
National Immigration Policy Landscape



United Women of Faith - January 27, 2025

*You
Belong
Here*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Witness in Society

ELCA advocacy works for change in public policy based on the experience of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world and in communities across the United States. We work through political channels on behalf of the following biblical values: peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

AMMPARO

The word "amparo" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage.

We commit to:

- uphold and guarantee the basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families;
 - address the root causes of migration in countries and the treatment of migrants in transit;
 - work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and
 - engage as a church body with all of our companions and partners to respond to the migration situation holistically and to advocate for migrant children and their families.
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Executive Orders

1. Executive Order Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Action
 2. Executive Order Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship
 3. Executive Order Protecting the American People Against Invasion
 4. Executive Order Securing Our Borders
 5. Executive Order Declaring a National Emergency at the Southern Border
 6. Executive Order Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats
 7. Executive Order Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists
 8. Executive Order Guaranteeing the States Protections Against Invasion
 9. Executive Order Clarifying the Military's Role in Protecting the Territorial Integrity of the United States
 10. Executive Order Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program
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Executive Order Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship

What it is

Seeks to deny **U.S. citizenship** to children born to parents who are undocumented or who hold temporary status--including visa status.

Implications

Undermines constitutional rights. This order opens the door for children to become vulnerable and possibly stateless. This could impact all U.S. citizens. A federal judge issued a temporary restraining order in a lawsuit against the order.



Executive Order Protecting the American People Against Invasion

What it is

This is a wide ranging order covering new immigration enforcement priorities as well as expanded use of **expedited removal** nationwide. It calls for **registration** of undocumented immigrants under criminal penalties, and stronger state collaboration through use of 287(g) agreements. Notably, it signals restrictions to humanitarian **parole** programs, **Temporary Protected Status** (TPS) programs, work permits, and public benefits to come. As well as directing a review of federal funding going to migrant-serving **NGOs** to ensure funds are not being used improperly, it threatens federal funds to so-called **sanctuary** jurisdictions.

Implications

The order has wide scope and uncertain potential. It is clear that these aggressive measures will inflict fear and sweep up people in a larger enforcement dragnet. Migrant supporting organizations, and people, could be targeted. It does not

Executive Orders

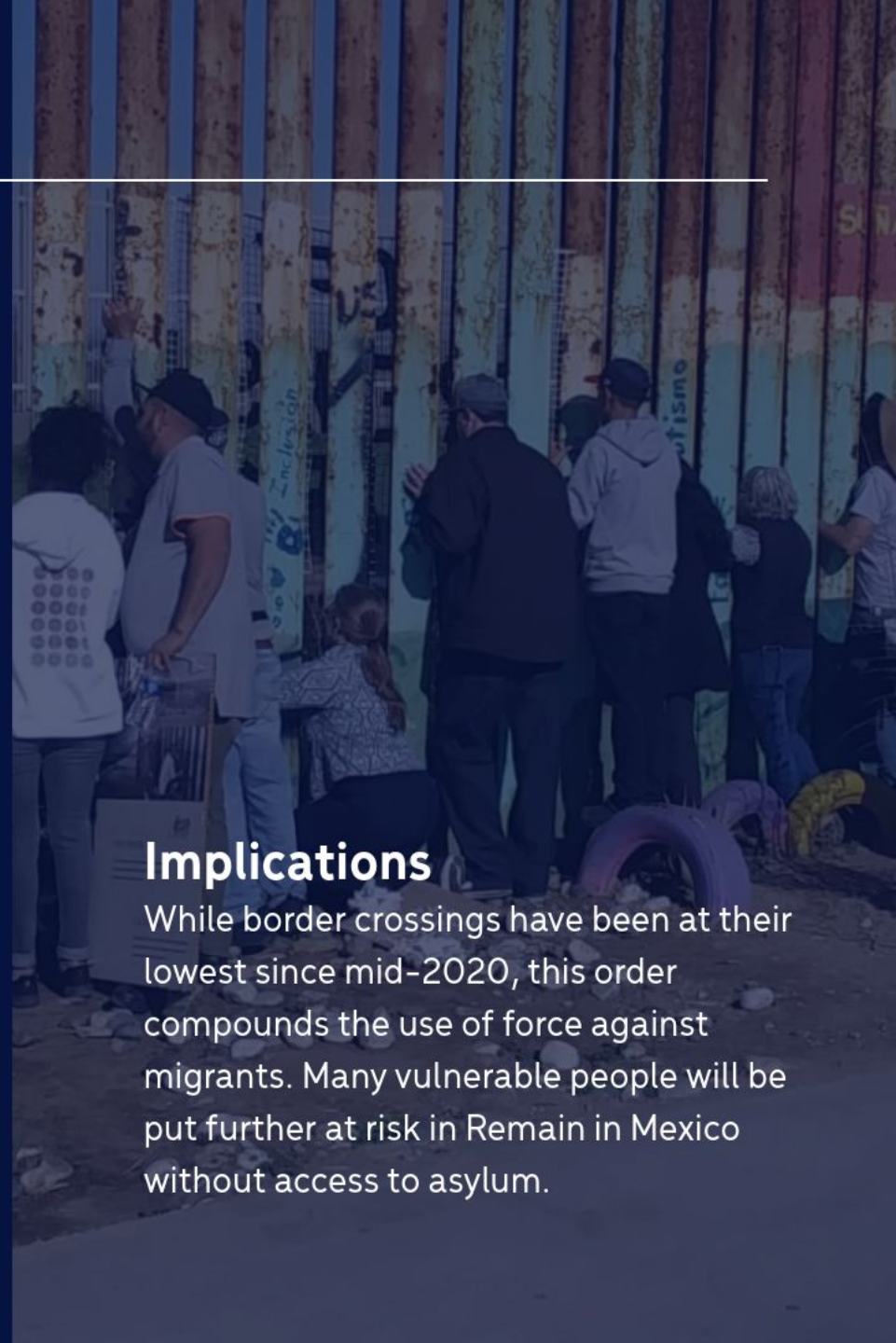
*Securing Our Borders
Declarating a National Emergency
Guaranteeing the States Protection Against Invasion
Clarifying the Military's Role in Protecting the
Territorial Integrity of the United States*

