

“EMBRACE”

FROM THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON (EDOW)

The **Episcopal Migrant Belonging, Resistance and Action Coalition** (EMBRACE) is a network of congregations, groups, and individuals in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. Through tangible **action**, we **resist** the dehumanization of and violence against our immigrant siblings and honor the dignity of every human being. We collaborate with churches and community-based groups to **organize** and **mobilize** congregations to meet basic needs, offer **solidarity** and **belonging** in times of vulnerability, and **proclaim publicly** the dignity and value of all.

Get Involved:

IMMIGRATION COURT WATCH and PRAYER VIGILS

Show solidarity with migrant neighbors at the immigration court in Hyattsville, Maryland, through your presence at the court. Serve as a civic witness to inform policy, advocacy, and awareness. Participate in regular prayer vigils outside the court. Speak and pray with migrants during a time of distress.

Contact: Marty Dickinson, martindickinson49@gmail.com

ACCOMPANIMENT

Accompany individuals and families to ICE check-ins and immigration court hearings to provide a supportive physical presence, emotional and logistical support, and witness in case of detention. Training required.

Contacts: Diane Paulsell, dcp.thbp@proton.me; Holly Kreutter, Hkreutts@hotmail.com

FAMILY PREPARATION

Meet one-on-one with families to review steps for creating a family emergency plan. Assist parents in completing forms to appoint a stand-by guardian who can step in to care for minor children if they are detained and power of attorney to protect their assets.

Contact: Dora Currea, paqcurr@proton.me

FAMILY SUPPORT

Support individual families impacted by detention or deportation of primary breadwinners. Connect families with available resources, accompany families, and provide emotional and spiritual support. Funding, orientation, and Spanish-speakers are available to support parish or mixed community support teams of 5-8 people.

Contacts: Thea Kayne, wildflower76@proton.me;
Deacon Nancy Stockbridge, nancystockbridge@comcast.net

COMMUNITY FOOD AND MATERIAL SUPPORT

Work with parishes and community partners to provide food, clothing, diapers, toys, and other family support to families in need. Mobilize congregations to collect, sort, package, and transport food.

Contact: Deacon Sally Ethelston, Diacono.Sarita@proton.me

PUBLIC WITNESS AND ADVOCACY

Organize and participate in prayer vigils and other advocacy activities on behalf of our migrant siblings. Build interfaith and community alliances to increase public witness for migration with dignity.

Contact: Michelle Dibblee, Missioner for Equity and Justice, mdibblee@edow.org

HYPER-LOCAL WORK IN MARYLAND: IMMIGRANTS RIGHTS COLLECTIVES

Immigrants Rights Collectives (IRCs) are all-volunteer groups providing local support to families, organizing rapid response and ICE watch efforts, and connecting with schools and business. Currently operating in PG County (PG IRC), Montgomery County (MoCo IRC), and Central Maryland (CM IRC). Training available, vetting required. Find out more online:

<https://sites.google.com/view/mocoirc/inicio-home>.

Contact: Diane Paulsell, dcp.thbp@proton.me

From Michelle Dibblee, EDOW Missioner for Equity & Justice, May 10, 2026