



## Immigration Issues Resources:

### SCRIPTURES AND SACRED TEXT

The following sources can be incorporated into an interfaith text study on the issue of immigration:

#### **HEBREW BIBLE**

**Exodus 22:21, 23:9** “You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

**Deut.10:18** “G-d administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger...”

**Psalms 85:10, 89:14** “Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed.”

**Proverbs 31:8-9** “Speak, on behalf of... all the unwanted... pronounce a just verdict, uphold the rights of the oppressed.”

**Micah 6:8** “What is good...do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your G-d?”

**Zechariah 7:8-10** “Apply the law fairly, and practice kindness and compassion toward each other.”

**Deuteronomy 1:16** “Give the members of your community a fair hearing, and judge rightly between one person and another, whether citizen or resident alien.”

**Psalms 105** Remembering their sojourn: “When they were few in number, of little account, and strangers in it, wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people,”

**Ezekiel 47:21-22** “The aliens shall be to you as citizens, and shall also be allotted an inheritance.”

#### **CHRISTIAN NEW TESTAMENT**

**Matthew 25:31-46** “...I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

**Matthew 20:6-8** “Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.”

**Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:33** “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

**Matthew 25:31-36** “The Kingdom is for those who feed the hungry, welcome strangers.”

**Luke 3:11** “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none...”

**Luke 4:16-30** “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor...release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free.”

**Luke 10:30-37** “Parable of The Good Samaritan”

**Luke 12:48** “To whom much has been given, much will be required; to whom much has been entrusted, much will be demanded.”

**Luke 14:12-24** “Parable of the Great Banquet”

**Luke 16:19-31** “Parable of the Rich man and the Poor man at the gate.”

**Luke 18:1-8** “The widow who persevered until justice was done.”

**Romans 12:13** “Mark of the true Christian: “...Extend hospitality to strangers...”

**II Corinthians 8:13-15** “It is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need...”

**Ephesians 2:11-22** “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.”

#### **JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**

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*Pursuing a Just Society and a Secure Jewish Future*

**Hebrews 11** "By faith Abraham...set out for a place...not knowing where he was going."  
**Hebrews 13:1-2** "...show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels..."  
**James 2:5** "Has not God chosen the poor in the world..."  
**James 2:14-17** "What good is it...if you say you have faith but do not have works?"  
**I John 3:18** "...Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."  
**I John 4:7-21** "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God... We love because God first loved us."  
**Romans 12:21** "Overcome evil with good."  
**Galatians 5:13-14** "...do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence."  
**I Corinthians 3:6-9** "Each will receive wages according to the labour of each."  
**I Corinthians 12:26** "If one member suffers, all suffer."  
**2 Corinthians 8:13-15** "...it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need."  
**Philippians 2:3-4** "Do nothing out of selfish ambition...Look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."  
**James 5:4** "The wages of labourers kept back by fraud cry out."  
**I Timothy 6:10** "For the love of money is the root of all evil."  
**II Timothy 1:7** "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love."  
**II Timothy 2:6** "The farmer that labours must receive the first rewards."  
**II Timothy 6:18-19** "Rich people are to be generous and ready to share."  
**1 John 4:20** "A person cannot love God without loving their neighbour."

## **THE HOLY QUR'AN**

**Holy Qur'an 4:36** "Do good to...those in need, neighbours who are near, neighbours who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer that you meet."  
**Holy Qur'an 5:8** "Be steadfast witnesses for God in equity, let not hatred of any people seduce you...Deal justly, that is your duty."  
**Holy Qur'an 24:22** "And let not those who possess dignity and ease among you swear not to give to the near of kind and to the needy, and to refugees for the cause of God."  
**Holy Qur'an 107** "Hast thou observed him who believes [makes a lie of] religion? That is he who repels the orphan, and urges not the feeding of the needy...Who would be seen (at worship) Yet refuse small kindnesses."

**The Rights of Neighbours & Respecting the Guest** - "Indeed whoever believes that Allah is All-Generous, Who provides for His creation and rewards those who are hospitable towards their guests, should look after his guest." Shaikh Abbas Qummi, Safinat al-Bihar, Bab Dhaif, Sunan ibn Maja, vol. 2, Haq al Jiwar (The Rights of Neighbors), Ikram al-Dhaif (Respecting the Guest).

## **BUDDHIST SOURCES**

**Metta Sutra:** "Even as a mother, at the risk of her own life, watches over and protects her only child, so with a boundless mind may I cherish all living things, suffusing love over the entire world – Above, below and all around, without limit; so may I cultivate an infinitive good will toward the whole world."

**Thich Nhat Hahn:** "When another person makes you [or another] suffer, it is because he suffers deeply within himself, and his suffering is spilling over. He does not need punishment; he needs help. That's the message he is sending."

“We are here to awaken from our illusion of separateness.”

“The essence of love and compassion is understanding, the ability to recognize the physical, material, and psychological suffering of others, to put ourselves 'inside the skin' of the other. We "go inside" their body, feelings, and mental formations, and witness for ourselves their suffering. Shallow observation as an outsider is not enough to see their suffering. We must become one with the subject of our observation. When we are in contact with another's suffering, a feeling of compassion is born in us. Compassion means, literally, 'to suffer with.'”

“When we come into contact with the other person, our thoughts and actions should express our mind of compassion, even if that person says and does things that are not easy to accept. We practice in this way until we see clearly that our love is not contingent upon the other person being lovable.”

## **HINDU SOURCES**

“The guest is a representative of God” – Hindu Taitiriya Upanishad (1.11.2-Tao)

“Relieve people in distress as speedily as you must release a fish from a dry rill [lest he die]. Deliver people from danger as quickly as you must free a sparrow from a tight noose. Be compassionate to orphans and relieve widows. Respect the old and help the poor.” (Tract of the Quiet Way)

## **BAHAI SOURCES**

“Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country; let him rather glory in this, that he loves his kind” (Words spoken to E. G. Browne, from his pen portrait of Bahá'u'lláh quoted in J. E. Esslemont, "*Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era*", 5th rev. ed. (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1987), pp. 39-40)

“Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch” - Bahá'u'lláh, *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, Bahá'í World Center, 1978, p.164

“Let your vision be world embracing....” - Bahá'u'lláh, *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, Bahá'í World Center, 1978, p.87.

“It is not for him to pride himself who loveth his own country, but rather for him who loveth the whole world. The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens.” Bahá'u'lláh, *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, Bahá'í World Center, 1978, p.164