

Talking points:

- The current showdown at our Southern border is **not a U.S. immigration problem. It is a regional humanitarian crisis** which we as the largest and wealthiest nation in the region must address.
- The caravan is made up of [asylum seekers, not “migrants”](#)
- It is important to remember these families do not represent a crisis to the United States, rather **they represent an opportunity for the United States to live up to its highest ideals** by welcoming them and treating them with dignity and compassion. It is a human, and legal, right to seek asylum - the United States cannot reject those who come here for protection.
- Sending **U.S. Troops to the border is not only unnecessary but inhumane**. It is meeting an outstretched hand with a stick. The National Guard already deployed 2k troops in April. This is not addressing a security risk, but rather a political statement at taxpayers expense.
- **The proposed executive order by the administration banning entrance to these families is a cynical and immoral action**. There is no need to further militarize the border by sending additional troops or by closing the border to these asylum seekers. **Using the vulnerability of these families to feed the flames of xenophobia and fear is reprehensible**.
- Our President has threatened **to cut off foreign aid to Central American nations which is not only immoral, but counterproductive** and will lead toward [more caravans in the future](#). The U.S. must shift its foreign aid to the region from a primarily militarized, and security-focused approach to one that will improve livelihoods.
- **The United States must work to address the root causes of forced migration**. We should be investing in sustainable development such as education, jobs, etc. rather than arming and training police.

Background:

The United Church of Christ has long walked with Central American partners through [Global Ministries partners](#) in the region.

We expressed concern for the violence and impact of drug trade in Honduras in 2013 Synod resolution: <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=http://uccfiles.com/pdf/gs29-13.pdf>

In 2016, we joined many in lamenting the loss of the much beloved Honduran indigenous leader [Berta Cáceres](#), whose death highlighted both the violence and corruption in the country and whose life pointed the way forward if U.S. companies and U.S. policy shifted away from profit and security toward real concern for the region.

Other statements we've made related to the issue:

Statement from Bill

Lyons: http://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_conference_minister_let_s_stop_the_cycle_of_cruelty_at_the_border_10252018

Global Ministries article on Caravan: https://www.globalministries.org/the_migrant_caravan

[Keep families together!](#)

A Call to address the root

causes: http://www.ucc.org/a_just_peace_call_to_address_root_causes_of_immigration

UCC NIN grant recipient organization in Nogales http://www.ucc.org/nin_stories

Other links:

Recent UCC News piece on borderlands

http://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_churches_in_migrant_ministry_share_transformative_experiences_from_arizona_borderlands_10182018

LAWG Blog: Why Do They Leave? http://lawg.org/action-center/lawg-blog/69-general/2123-2018-10-24-20-24-31?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+LawgBlog+%28LAWG+Blog%29

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Church World Service-

- **Interfaith Talking Points:** <http://bit.ly/FaithCaravanTalkingPoints>
- **Call Tool to Share this Message with Members of Congress:** <http://greateras1.org/protectasylum>
- **CWS Statement on Caravan:** <https://greateras1.org/cws-demands-administration-uphold-the-right-of-all-people-fleeing-violence-to-seek-asylum-and-legal-protection/>
- **CWS Statement on Safe Third Country Agreement:** <https://greateras1.org/safe-third-country-agreement-would-endanger-refugees-families-seeking-protectio/>

Other partner statements:

UUSC <https://www.uusc.org/initiatives/honduras-human-rights/>

PCUSA <http://capwiz.com/pcusa/issues/alert/?alertid=80570761>

AFSC <https://www.afsc.org/action/stop-ice-and-cbp>