss the questions below the quotes.

A Stranger in a Strange Land *"No stranger had to spend the night in the street, for my door was always open to the traveler." (Job 31:32)*

- *Israelites experienced being perpetual travelers and strangers from the beginning: God said to Abraham "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land that I will show you." (Genesis 12:1)*
- *Jesus "will say... I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me in." (Matthew 25: 34-35)*
- *"You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know how it feels to be a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Exodus 23:9)*

Questions

- a. If you were forced to leave this country, where would you go? Who would take you in?
- b. How would it affect your spirit and well-being?
- c. If you had to leave quickly what would you bring?

In God's Image *"The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I the Lord am your God." (Leviticus 19: 34)*

- *"Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrew 13: 1-2)*
- *"All God's creatures are His family; and he or she is the most beloved of God who tries to do most good to God's creatures." (Prophet Muhammad)*
- *"God created humanity in God's image, in the image of God, God created them." (Genesis 1:27)*

Questions

- a. How do we honor the divinity within each person, especially those who we are taught to dislike?
- b. Think of the negative myths you've heard about immigration throughout your lifetime. Many people have been taught to dislike undocumented immigrants and we hear them called "illegals" and "criminal aliens." How have words been used to hurt you or people you love?
- c. What can you do to be aware of your own speaking and those you spend time with so that your words reflect the idea that each human being was created in God's image?

Love Your Neighbor Read a Dreamer's story followed by the quotes below.

- *"Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it." (Rumi, i.e. Muhammad Jalal ud Din Balkhi)*
- *"And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbor that which thou chooseth for thyself." (Bahá'u'lláh – Bahai scripture)*
- *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18)*

Questions

- a. What feelings could you relate to in the story? What surprised you?
- b. What does it look like to be of service to equals who have a different life experience than you, rather than to do "charity work for those you pity"?
- c. How can you do community service for those who are less fortunate than you in such a way that honors the dignity and divinity of each person who you are serving?

Additional Theological Tools

1. Lutheran Leaders discussing the importance of Dream Act (2011)
<http://vimeo.com/17928977>
2. What does the Bible have to say about Dreamers and their fight to pass the Dream Act? (2010)
<http://vimeo.com/17853164>
3. The Rev. Mark Junkans, Executive Director, LINC Houston speaks about the Dream Act (2011)
<http://vimeo.com/17938288>
4. “Be Not Afraid” Resources for Congregations and Immigrant Families Fractured by Fear
<http://lirs.org/be-not-afraid/>
5. Six-week immigration study from the Unitarian Universalist Association
www.uua.org/justice/issuesprocess/currentissues/immigration/studyguide/
6. We are all Refugees: A guide for “welcoming the stranger” to your seder table
<https://nfty.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2016/10/Guide-to-Welcoming-the-Stranger-at-Your-Seder.pdf>
7. Jewish resources on the global refugee crisis and ideas for building out your Shabbat program
www.hias.org/resources

APPENDIX B: ABOUT THE DREAM ACT OF 2017

Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) and Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) introduced the Dream Act of 2017, S. 1615, in the Senate on July 20, 2017. Congresswomen Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Florida) and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-California) introduced the Dream Act, H.R. 3440, in the House on July 26, 2017. This bipartisan, bicameral bill would provide Dreamers — young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and have lived in the U.S. at least four years — protection from deportation and an opportunity to obtain legal status and citizenship if they meet certain requirements.

What would the Dream Act Do?

The Dream Act would create a conditional permanent resident status valid for up to eight years for young undocumented immigrants that would protect them from deportation, allow them to work legally in the U.S. and permit them to travel outside the country. To qualify, young undocumented immigrants would need to meet the following requirements:

- Through documentation described in the bill, establish that they were brought to the U.S. at age 17 or younger and have lived continuously in the U.S. for at least 4 years prior to the bill's enactment;
- Pass a government background check, demonstrate "good moral character" with no felony or multiple misdemeanor convictions, submit biometric and biographic data and undergo a biometric and medical exam;
- Demonstrate they have been admitted to a college or university, have earned a high school diploma, or are in the process of earning a high school diploma or an equivalent; and pay a fee.

The bill would automatically grant conditional permanent resident status to DACA recipients who still meet the requirements needed to obtain DACA.

