



# BRING HOME DIGNITY FOR MIGRANTS



Photo by Rick D'Elia for CRS

As Catholics, we are called upon to love and protect our neighbors in need. As Americans, let's uphold our tradition as an immigrant nation. Now is the time to enact a balanced policy that addresses the causes and consequences of migration, and gives people a chance to work hard and support their families.

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Every one of God's children has the right to find in their own countries the economic, political and social opportunities to live in dignity and achieve a full life through the use of their God-given gifts. However, lack of economic opportunities along with unstable social and political conditions, insecurity, and the desire to reunify with family members often leave people no choice but to leave their homelands and migrate.

This is especially true in Latin America where people migrate to the United States to escape poverty and unemployment. This has been caused in part by policies that have neglected the needs of poor and vulnerable people and lack of investments in rural areas. For example, farmers in El Salvador earn just \$4 per day, half what they can earn per hour in the United States.

As Catholics in America, we are called by our faith to help the least of our brothers and sisters. We are called to Bring Home Dignity for Migrants. Catholics Confront Global Poverty is an advocacy initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). And we're working to create and sustain opportunity for people in need, in the countries, regions and communities they live in.

Additionally, we're urging Congress to support comprehensive immigration reform, which:

- Provides a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and preserves family unity;
- Addresses the root causes of migration by improving U.S. trade, security and development policies in countries where most immigrants come from; and
- Ensures collaboration among governments to improve the economic and social conditions that compel people to migrate, and recognition of U.S. demand for migrant workers.

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