



Immigration Policy

American Jewish communities have a long history of supporting generous and fair immigration policies, deeply rooted in our own history of immigration. Our belief in the dignity of all human beings compels us to support generous and compassionate refugee resettlement policies and procedures, as well as legal status and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who contribute to our economic, social, and cultural fabric every day. Until permanent legal status is achieved, we support policies that bring undocumented immigrants out of the shadows to be more fully recognized as members of our society.

We urge alternatives to detention for civil immigration violations whenever possible; when detention is used, we believe that anything less than safe and humane treatment, with proper oversight, is unacceptable. We particularly abhor the use of detention for children, families, and vulnerable and traumatized populations, and believe that children should never be separated from their families.

We believe that immigrants have always been an asset to this country. Arguments to the contrary are based on fear and bigotry. We are deeply troubled by anti-immigrant rhetoric that vilifies and demonizes entire groups of people, recognizing that this language endangers the safety and security of all.

Understanding that security and compassion are not mutually exclusive values, JCRB|AJC also supports the right of the United States to secure its borders. The U.S. faces serious security challenges, and it is government's obligation to determine appropriate security measures. To address the changing reality of global migration, border security must be part of a comprehensive plan to reform our broken immigration system. However, while comprehensive immigration reform has failed time and time again in Congress, funding for border security has steadily increased. It is past time to address the other side of reform and find a solution for the millions of people who live and work in our communities every day.

Our Jewish values of welcoming the stranger support the understanding that a diverse and welcoming society is in the public's best interest. Generous and humane treatment of immigrants is not a suggestion in Judaism--it is an obligation. JCRB|AJC is committed to joining our partners from faith, ethnic, and civic groups in supporting solutions that provide dignity and opportunity for undocumented immigrants, as well as those seeking protection from persecution and violence. We stand in solidarity with our immigrant and refugee neighbors through advocacy, education, and programming.

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