

The U.S. Suffers a Migration Management Crisis—Not a Migration Crisis: Invest in Humane Solutions

The United States isn't facing a migration crisis—it's facing a migration management crisis. As asylum seekers and migrants flee escalating humanitarian tragedies worldwide—including wars, environmental disasters, and human rights abuses—U.S. policymakers have responded by restricting the fundamental right to seek asylum, forcibly expelling families to the harmful conditions from which they fled, and forcing at-risk populations from around the globe to wait in Mexico for entry into the United States.

As a Quaker organization, we believe God cherishes all of humanity. We seek migration policies that uphold a calling to love thy neighbor: no exceptions (Matthew 22:37-39).

Instead, we face a moral crisis defined by physical barriers, drones, and the nation's largest law enforcement agency stifling humanity at the U.S.-Mexico border. These militarized responses are inefficient and costly shortcuts, rather than the proven community-based migration management solutions the United States needs.

It's time for lawmakers to shift their harmful and fiscally irresponsible approach and provide trauma-informed support for those seeking safety and navigating our complex immigration system. We must uphold our asserted values as a nation of immigrants.

Congress should:

- » **Embrace humane and practical border policies.** U.S. border reception should integrate nonprofits and local stakeholders equipped to respond safely and humanely to the needs of migrating communities. Congress must not recreate policies, like the misused health code *Title 42* or the *Remain in Mexico policy*, which expel those in need of refuge.
- » **Rein in immigration detention and prioritize cost-efficient alternatives.** The U.S. funds 34,000 daily detention beds—the largest detention system in the world. The U.S. should invest in non-carceral, community-based alternatives to detention led by nonprofits.
- » **Fund \$800 million for the Shelter and Services Programs in the FY 2024 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.** The Shelter and Services Program supports community and faith organizations offering asylum seekers and migrants shelter, health services, transportation, legal and translation services, and more—fundamental aspects of migration management.

**Invest in
sustainable,
humane border
reception and
migration
management
solutions**

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Friends Committee on National Legislation

A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest

February Action: Drop-by Visit Checklist & Sample Script

The Friends Committee on National Legislation has learned from more than 80 years of lobbying on the Capitol Hill that one of the most powerful ways to make an impact is to meet face-to-face with members of Congress and their staff.

Please bring a message of peace and justice before your members of Congress when they are home during February recess, from February 19-23, 2022.

You can help make a meaningful and lasting difference in Washington, D.C. by advocating for an issue that matters to you with your member of Congress--and, visiting the local offices of your members of Congress can go a long way! **Have any questions? Email FCNL National Field Organizer at jbahena@fcnl.org**

Drop-by Visit Checklist

- Find the local office for your members of Congress [using this link](#). To update your contact information, Go to "Hello, NAME! > Update Information" in the navigation. Identify which offices for your Representative and two Senators work best for your schedule.
- Print this sample script to prepare what you want to say during your visits. You don't have to use it word-for-word, but it's helpful to have a plan before you visit the office.
- Go to fcnl.org/issues/just-immigration to print your issue-specific leave-behind to bring on your visits. You can choose one issue or several, just make sure to print enough copies!

After your visit, go to fcnl.org/dropby and tell us how it went! Reporting back to FCNL will help our legislative team as they follow-up with congressional offices back in DC. Please also send a thank you email to the member of Congress' office and [copy the office's immigration staffer](#).

SAMPLE SCRIPT FOR DROP-BY VISITS

Hi, my name is _____. I'm visiting today because I'm concerned about [issue you've chosen to speak with the congressional office about – refer to the issue leave-behind].

Could you please pass this document along to the staff member that works on [issue] and ask them to let me know [Representative ____ / Senator ____] position on this important issue? Can you give me the contact information of the staffer who works on this policy issue in your D.C. office?

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me.

(Please leave your contact information and tell the staffer that you'd like for the office to follow-up with you about their answer to your questions)