



On Becoming the Migration Policy Program

By Anika Forrest



Immigration Reform. Justice for Immigrants. Migrant Protections. The world of immigrants rights uses many—often interchangeable—assertions to name the dignity owed to migrating individuals.

FCNL has grounded our advocacy in support of immigrant communities as part of our broader mission to advance peace and justice. In the case of the original Immigration and Refugee Program, FCNL began with the understanding of the Divine value of every human being and developed a program that intended to upend an immigration system rooted in militaristic, imperialistic, and racist structures.

But how do we capture that moral calling?

A program evolves, not just by assessing strategies, partnerships, achievements, or messaging, but through its framing of the work. Over time, one could say the Immigration and Refugee program experienced spirit-led discernment.

It was a process that started with unpacking the heart of FCNL's immigrant-related work and leading to the inclusive designation today: Migration Policy.

An overview of the Migration program's federal advocacy anchors its new name.

FCNL's advocacy of immigrants rights is influenced by the agenda of impacted communities and migrant groups. We've recently elevated a long-standing priority of creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented communities.

All migrants, including undocumented immigrants, are woven into the fabric of American life and are the bedrock of this nation. Legislative solutions are the

only moral and humane ways to permanently honor the plight of undocumented immigrants.

The Biden administration has named a pathway to citizenship as a cornerstone of its immigration platform. It also introduced flagship legislation, the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021 (H.R. 1177 and S. 348). The administration also issued an executive order to preserve and strengthen the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

DACA, which weathered aggressive assaults and legal challenges during the Trump administration, temporarily shields qualified young undocumented immigrants from deportation while also providing them with work authorizations. The Department of Homeland Security is currently promulgating a rule to ensure the longevity of DACA. *(continued on page 2)*



Justseeds artists Jess X. Chen and Roger Peet recently collaborated on an image to promote the #toimmigrantswithlove campaign, an online effort to encourage people to reach out to the immigrants in their lives and express their love and support.



Activists make a statement at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Photo from Seattle, Washington, FCNL Advocacy Corps organizer Karen Gamez.

On Becoming (from page 1)

The current Congress has negotiated a pathway to citizenship for several populations. The House of Representatives passed the Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6) in March 2021, which provides legislative solutions for DACA, Temporary Protected Status, and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients.

Similarly, the House passed the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R. 1603) and the Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376). The latter provides undocumented immigrants with work permits, protection from deportation, life-saving healthcare, and other benefits.

The Senate has not made progress on its companion bills to these House legislations. In the case of the Build Back Better Act, the Senate's iteration of the bill remains in question, and the strongest immigrant protections are being threatened by a procedural issue.

Too often, the importance of a pathway to citizenship has rivaled headlines about procedural roadblocks, political will, and congressional deal-making. Meaningful policy change is central to this work, but we cannot be blinded by processes, a litany of bills, or systems. We cannot ignore the human costs of congressional inaction.

Persistent faith, not platitudes. People, not politics. Organized power, not systems. That's the strength of our advocacy. Guided by an intention never to minimize the challenges, fear, or pain of every

individual who has emigrated—regardless of their status or social identifiers—FCNL's migration advocacy must be rooted in supporting real solutions for impacted communities.

Fittingly, this framework carries us into Spring Lobby Weekend 2022. Spring Lobby Weekend is a prime example of the powerful, collective advocacy informed by human narratives and an appreciation for the diverse experiences of immigrants. In March, hundreds of young adults will partner with FCNL as they participate in migration rights discussions and lobby their members of Congress on a pathway to citizenship.

The substance of our work holds fast to *The World We Seek* as we promote and respect the rights, safety, humanity, and dignity of all immigrants, refugees, and migrants. It calls us to center human experiences, the conditions that impact human security, and the freedom of movement.

The name Migration Policy emphasizes the experience of human mobility instead of institutional systems such as *immigration* and inclusively enfold the broad range of migrants in this portfolio. Additionally, it highlights FCNL's globalist approach, which synthesizes the precursors to emigration, the journey, and reception upon arrival, which, after all, is migration.