Conditional permanent resident status can be changed to lawful permanent resident status — green card holder — by:

- Maintaining continuous residence in the U.S.;
- Meeting one of the following three requirements:
 - Completion of at least two years of military service,
 - Graduation from a college or university or completion of at least two years of a bachelor's or higher degree program in the U.S., or
 - Employment for a period totaling at least three years;
- Demonstrating an ability to read, write and speak English and an understanding of American history, principles and form of government;
- Passing a government background check, continuing to demonstrate "good moral character" without felony or multiple misdemeanor convictions, submitting biometric and biographic data and undergoing a biometric and medical exam; and paying a fee.

Recipients can lose conditional permanent resident status if they commit a serious crime or fail to meet the other requirements set in the bill.

The Dream Act helps the American economy. Over the next 10 years, young undocumented immigrants who currently have DACA will contribute an estimated \$433.4 billion to the GDP, \$60 billion in fiscal impact, and \$12.3 billion in taxes to Social Security and Medicare.

Dream Act Bill Summary courtesy of the National Immigration Forum (<http://immigrationforum.org/>)

APPENDIX C: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

About the Dream Act

- *S.1615 — 115th Congress (2017-2018)*
Text of the senate bill introduced on July 20, 2017.
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1615/text>
- *H.R. 3440 — 115th Congress (2017-2018)*
Text of the house bill introduced on July 20, 2017.
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3440/text>
- *Side by Side: Provisions of the 2010 and 2017 Dream Acts and DACA* by NILC
This table compares the provisions of the recently introduced (2017) Dream Act with parallel provisions of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the Dream Act of 2010, which Congress failed to pass.
www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/DreamActs-and-DACA-comparison-2017-07-21.pdf

About Dreamers

- *The History of United We Dream*
United We Dream is the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the U.S.
<https://unitedwedream.org/about/history/>
- *Who and Where the Dreamers Are, Revised Estimates* by American Immigration Council
A demographic profile of immigrants who were eligible for the Obama administration's deferred action initiative.
www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/who-and-where-Dreamers-are-revised-estimates

About DACA

- *5 facts about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program* by Pew Research Center
<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/08/15/5-facts-about-the-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-program/>
- *Money on the Table: The Economic Cost of Ending DACA* by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center
https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2016-12-13_ilrc_report_-_money_on_the_table_economic_costs_of_ending_daca.pdf
- *DACA Recipients' Economic and Educational Gains* by the Center for American Progress
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/08/28/437956/daca-recipients-economic-educational-gains-continue-grow/>

Against the RAISE Act

- Statements, action alerts, letters, and resources against the anti-family, anti-refugee, anti-immigrant RAISE Act that must NOT be attached to the DREAM Act: interfaithimmigration.org/family

Against funding for detention, deportation and border militarization

- Statements, action alerts, letters, and resources against using the DREAM Act as a bargaining chip for increased enforcement funds: bit.ly/NoMoreEnforcementFunding, bit.ly/CallInDayDefundHate, defundhate.org

APPENDIX D: DREAMER STORIES

Ask a Dreamer in your community to share their story during your worship service or event. If no Dreamers feel comfortable speaking, ask volunteers to read a story aloud. Connecting to a human face and a personal story can truly change hearts and minds. Find more updated stories at the below links:

- <https://unitedwedream.org/category/dreamer-narratives/>
- www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/storywall/american-dreamers?mcubz=1
- www.fwd.us/dacastories
- <http://americasvoice.org/tag/daca-stories/>
- www.nilc.org/issues/daca/daca-fifth-anniversary-stories/
- <http://saalt.org/policy-change/immigrant-rights/daca-stories/>

Herta Llusho (Watch Sen. Durbin share Herta's story here: <https://youtu.be/GCpLyBf7NC4>)

Suggested texts: Joshua 2; Acts 2:37-47; Acts 4:32-37



Herta Llusho came to the United States from Albania when she was 11. She and her mother settled in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. Herta and her mother came to the United States legally. Shortly after arriving, Herta's mother filed an application to stay in the United States. Herta quickly thrived in school. She graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School with a 4.05 grade point average. In high school, she was a member of the varsity track team, won an Advanced Placement Scholar Award, and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Herta was an honors student at the University of Detroit Mercy, where she studied to be an electrical engineer. She has a grade point average of 3.98 and has completed two internships at engineering companies. In addition, Herta is also very involved in her community, volunteering at homeless shelters, tutoring programs, and as well as her church, where she spends hours tutoring kids and volunteering with the junior high Sunday school class. It's a joy to watch so many children run up to her at church because of the love they receive when they are with her.

