

TEMA/TÍTULO: Inmigración: Inmigración: Implicaciones para Justicia Económica

PROPONENTE: Rvmo. Obispo Sanford Z.K. Hampton

PÁGINA CYC:

PÁGINA LA:

-
- 1 *Se resuelve*, con la aprobación de la Cámara de _____ que la 76ª Convención General reconozca
2 que todas las personas que viven en los Estados Unidos tienen el derecho a la protección
3 proporcionada por el debido proceso jurídico y que todos los inmigrantes y sus familias tienen
4 derecho a recibir la protección otorgada por nuestras leyes y Constitución; y asimismo
5
- 6 *Se resuelve*, que la Convención General invoque una moratoria sobre las redadas realizadas por
7 el servicio de Inmigración y Aplicación de Aduanas (ICE) en los lugares de trabajo, en los
8 sistemas de transporte, en reuniones comunitarias, en puntos de revisión viales y en residencias
9 privadas que dejan a las familias destrozadas y a los niños sin hijos; y asimismo
10
- 11 *Se resuelve*, que la Convención General abogue por el retorno de la consideración congresional y
12 la implementación de una reforma de inmigración integral que permita a millones de inmigrantes
13 indocumentados que han establecido raíces en Estados Unidos y que suelen ser padres y
14 cónyuges de ciudadanos estadounidenses tener una forma de legalizarse; y asimismo
15
- 16 *Se resuelve*, que la Convención General deplora la condición en que se encuentran los centros de
17 detención de inmigración y que exija la responsabilidad para asegurar que los detenidos sean
18 tratados de una manera humanitaria y que se les proporcione alimento y atención médica
19 adecuados y condiciones sanitarias; y asimismo
20
- 21 *Se resuelve*, que la Convención General (a) pida la terminación del programa 287 G de socios
22 que permite a la policía local hacer cumplir la ley de inmigración y (b) devolver ese poder de
23 ejecución a los Agentes Federales de Inmigración, dejando a la policía local el trabajo de
24 mantener la seguridad de las comunidades y (c) que dispongan un sentido de seguridad para que
25 los inmigrantes que son víctimas de delitos puedan reportarlo sin temor a la detención y
26 deportación, y asimismo
27
- 28 *Se resuelve* que por cuanto los jóvenes son una prioridad de la Iglesia Episcopal, que la 76ª
29 Convención General apoye los principios de la Ley del Sueño Americano que incluyen la
30 disposición de un estado legal condicional y la eventual ciudadanía de los jóvenes
31 indocumentados siempre y cuando asistan a la universidad por lo menos dos años o hayan
32 servido a los Estados Unidos en otras capacidades, por ejemplo, en AmeriCorps o en el servicio
33 militar.
34

Endorser(s): The Rt. Rev. Bavi E. Rivera, The Rt. Rev. James Edward Waggoner Jr.

EXPLANATION:

Twenty years ago a general amnesty for immigrant workers was granted by the federal government. Immigrants who could demonstrate "good character" and financial stability and were able to pay a penalty could apply for legal permanent residency and eventual citizenship. For many years family members who were U.S. citizens or legal residents could petition for residency for certain immediate relatives. A fine could be paid and family members did not need to leave the United States to obtain a visa. That avenue is now closed. Undocumented family members need to leave the country to obtain a visa and then can face a ten year ban on re-entry - a waiver is not assured. Depending on the family category, petitions for visas can take up to 20 years to be granted. Even immediate visas for spouses and minor children are now backlogged. Immigrants are filling the jobs that go unwanted and unfilled by U.S. citizens. Employers report that they advertise for weeks and offer jobs to U.S. citizens prior to turning to undocumented workers. Workers who are U.S. citizens often quit after only a few days of work. However, employers who are trying to "do it the right way" are not able to bring people into the country on employment visas because the system is so backlogged. Meanwhile, crops are not being planted or harvested. Tourist and recreational attractions have had to close down due to the labor shortage. Immigration enforcement is creating havoc with families who are otherwise stable members of our communities. Parents are afraid to send children to school; children are afraid of going home and finding their parents gone. Victims of crime are hesitant to report crimes for fear of revealing their undocumented status. Crossing the border without documents is a civil offense, a misdemeanor. It is not a crime of any type to be simply living in the U. S. undocumented (it only becomes a felony if someone comes back after having been deported). Nevertheless, immigrants who are caught in raids often spend months and even years in jail-like settings while their cases are being appealed. As a result of the raids, detentions and deportations, a large number of families will live their lives not knowing what happened to their loved ones - this is happening to many, many families. It is time to address this problem directly. Treaties like NAFTA (The North American Free Trade Act) harm foreign workers by allowing the import and sale of cheap basic goods in their countries. U.S. agriculture, particularly large agribusiness corporations subsidized by our government, can sell basic foods like rice and beans in countries like Mexico more cheaply than the native industry. When small farmers cannot sell their products, they leave their farms for their cities where jobs are not available. In order to provide for their families, workers are obliged to seek employment as a last resort in other countries like the United States. Most people, given a choice, would prefer to remain in their own countries. Scripture is full of immigrant stories - in the Book of Genesis Abraham and Sarah make their journey to the land that God promised to them and their descendants. Leviticus reminds us that we are to welcome strangers as citizens in our lands. There are two major stories concerning immigration into Egypt: in the first Jacob's family were economic refugees due to a famine in the land; In the second Mary and Joseph as political refugees sought sanctuary with the child in Egypt.