Anika Forrest is FCNL's legislative manager for migration policy. [f](#)

For Dover Friends Meeting, Sanctuary Ministry Is Faith in Action

By Alex Frandsen



Quakers are known for translating their faith into action. Few communities had embodied that commitment more fully than Dover Friends Meeting in New Hampshire and their engagement with sanctuary ministry.

The immigration system in the United States, rooted deeply in white supremacy and racism, has been an intense focus of advocates for decades. But in 2017, as President Donald Trump took office, the need for migration justice became more evident than ever before. In response, attendees of the Dover Friends Meeting decided they would begin taking concrete steps to create a place of refuge in their community.

"We see sanctuary in the current time as a continuation of a much longer tradition," said Maggie Fogarty, a member of Dover Friends Meeting and New Hampshire program director for the American Friends Service Committee.

As she explained, sanctuary entails caring for those who seek refuge from danger in its most basic form. In the 1970s, Friends across the nation provided sanctuary to those fleeing danger in Central America—a threat that, as Fogarty noted, often had its roots in U.S. interventionism.

Members of Dover Friends Meeting had become close with immigrant neighbors before President Trump took office. Through these relationships, they became familiar with the perils presented by the U.S. immigration

system. But with the Trump administration in power, the situation quickly became urgent.

An Indonesian family that several Dover attendees had befriended had been seeking asylum for 20 years. But when the Trump administration took office, they were told by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that they had 30 days to purchase plane tickets, pack up their lives, and leave the country.

"We were there when they received this news, and we saw the shock and horror on their faces," said Fogarty. "It prompted a conversation at our next meeting: 'Are we able to provide safe harbor for our neighbors who are facing a real risk of being expelled from this country?'"

The answer was yes.

In September 2017, Dover Friends Meeting came to unity and agreed to use their meetinghouse as a refuge for individuals who decided to defy their deportation order. "We didn't have magical power," said Fogarty. "But we hoped the narrative of them seeking refuge in a house of faith would compel others in our community to see the rightness of defending these families. This would be our protest, and we hoped it would be unpalatable for immigration agents to break down the doors of a house of worship."

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Dover Friend Meetinghouse, built in 1768, is the only surviving 18th-century Quaker meetinghouse in New Hampshire. It is being renovated so it can continue to serve as a refuge.

Viewpoint: Leading with Faith and Resilience

By Dayana Maldonado



I was first introduced to FCNL in April 2019 during Spring Lobby Weekend, which focused on immigration reform. I absolutely loved the experience of meeting young people who were just as passionate as me to lobby on the critical immigration issues that need policy change.

From that experience, including several years of advocating with United We Dream and New Mexico Dream Team, I knew I wanted to engage in grassroots immigration policy. I became an Advocacy Corps organizer in 2020-2021. Now, I am the program assistant for the Migration Policy Program at FCNL.

My passion for organizing and advocacy for immigrant and human rights are rooted in my personal experience, starting at a young age.

I was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and arrived in the United States as a child with my family. Española, some 30 minutes from Santa Fe, New Mexico, became our



Dayana Maldonado (center) and her family.

new home. I knew my life would not be easy as I began a new path as an undocumented youth who couldn't help but fear being separated from my family and the only place I call home.

But as a person of faith, I was given the strength and hope to get through the toughest storms of life. Many limited opportunities were taken away because of my status, but I decided not to be limited by the imposed restrictions due to my status.

Growing up in an undocumented family meant growing up fast, facing many injustices at a young age, learning a second language, and translating for my parents. It meant picking up adult responsibilities earlier in life. Education became my pathway to protect myself and my family best.

Being an undocumented Latina and a first-generation college student in my family nurtured my resilience by engaging and fighting for human rights and humanity overall.

Today, I live in Washington, D.C., as a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient. My status is temporary—and inadequate—which is why a pathway to citizenship is critical. A pathway to citizenship would mean a permanent solution and liberation for millions of people like me who live with fear and uncertainty every day. It would mean I can fully integrate my daily life, plan for my future, and access limited resources like education and healthcare.