Despite Herta's success in school, her community and her church, in 2009, after nine years of legal proceedings, the government placed Herta and her mother in deportation proceedings. Herta said: "I was shocked. My friends are here, my education is here, and my community is here. All of a sudden, I was asked to leave behind everything I know and go back to a country I barely know. When I lived there, I was little, so I don't remember it much and I barely speak Albanian anymore."

Herta's community has risen to support and even defend her. Thousands of people signed an online petition to stop her deportation. Due to their perseverance, the Department of Homeland Security granted Herta a one year stay of deportation. There are thousands of more students like Herta waiting for thousands of communities to come along side to support and defend. As Herta has said, "I'm a typical story. There's thousands of stories out there just like mine. Please support the Dream Act so students like me don't have to leave. We are worth it. This is the country we have come to love."

Juan Gomez: The Power of Friendship

Suggested Texts: John 15:12-17

Juan Gomez came to the United States from Colombia in 1990, when he was 2 years old. Juan is an academic star. At Killian Senior High School in Miami, he earned close to two years of college credit with high scores on 13 Advanced Placement exams. He scored a 1410 out of 1600 on the SAT, and he finished in the top 20 of his class. His economics teacher nicknamed him “President Gomez” and said he is “one of the best students ever to graduate from Killian.”



Despite his success, in 2007, during Juan’s senior year in high school, he was placed in deportation proceedings. What happened next was American democracy at work. Scott Elfenbein was the student body president at Juan’s high school and Juan’s best friend. Scott started a Facebook page devoted to stopping Juan’s deportation. On the Facebook page, he wrote, “We need your help in saving Juan from being sent to Colombia – a country he doesn’t even remember. For those of you who know Juan, he is the smartest and most dedicated kid you ever met. He deserves more than to just be deported. Many of us owe him. I know he helped everyone one way or another in school. It’s the least we can do for him.”

Within one week, over 2000 people joined Juan’s Facebook page. Then, Juan’s friends came to Capitol Hill to lobby on his behalf. They persuaded Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and then Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) to introduce a bill to stop Juan’s deportation. After his deportation was stayed, Juan was admitted to Georgetown University on a full scholarship. After graduation, he was offered a job at a top financial services firm in New York City. Although his deportation order was stayed, only the Dream Act will give Juan a permanent solution. It would give Juan, and thousands like him, a chance to contribute their skills to the country they love. It would also give thousands of friends, like the ones Juan has, the opportunity to know someone like Juan in their high school and college.

Ola Kaso: Blessed to be a Blessing

Suggested texts: Genesis 12:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15



Ola Kaso came to the United States from Albania in 1998, when she was 5. Ola has excelled in school in Warren, Michigan where she took every advanced placement class offered, graduated with a 4.4 grade point average, was on the varsity cross country and tennis teams, was a treasurer of the Student Council and National Honor Society, and even tutored other students who learning English for the first time. Thankfully, though she was scheduled to be deported, the Department of Homeland Security granted a yearlong stay of deportation to Ola. This gave her a chance to continue her education.

Ola was accepted into the honors program at the University of Michigan, where she became a pre-med student. She aspires to ultimately become a surgical oncologist, but more importantly, she intends to work for patients that cannot afford the astronomical fees accompanying lifesaving surgeries, patients that are denied the medical treatment they deserve. Her goal is not to increase use her opportunity to increase her bank account; her goal is to decrease preventable deaths. She wants to remain in this country to make a difference. She has been blessed and wants to remain and be a blessing to others.

Elier Lara: Dream Big

Suggested texts: Genesis 28:10-22; Matthew 1:20-25



Elier Lara's parents came to the United States in 1994, when he was four. Elier is a computer whiz. In high school, he won awards for outstanding achievement in science and information technology. He graduated in the top 5% of his high school class and was named Tech Prep Student of the Year in Cincinnati. He even started a computer repair business.

Elier was a 19-year-old honors student at the University of Cincinnati majoring in Information Technology and has a 3.8 GPA. One of his professors said, "I have worked with thousands of students over the past 30 years, and Elier Lara is that student who comes along every 10 years or so who makes your heart sing."

For Elier, technology and computers is where he wants to spend the rest of his life. He wants to be at the forefront of the technological frontier, implementing and discovering the new technologies of the future. He has said, "I am dreaming

big and will continue to do so." Elier is waiting to utilize his gifts to benefit the country he loves.

