

interfaithimmigration.org



**Call and Webinar will begin on
Monday, September 12th at 4 p.m. ET**

**For audio, please dial [\(641\) 715-3670](tel:(641)715-3670)
and enter access code **104402****

Audio Visual Link is at

<http://join.me/faith4immigration>

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions by **Deborah Lee**, Immigration Program Director- *Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity*
- **Stephen Deal**, *Regional Representative for Central America- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*
- **Daniella Burgi-Palomino**, *Senior Associate for Mexico, Migrant Rights and Border Issues- Latin American Working Group*

Central America – overall trends

UNICEF Alert on Central American Children (Aug. 2016)

- Apprehension of 26,000 unaccompanied minors + 29,700 persons in family units during 1st six months of 2016
- Data limitations
- Crossings/detentions along the US-Mexico border in FY 2016 are close to FY 2014 levels
- Detentions & deportations from southern Mexico continue at 2015 levels

Central America – root causes

- Poverty and economic desperation
- **Internal displacement & forced emigration because of violence**
- Forced displacement/emigration due to climate extremes
- Family reunification

Violence in Central America

2015 homicide rates in Northern Triangle countries

- El Salvador – 103 per 100,000
- Honduras – 57
- Guatemala – 30

Comparison: El Salvador & 100 largest US cities

Violence in Central America

Northern Triangle cities with highest homicide rates

- San Pedro Sula, Honduras – 111 per 100,000
- San Salvador, El Salvador – 108.5 per 100,000
- Distrito Federal, Honduras – 73.5 per 100,000

Source: Citizen Council for Public Security and Criminal Justice, “Caracas, Venezuela: The Most Violent City in the World”.

Central America – root causes

- Poverty and economic desperation
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- **Forced displacement/emigration due to climate extremes**
- Family reunification

Climate Extremes in Central America

- Extended drought is ending (*El Niño*)
- Concern about what the *La Niña* effect might do
- Fear of another extreme weather event like Tropical Depression 12E in Oct. 2011

Our faith and root causes

Guiding principles of ELCA's AMMPARO strategy:
accompaniment, awareness-building & **advocacy**

U.S. engagement with Northern Triangle countries
in Central America

- U.S. should support development, not militarization
- U.S. should involve civil society in implementation and oversight of projects, particularly those organizations who are working directly with the internally displaced & forced migrants

Learn more

- www.elca.org/ammparo
- www.elca.org/advocacy

- Questions:

Policy: Alaide Vilchis Ibarra, Alaide.Ibarra@elca.org

Programs: Mary Campbell, Mary.Campbell@elca.org

U.S. Response to Central American Refugees

- Limited recognition of protection needs in the region
- July 2016 USG Announcement
 - Expansion of CAM Minors Program
 - In country processing
 - Protection Transfer Agreement (PTA) w Costa Rica
- Not substitutes for urgency of cases



*Mural, La 72
migrant shelter,
Tenosique, Mexico,
LAWG July 2016*

U.S. Response to Central American Refugees

Mexico's Role in Denying Protections

- Increased enforcement w U.S. support
- Talk, little action on strengthening access to asylum

Siglo XXI, Detention Center, Tapachula, LAWG July 2016



UNHCR posters Tenosique, Mx- LAWG July 2016





*La 72 Migrant Shelter, Tenosique, Mexico-
LAWG, July 2016*

U.S. Response to Central American Refugees

- \$750 million aid package
- Military/security & economic dev. / institution-building aid
- Negative border enforcement conditions, positive human rights conditions
- Alliance for Prosperity-Civil society concerns



*Mural, La 72 migrant shelter,
Tenosique, Mexico, LAWG July 2016*

Taking action for comprehensive solutions

- **Tomorrow! Sept. 13th** Central America Day of Action
- White House Sign-On [Letter](#) to Pres. Obama
- Organizational Sign-on [Letter](#), Law Professor [Letter](#) for **TPS**



Local Responses to Central American Refugees and Migrants

- Court Accompaniers
- Accompaniment Teams to assist with resettlement
- Advocating for Local \$ for Legal Representation
- Transitional Housing, ESL and other support

JOIN THE 2016 PEOPLE of FAITH ROOT CAUSES PILGRIMAGE to HONDURAS

- **December 9-19, 2016: Exploring Root Causes & Root Solutions to Migration from Central America**
- We hope that participants are able to join the full 10 days, but it may be possible to attend from either Dec. 9-14, or 14-19, for certain exceptions.
- **Cost:** Cost for the full 10 days is approximately \$900, not including airfare.
- Led by Rev. Deborah Lee, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and Jose Artiga, SHARE El Salvador, and Radio Progreso, Honduras

VISITS:

- Indigenous community of Rio Blanco where Berta Caceres and COPINH have been organizing against the construction of dams
- Radio Progreso's 60th Anniversary Events & Human Rights Symposium
- Center for Deported Migrants
- Mothers of the Disappeared Migrants
- Community of Bajo Aguan where families have re-occupied Palm Oil plantations so that that they can support their families
- Indigenous Garifuna communities

Application Deadline is October 1st.