A pathway to citizenship means I can bloom without limits from the seeds my parents once planted when arriving in the United States.

My experiences have significantly influenced and clarified my future aspirations to use law as a tool to advance a humane, just, and inclusive U.S. immigration system. I am privileged to work in a faith-based advocacy that lifts my vision of a humane-centered and moral society.

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Q&A: Lethal Disregard for People on the Move

With Laurel Townhead

In December 2020, several Quaker organizations, including FCNL, released a joint “Quaker Statement on Migration,” which outlined a shared version for Friends’ work on migration policy. We spoke with Laurel Townhead, human rights and refugees representative for the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva, to learn more about her work and the process behind the document. Laurel, the main facilitator of the statement, attends Geneva Monthly Meeting in Switzerland.

How did you end up at QUNO? What drew you to immigration work?

A commitment to human rights brought me to QUNO as a program assistant, which brought me back to the organization as human rights and refugees representative in 2014.

A mix of things [drew me to migration work], including growing up in the north of England in what I now know is called a “host community” in the jargon, but was just my community. Also, a strong sense of the need not to only see human rights violations as things that happen elsewhere in other places, but to be active on human rights violations in my own country.

What role did you play in drafting the Quaker Statement on Migration?

I think shepherding is a good way of putting it. QUNO took on a convening role, bringing together people working on migration in the Quaker Council for European Affairs, Quaker Peace and Social Witness (of Britain Yearly Meeting), American Friends Service Committee, and, of course, FCNL.

Working with support from our dedicated and creative program assistants, I took our early discussions as a group, turning them into a draft for discussion. [We] then worked through various iterations, bringing issues and language proposed in our regular meetings.

What was the motivation behind the statement? Why was it important to have Quaker organizations from across the world come together on this?

To strengthen the foundation of our work by linking back to the Quaker faith grounding our organizations, putting words to what was explicitly “Quaker” in our motivations, and reflecting on how that shapes the manifestations of our work.



For me, it is a source of strength and accountability that when I speak on behalf of Friends in UN meetings, I do so by drawing on a shared understanding of what sister organizations might or might not say.

The first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) at the United Nations is coming in May. What are your hopes for the event?

If I had to boil it down to two aims, it would be that the IMRF at the global level acknowledges the harms of many migration policies and makes a collective commitment to do better for migrants and their communities.

At the national level, I hope it nudges governments to increase action to deliver on the promise of people-centric migration governance they committed to in the 2016 Global Compact for Migration.

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Dover Friends (from page 3)

In the days after that agreement, Dover Friends began asking others in the community if they would join them in this sanctuary work.

It didn't take long for other faith congregations to sign on, and together they formed the Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition.

"All the partners in the coalition found ways to house people in need of refuge or walked with people working to make a home in the community. Whether it was driving lessons, helping find a job or an apartment, or even just companionship, we've strived to give support however we can," Fogarty said.

Ultimately, the Indonesian family didn't end up needing sanctuary, thanks to widespread public attention to their cause.

Faith and Resilience

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My policy platform represents and centralizes equity and the voices of impacted communities and their lived experiences.

Engaging with FCNL's network, creating meaningful relationships with members of Congress, and partnering with coalitions have allowed me to see firsthand how lawyers merge the legal and representation expertise with policy advocacy.

FCNL's approach to migration justice complements my commitment to immigration reform as an advocate and a future immigration lawyer.

But Dover Friends Meeting did end up housing one family of four and one woman in need of refuge. Overall, Fogarty estimates that the broader coalition, now nine congregations strong, has provided sanctuary for roughly 20 people.

Even with a leadership change in the White House, the need for sanctuary has persisted, and Dover Friends Meeting remains committed to sanctuary ministry. Currently, they are renovating their meetinghouse so that it meets fire codes and can continue to serve as a place of refuge.