Throughout U.S. history, immigrants have founded ground-breaking technological companies like Google, Yahoo, Intel, and E-Bay. That could be Elier's and America's future.

Gaby Pacheco: Overcoming Fear; Reaching Out in Love

Suggested texts: Ruth, Philemon, Ephesians 3:14-19, Romans 8:12-17



Gaby Pacheco's parents came to this country from Ecuador when she was 7. Gaby witnessed her parents and her sisters taken away from her during a raid in her home by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. It was the most frightening moment in her life.

Despite this tragedy, Gaby has excelled, particularly in positions of leadership. She was the highest ranked Junior R.O.T.C. student in her high school, and she received the highest score on the military's aptitude test. The Air Force tried to recruit Gaby but she was unable to

enlist because she did not have legal status.

Since then, Gaby has earned two associates degrees in education and a BA in special education. Gaby has also served as the president of her student government and the president of Florida's Junior Community College Student Government Association. Gaby's Dream is to teach autistic children. Gaby is also one of four students who walked all the way from Miami, Florida, to Washington, D.C. – 1,500 miles – in order to build support for the Dream Act in 2010. Along the way, these four students were joined by hundreds of supporters. They called their trip the Trail of Dreams. Along the Trail the four walkers encountered some people who treated them with hatred and disrespect, but they never retreated in fear, and were clear that the work they are doing, while sometimes confrontational, is all about love. When the students met with Sherriff Joe Arpaio, notorious for the ways he has criminalized and targeted immigrants as Sherriff of Maricopa County in Arizona, Gaby ended their meeting with a hug. When asked why she did it, Gaby said: "I hugged him because I wanted him to feel the pain that our community has been feeling. But also to tell him that as a human being I don't fear him. I told him with tears coming down that in his heart he has good, and that he has the ability to come back, you know. He was astray and doing these horrible things to our community, but he has the power in his heart to come back and fight with us against these unjust laws."

Pedro Pedroza: Perseverance

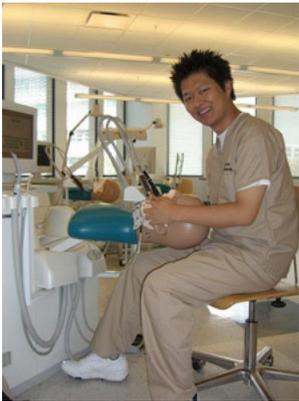
Suggested texts: Romans 5:1-5, Hebrews 12:1-2, James 1:2-4



Pedro Pedroza came to Chicago from Mexico when he was 5. Pedro graduated from St. Agnes Catholic School in Little Village and was an honors student at St. Ignatius College Prep. He is now a student at Cornell University, a prestigious college in Ithaca, New York where Pedro is studying to be a teacher. Unfortunately, Pedro is in deportation proceedings. He was riding a bus from Chicago back to school in Ithaca New York when Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested him. If deported, he will be forced to return to a country he doesn't know anymore, and leaving the U.S. means leaving everything and everyone he knows. But even if he is forced to leave he has promised to do all he can to adjust his status and return to the only place he considers home – the United States of America.

Minchul Suk: Second Chances

Suggested texts: Matthew 15:21-28; Luke 19:1-10; Acts 9:10-21



Minchul Suk came to the U.S. from South Korea with his parents in 1991, when he was 9. Minchul graduated from high school with a 4.2 GPA. He graduated from UCLA with a degree in Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics. With the support of the Korean-American community, Minchul was able to graduate from dental school. He has passed the national boards and licensure exam but cannot obtain a license and fulfill his Dream of becoming a dentist because he is undocumented.

He says that he is “willing to accept whatever punishment is deemed fitting for that crime” of being brought here as a child without paper. The one request he makes is for a second chance without having to go back to his country of origin that he barely remembers.

“I am begging for a chance to prove to everyone that I am not a waste of a human being, that I am not a criminal set on leeching off taxpayers' money. Please give me the chance to serve my community as a dentist, to be a giver rather than a receiver, to be able to become someone who would be able to shine light and help those around me like people have done for me when I was down in my darkest hours.”

Oscar Vazquez: Risk

Suggested texts: Matthew 13:44-46



Oscar Vazquez was brought to Phoenix, Arizona, by his parents when he was a child. He spent his high school years in Junior R.O.T.C. He dreamed of enlisting in the military. However, at the end of his junior year, a recruiting officer told Oscar that he was ineligible for military service because he was undocumented. Oscar found another outlet for his talent. He entered a college-level robot competition sponsored by NASA. Oscar and three other Dream Act students worked for months in a storage room in their high school. They were competing against students from

MIT and other top universities, but Oscar's team won first place.

