



Immigration Action Guide for Congregations

Does your Congregation want to take concrete action to support undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers? Do you know people in your community who want to take action beyond protesting?

Opportunities to help range from supporting someone in a local court appearance to holding a bond fundraiser for an asylum seeker.

Below are a listing of current opportunities to engage.

Become a Sanctuary Congregation

- The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) has a step-by-step guide on [how to become a Sanctuary Congregation](#)
- According to HIAS's how to guide referenced above, "Sanctuary is the act of protecting immigrants and preventing deportation. Sanctuary can be provided in different ways, and undertaken by a range of concerned groups, including congregations"

Court Accompaniment Opportunities*

- Attend a court hearing for an immigration or accompany someone to court
- This can show a judge that this person is supported in their community, which can impact the outcome of the hearings and increase odds of getting released on bond
- Congregations can receive requests to attend

Nueva Esperanza Program*

- Longer term programs, 3 months to a year
- Work with asylum seeker and help them find housing, job, English classes
- Often involves a team (4-5 people) supporting one immigrant or immigrant family
- There is a training available for interested participants

Letter Writing and Commissary Donation*

- Commit to writing letters to detained immigrants
- Add money into the person's commissary account so they can purchase things while being detained

Hold a Bond Fundraiser

- Bond can be \$15-20,000 in Texas
- Congregations can hold bond fundraisers, which could be concerts, silent auctions and other ideas
- The [Bay Area Immigration Bond Fund](#) supports local immigrants

Additional Trainings*

- If there is an interest, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity would be willing to have a training for various Sanctuary Congregations or community members interested in taking action

*For information, contact [Interfaith Movement For Human Integrity](#) at info@im4humanintegrity.org or 510-948-7899

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