The process of providing sanctuary has only deepened the faith of people like Fogarty. "Seeing how our [immigrant] neighbors tap into their faith and strength has had a very positive impact. I'm awed

I am very hopeful that now is a historic moment to establish long-overdue justice for our immigrant communities, asylum seekers, and refugees.

Close to my heart, I will continue to stress that our undocumented neighbors deserve to be honored and recognized as something we all are: Americans— individuals who work hard and contribute to this country and, most importantly, live each day as resilient, courageous human beings.

Dayama Maldonado is FCNL's program assistant, Migration Policy. 

by the strength of spirit of those who have dealt with such awful situations yet still show up with love," she said.

"In work like this, we have to embrace challenges to our conceptions of power constantly. It requires a whole lot of listening to each other. Be prepared to work in community and to learn together."

Alex Frandsen is FCNL's communications strategist. 



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Q&A with Laurel Townhead (from page 5)**How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your views on migration justice?**

I think it has mainly served to bring into sharper relief many of the concerns I already had—around intersecting forms of discrimination, including racism, about the treatment of undocumented people, about what the High Commissioner for Human Rights has called lethal disregard for people on the move.

It also highlights a gap in responding coherently as an international community to public health challenges while limiting the human cost to migrants. More thinking is needed on how countries work together, in these pandemic and future pandemics, to maintain mobility in ways that are evidence-based, cognizant of the impacts of vaccine inequality, in line with international law, and which seek to honor the dignity and uphold the rights of migrants and their communities.

Is there anything unique about the Quaker faith that you believe equips Friends for work on migration?

While I don't think it is unique for Friends, I think that the deeply held belief in the sacred in all of us and the calling to honor that in everyone gives us a starting point. [It] connects us to individual people and their dignity rather than the labels that immigration systems put on them.

There is part of an Australian Yearly Meeting epistle from 1975 that I think encapsulates this well for me: "Are we aware of oppression and injustice that denies the full glow of the inner light to so many? Do we feel the hurt within ourselves, and our own Light diminish until we take action?"

Interview conducted by Alex Frandsen, FCNL's communications strategist. 

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FCNL Starts Discerning Priorities for 118th Congress



By Emma Hulbert

Every two years, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) asks Quaker communities to discern the most pressing legislative priorities for Congress. This input becomes the basis of FCNL's advocacy work for the coming Congress.

The discernment process for the 118th Congress (which starts in January 2023) began in January 2022 and will stay open for submissions until April 12. The Policy Committee will continue discernment until November, when FCNL's 2023-2024 Legislative Priorities will be presented to the General Committee for further discernment and approval during its November 17–20 Annual Meeting.

To successfully engage in this process, here are some tips from Alex Stark, former clerk of FCNL's Policy Committee, and Deb Hejl, clerk of the Field Committee.

There's no one right way to participate!

Your Quaker community can choose any method of engagement—whether that's through a meeting for business or putting up poster boards where Friends can attach notes. You don't even have to be a part of a formal meeting; any Quaker-affiliated group can participate.

Divide your priorities into the "We Seek" categories

Framing your priorities around the categories outlined in FCNL's policy statement, "The World We Seek," helps the Policy Committee continue the discernment process.

Understand that FCNL relies on your worshipful discernment

FCNL relies on your discernment to guide the direction of our advocacy, and you, in turn, trust that FCNL to advocate on your behalf. The priorities process "underscores that FCNL is an organization built by and for a grassroots community of Quakers across the country," says Alex Stark.

Engage faithfully

This process is not only political; it is also profoundly faithful. This process asks Friends to seek divine guidance on what issues they feel called to prioritize.

Include many different perspectives

Encourage everyone in your community to participate, including children. This leads to richer discernment.

Be confident—we want to hear from you!

For more information, including how you can participate, visit www.fcnl.org/priorities.

Emma Hulbert is program assistant for Quaker outreach. 

Help Set FCNL's Lobbying Priorities

Your Quaker community can give input on FCNL's legislative priorities for the 118th Congress.

If you did not receive information in the mail, you can check out fcnl.org/priorities.