In 2009, Oscar graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was one of the top three students in his class. Following his graduation, Oscar took a brave step. He voluntarily returned to Mexico, a country where he hadn't lived since he was a child. Oscar said, "I decided to take a gamble and do the right thing."

In 2010, the Obama Administration granted Oscar a waiver to reenter the United States. Without this waiver, Oscar would have been barred from returning to the United States for at least ten years. He would have been separated from his wife Karla and their two-year-old daughter Samantha, who are both American citizens. When Oscar returned to the United States, he did two things. First, he applied for citizenship. Then, he enlisted in the Army. His goal is to pilot an Apache helicopter. Oscar was sworn in as an American citizen soon after he completed his basic training.

Mayra Garcia



Mayra Garcia came to the U.S. from Mexico with her parents in 1994, when she was 2. Mayra, is now 18. She is a member of the National Honor Society and she graduated from high school in the Spring of 2010 with a 3.98 GPA. She is the President of the Cottonwood Youth Advisory Commission in her hometown of Cottonwood Arizona. Mayra was awarded a scholarship to attend a prestigious university in California. In an essay about the Dream Act, Mayra wrote:

"From the time I was intellectually capable of understanding its significance, my Dream was to be the first college graduate in my immediate and extended family. ... College means more to me than just a four-year degree. It means the breaking of a family cycle. It means progression and fulfillment of an obligation." "According to my mother, I cried every day in preschool because of the language barrier. By kindergarten, though, I was fluent in English. ... English became my way of understanding the world and myself. I used it to prove myself to a society that expected nothing more from me than a pregnant belly or a criminal record."

Peter* (This name has been changed to protect the confidentiality, privacy, and safety of this Dreamer) Peter arrived in the United States with his parents and siblings when Peter was four. His parents were farmworkers. Peter studied hard in school and made a commitment to community service volunteering up to twenty hours a week in the community. During the summer Peter would work in a summer day camp for underserved children. Peter was also concerned about the plight of farmworkers, who worked so hard to provide food for the rest of society. He wanted them to be honored for their hard work, and treated with equality.

Meanwhile Peter kept studying hard. He was especially adept in science and math. He decided he wanted to go to college and eventually graduate school. Peter wanted to be a researcher and an inventor of technology that would help eliminate cancer. He graduated from high school and got a full scholarship to college, where he majored in physics. One day as Peter was walking down the street in his home-town, a car, filled with people, drove by. People within the car started shouting: "Go back to Mexico where you belong!"

Peter graduated from college with honors in Physics, in four years. His Dream of graduate school and helping people with cancer is on hold. He cannot act on his Dream as he hangs sheet rock, unable to get into graduate school because of his legal status. Why do children have to bear the burden of a broken system that penalizes them for doing the right thing by working hard?

Isabel Castillo



Isabel Castillo graduated from high school with a 4.0 grade point average. She worked her way through college and, in three and a half years, graduated magna cum laude from Eastern Mennonite University with a degree in social work. At a town hall meeting in her home state of Virginia last year, she recounted these facts to Governor Bob McDonnell. The crowd applauded her success and the governor remarked that Virginia needed more people like her. Then, she said she was an undocumented immigrant. Though polite, the governor declined to support the Dream Act. He went on to say that those in the country illegally should be arrested and deported.

Castillo's parents brought her to the U.S. when she was six years old. Without documentation, she is unable to work as a social worker. Now 26, Castillo knows the clock is ticking. Her chance to benefit from the Dream Act will likely end when she turns 30. A tireless advocate, Castillo started the Harrisonburg-based Dream Activist-Virginia advocacy group. Though she used to keep her identity carefully guarded, last year, Castillo participated in a Dream Act demonstration outside a U.S. Senate office. Castillo and four others were arrested.

A New York Times article (17 May 2011) described her process of coming out in the open: "At first, I'd only allow the media to shoot my face turned away and only my first name. And then it just progressed. I said, 'O.K., use my face and you can say I went to a local university.' Then it was, 'I graduated from Eastern Mennonite University and I'm Isabel Castillo.' "

David Cho



David Cho's parents came to the United States from South Korea when he was 9. Since then, David has been a model American. He had a 3.9 GPA in high school. David is now a senior at UCLA, where he is majoring in International Finance and has a 3.6 GPA. David is also the leader of the UCLA marching band. David wants to serve in the Air Force. If the Dream Act doesn't pass, David won't be able to serve his country.