Email dlee@im4humanintegrity.org
for application form.

Additional Resources

- H.R. 5474-Bertha Caceres Human Rights in Honduras [Act](#)
- [H.R. 4646](#)/[S. 2540](#)-Fair Day in Court for Kids Act
- [S.3106](#) Secure the Northern Triangle Act
- LAWG- www.lawg.org, Daniella Burgi-Palomino, Dburgipalomino@lawg.org

Question/ Answer

Discussion/ Next Steps

IIC Contacts by organization

- **African American Ministers in Action:** Leslie Malachi, lmalachi@pfaw.org
- **American Baptist Home Mission Societies of the American Baptist Churches, USA:** Aundreia Alexander, Aundreia.Alexander@abhms.org
- **American Friends Service Committee:** Lia Lindsey, llindsey@afsc.org
- **American Jewish Committee:** Chelsea Hanson, hansonc@ajc.org
- **Bread for the World Institute:** Andrew Wainer, awainer@bread.org
- **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):** Sharon Stanley, sstanley@dhm.disciples.org
- **Christian Reformed Church** Kris Van Engen, kvanengen@crcna.org
- **Church of the Brethren:** Nate Hosler, nhosler@brethren.org
- **Church World Service:** Jen Smyers, jsmyers@cwsglobal.org
- **Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach:** Chloe Schwabe, cschwabe@columban.org
- **Conference of Major Superiors of Men:** Eli McCarthy emccarthy@cmsm.org
- **Daughters of Charity:** Mary Ellen Lacey, Maryellen.lacy@doc.org
- **Episcopal Church:** Katie Conway, kconway@episcopalchurch.org
- **Franciscan Action Network:** Marie Lucey, lucey@franciscanaction.org
- **Friends Committee on National Legislation:** Ruth Flower, flower@fcn1.org
- **HIAS:** Liza Lieberman, liza.lieberman@hias.org
- **Interfaith Worker Justice:** Michael Livingston, mlivingston@iwj.org
- **Irish Apostolate USA:** Geri Garvey, administrator@usairish.org
- **Islamic Information Center:** (currently no contact available)
- **Jesuit Refugee Service/USA,** Mary Small, msmall@jesuit.org
- **Jewish Council for Public Affairs:** Jill Borak, jborak@thejcpa.org
- **Leadership Conference of Women Religious:** Ann Scholz, SSND ascholz@lcwr.org
- **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service:** Brittney Nystrom, Bnystrom@lirs.org
- **Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns:** Judy Coode, jcoode@maryknoll.org
- **Mennonite Central Committee:** Tammy Alexander, TammyAlexander@mcc.org
- **Muslim Public Affairs Council:** Hoda Elshishtawy, hoda@mpac.org
- **Sisters of the Good Shepherd:** Larry Couch, lclobbyist@gsadvocacy.org
- **National Council of Churches:** Russell Meyer, rmeyer@floridachurches.org
- **National Council of Jewish Women:** Madeline Shepherd, madeline@ncjwdc.org
- **NETWORK Lobby:** Laura Peralta-Schulte LPeralta@networklobby.org
- **Pax Christi:** Anne-Louise Nadeau, anadeau@paxchristiusa.org
- **PICO:** Gordon Whitman, gwhitman@piconetwork.org
- **Presbyterian Church, USA:** Teresa Waggener, Teresa.Waggener@pcusa.org
- **Sisters of Mercy of the Americas:** Ryan Murphy, rmurphy@sistersofmercy.org
- **Sojourners:** Ivone Guillen, iguillen@sojo.net
- **3P Human Security:** Tom Brenneman, cooperativebydesign@gmail.com
- **T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights,** Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster rkahntroster@truah.org
- **Union for Reform Judaism:** Jonathan Edelman jedelman@rac.org
- **Unitarian Universalist Association:** Susan Leslie, sleslie@uua.org
- **United Church of Christ:** Rev. Mari Castellanos, castellm@ucc.org
- **United Methodist Church:** Bill Mefford, bmefford@umc-gbcs.org
- **UNITED SIKHS:** Anisha Singh, anisha.singh@unitedsikhs.org
- **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:** Kevin Appleby, kappleby@usccb.org
- **U.S. Jesuit Conference,** Shaina Aber, saber@jesuit.org
- **World Relief:** Jenny Hwang jhwang@worldrelief.org