

**To the Deputies and Bishops of the Episcopal Church assembled at the 79th General Convention:**

Whereas the 230th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts passed a resolution titled, “Christian Response to Latin American Migration Crisis” at their 2015 gathering; and

Whereas the 230th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts expressed support for the UN Declaration of Human Rights as the standard of treatment for people who flee their countries; the bishops and deputies of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts urge the 79th General Convention to call for action by the Episcopal Public Policy Network:

- 1) advocate the U.S. Government revise the policy of border externalization, which is the interception of migrants who are en route to our southern border.
- 2) advocate the U.S. Government end the detention of asylum-seekers, after they have been found to have credible asylum claims and to pose no threat to the community, and be it further
- 3) advocate that the U.S. Government play a positive nonviolent role in supporting the governments of Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala to address root issues that lead the masses of people to leave their countries; and be it further

We also encourage the 79th General Convention of this church commend initiatives such as Cristosal Foundation in El Salvador (an Episcopal human rights organization which seeks to find regional solutions), the Anglican Church of the Central American Region (IARCA) and other such organizations that work toward addressing the root causes of Latin American migration.

We further encourage this General Convention to condemn policies of the U.S. Government that mercilessly separate families, including women, children, and infants.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Deputies and Bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

**Byron Rushing, L1**

**Rev. Edwin Johnson, C1**

**Fredrica Thompsett, L2**

**Rev. Thomas Brown, C2**

**William Boyce, L3**

**Rev. Karen Montagno, C3**

**Betsy Ridge Madsen, L4**

**Rev. Bill Parnell, C4**

**Sue Perkinson, L5**

**Rev. Debbie Phillips, C5**

Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, Bishop Diocesan

Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, Bishop Suffragan