Steve Li

Steve Li's parents brought him to the United States when he was 11. Steve is a student at the City College of San Francisco, where he is majoring in nursing and is a leader in student government. In a letter to Senator Durbin, Steve wrote: "My Dream is to become a registered nurse at San Francisco General Hospital and to be a public health advocate. I want to be able to give back to my community by raising awareness about preventive care and other healthcare issues. I'm well on my way to achieving my Dream. By passing the Dream Act, I will be able to achieve these goals and contribute to the growing health care industry."

America needs more nurses with the talent of Steve Li. In fact, the United States imports thousands of foreign nurses every year because we have such a large nursing shortage. Unfortunately, Steve is in deportation proceedings. His case is especially complicated because – while his parents



are Chinese – he was born in Peru. So he would be deported back to Peru, where he knows no one and has no family members.

Dan-el Padilla Peralta



Dan-el Padilla Peralta came to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic at the age of 4. He rose from homelessness to become the salutatorian of his class at Princeton University, where his professors hailed him as the likely "classicist of his generation."

Cesar Vargas



Cesar Vargas came to the U.S. from Mexico with his parents when he was 5. He recently graduated from the City University of New York School of Law, where he founded the Prosecutor Law Students Association. Cesar recently interned at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. Cesar's Dream is to serve as a military lawyer in the Judge Advocate General's Corp, and, following his military service, to become a prosecutor and journalist.

Magdaleno Brothers



Nelson and Jhon Magdaleno came to the United States from Venezuela when Nelson was 11 and Jhon was 9. They were both honors students at Lakeside High School in Atlanta, Georgia. Jhon served with distinction in the Air Force Junior Officer Reserve Corps. He was the 4th highest ranking officer in a 175 officer cadet unit and Commander of the Air Honor Society in his unit.

major with a 4.0 GPA.

They were honors students at Georgia Tech University, one of the most selective engineering schools in America. Nelson was a computer engineering major with a 3.6 GPA. Jhon was a



major with a 4.0 GPA. Jhon was a biomedical engineering

America needs more talented young engineers like unfortunately, they were placed in deportation sent back to Venezuela, a country where they have children. In a letter to Senator Durbin of Illinois, Nelson and Jhon's uncle, said: " They will be able our country if allowed to stay. I am overwhelmed how they have managed to persevere and even

Nelson and Jhon but, proceedings and could be not lived since they were John David Bunting, to give back so much to by my pride in them, and flourish under their

circumstances. ... I also have two young sons and I teach them about the incredible history of the United States, and the way that our country can address wrongs committed in its name, and come out of the process even stronger. Please help us."

Benita Veliz



Benita Veliz came to the U.S. from Mexico with her parents in 1993, when she was 8. Benita graduated as the valedictorian of her high school class at the age of 16. She received a full scholarship to St. Mary's University, where she graduated from the Honors program with a double major in biology and sociology. Benita's honors thesis was on the DREAM Act. She dreams of becoming an attorney. In a letter to Senator Durbin, Benita wrote: "I can't wait to be able to give back to the community that has given me so much. I was recently asked to sign the national anthems for both the U.S. and Mexico at a Cinco de Mayo community assembly. Without missing a beat, I quickly belted out the Star Spangled Banner. To my embarrassment, I then realized that I had no idea how to sing the Mexican national anthem. I am American. My dream is American. It's time to make our dreams a reality. It's time to pass the Dream Act."

Marie Gonzalez-Deel



Marie Gonzalez came to the U.S. from Costa Rica with her parents when she was 5. In 2008, she graduated from Westminster College in Missouri with a double major in political science and international business. Marie, one of the first Dreamers to speak out about her situation, [testified](#) in the House Judiciary Committee on May 18, 2007: "No matter what, I will always consider the United States of America my home. I love this country. Only in America would a person like me have the opportunity to tell my story to people like you. Many may

argue that because I have a Costa Rican birth certificate I am Costa Rican and should be sent back to that country. If I am sent back there, sure I'd be with my Mom and Dad, but I'd be torn away from loved ones that are my family here, and from everything I have known since I was a child."