What it is

These executive orders seek to establish complete operation control by effectively eliminating access to asylum, making **Remain in Mexico** the only alternative, suspending the **CBP One App**, and ending the **CHNV humanitarian parole** program. The declaration of a national emergency orders the mobilization of the **military** and military resources for immigration enforcement and border operations. It further limits humanitarian protection including asylum from those engaged in **"invasion"** making no exception for unaccompanied children.

Implications

While border crossings have been at their lowest since mid-2020, this order compounds the use of force against migrants. Many vulnerable people will be put further at risk in Remain in Mexico without access to asylum.



Executive Order Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program

What it is

This order suspends the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program (USRAP) ending the permanent resettlement pathways available to people who have already undergone rigorous vetting and waiting. This order suspends WelcomeCorps, the private-resettlement program as well.

Implications

The refugee resettlement program is in a dire situation as many organizations have been ordered to stop their work. Flights have been cancelled. Our commitment to people who have waited abroad for years for this chance is ended.

What's Happened Already



Nationwide Expedited Removal

The EO, "Protecting the American People from Invasion" makes nationwide expedited removal i.e. fast-tracked deportation without a hearing before a judge effective immediately throughout the country unless someone can prove they have been here 2-years or more. Effective 1/21



Suspending Refugee Resettlement

The EO, "Realigning...the Refugee Resettlement Admissions Program" temporarily suspends the refugee resettlement program which puts in jeopardy the resettlement of thousands Effective 1/21



Suspending Asylum at the Border

The EO "Securing Our Borders" effectively eliminates access to asylum at the border. It makes the Migrant Protection Protocols (Remain in Mexico) the only remaining alternative. Effective 1/21



Rolling Back Sensitive Location Memo

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) "Enforcement Actions in or at Protected Areas" revokes previous guidance regarding enforcement actions at or near churches, schools, and hospitals. Effective 1/21



Passage of the Laken Riley Act

This legislation expands "mandatory detention"—detention without a bond hearing—to apply to certain offenses, even if the person accused was never charged or convicted.

What can you do?

Mobilize

Build robust networks with community-based organizations in your area. Share resources, strategize, and stay alert together to prevent feeling isolated. You're not alone.

Use this time to strengthen internal policies and operations in your place of worship.

Accompany

Many people in our communities are experiencing trauma and may feel afraid about what this all means for them and their families. They may not be open about their status.

You don't need to know someone's immigration status to offer them support. You can make resources, like know-your-rights workshops, pamphlets, and tool-kits like family preparation plans available to people in your community.

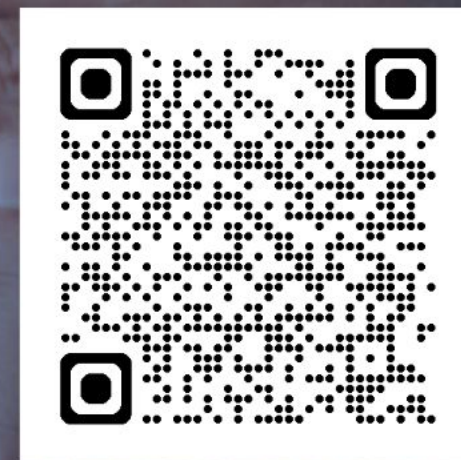
Act

You can raise your voice locally with your school board, county, and sheriffs. You can raise it nationally with your elected representatives including your two Senators and member of Congress.

Pray

Lead a sermon, Bible-study, or small group prayer around the themes of immigration and welcoming the stranger.

SCAN ME



for we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7