APPENDIX E: News

Article On the Original Dream Sabbath

Faith leaders join Sen. Durbin to announce fall campaign

By Wayne Rhodes, Editor, Faith in Action

WASHINGTON, D.C. — United Methodist Bishop Minerva Carcaño was among a coalition of interfaith leaders from across the country that joined Assistant Senate Majority Leader Dick Durbin, D-Ill., in the U.S. Capitol to announce a Dream Act Sabbath.

The observance, Sept. 16 to Oct. 9, will enlist churches, synagogues and mosques across the country to dedicate time during or around their regular weekly worship service to a conversation about the Dream Act.

The bill, “Development, Relief & Education for Alien Minors (DREAM),” gives undocumented students a chance to earn legal status if they came here as children, are long-term U.S. residents, have good moral character, and complete two years of college or military service in good standing.

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition is organizing the campaign with support from United We Dream. The organizations hope to have many Dreamers speak to congregations throughout the campaign. The Interfaith Immigration Coalition will prepare a Dream Act Sabbath packet, including a video, to assist faith leaders in educating and mobilizing their congregations.

10 years

Durbin introduced the Dream Act 10 years ago. He has been relentlessly pursuing its passage ever since. He said Dream Act students have “a passion and commitment crucial to the future of America.”

It’s wrong to punish children for acts of their parents.

The act is based on a fundamental moral principle, according to Durbin. “It’s wrong to punish children for acts of their parents,” he explained, adding that every faith tradition recognizes a moral right to protect the vulnerable.

“These young people deserve a chance to become legal residents of the country they know as home,” said Bishop Carcaño, one of 12 religious leaders who joined Durbin and Sen. Michael Bennett, D-Colo., to announce the campaign. She chairs the United Methodist Council of Bishops committee on immigration and heads an interagency task force of the denomination. She is episcopal leader of the Desert Southwest Conference, headquartered in Phoenix, Ariz.

Harsh immigration laws



Sen. Richard Durbin (far left) listens as United Methodist Bishop Minerva Carcaño discusses the importance of passing the Dream Act during a press conference at the U.S. Capitol.

“Because these young people were brought to this country as young children and never received legal documentation,” Carcaño said, “at every turn they face the harshness of this country’s immigration laws that make no room for the compassionate care of children and young people like them.”

Why would we not want to embrace ... characteristics that have made our nation great?

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, said it would be to the United States’ detriment to forsake Dream Act students. “Why would we not want to embrace their dedication, energy, talents and courage, characteristics that have made our nation great?” he asked. McCarrick emphasized that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops supports the Dream Act.

The National Assn. of Evangelicals also stands strongly behind the Dream Act, according to the Rev. Derrick Harkins, senior pastor, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, and a member of the association’s board of directors. “No matter what side of the aisle [our elected officials] occupy,” he said, “it is an opportunity for them to do what is right morally.”

The president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, the largest Latino Christian organization in America, said that “without a doubt,” Christ stood committed to the care of the most vulnerable, especially children. “To continue to punish these children is nothing less than anti-Christian, anti-American and morally reprehensible,” said the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez.

Saved a whole society

Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, associate rabbi at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City, is from Canada and in the process of earning her U.S. citizenship. She and other faith leaders held up Joseph as an immigrant who made a difference. “Not only did Joseph help his family,” she pointed out, “but he saved a whole society [Egypt].”

Other faith leaders participating in the press conference included Sister Simone Campbell, executive director, NETWORK; the Rev. Richard Graham, bishop, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Rabbi Doug Heifetz, Oseh Shalom Congregation, Laurel, Md; the Rt. Rev. David Jones, bishop, Diocese of Virginia, The Episcopal Church; Dr. Fred Kniss, provost, Eastern Mennonite University; Imam Mohamed Magid, president, Islamic Society of North America; and Father Jack Orzechowski, OFM, Franciscan Friar, the Holy Name Province.

Gabby Pacheco, a Dream Act student who saw her parents and sisters taken away from her home in an Immigration & Customs Enforcement van, participated in the press conference also. She described the arrest as the scariest experience of her life.

Sen. Bennett, former superintendent of the Denver Public Schools, said the Dream Act is a bipartisan issue, and a “common sense way to adjust the law.”

Durbin said supporters of the Dream Act Sabbath will do their best to build a movement across America. He said the religious leaders will decide what’s appropriate for their own faith community.

“I support comprehensive immigration reform,” Durbin stressed. He acknowledged that the Dream Act is part of a larger discussion, and described it as “an accepted starting point.”