



LIRS

&



Present:

# AN UPDATE ON THE BORDER AND THE CARAVAN



# AN UPDATE ON THE BORDER AND THE CARAVAN



## Goals:

- Inform participants of the current situation on the border
- Provide information on how to get involved



# AN UPDATE ON THE BORDER AND THE CARAVAN



## Key Takeaways:

- People are still crossing the border and spend time in DHS custody.
- DHS is releasing high numbers of individuals at the border, including in El Paso and Phoenix
- Family separation is still happening.
- Unaccompanied children are coming to the United States in high numbers.



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## LIRS supports partners and churches who work on the border.

- Partners provided respite and welcome to reunified families;
- Ongoing case management for families in their new communities;
- Lutheran churches provide respite and welcome on an ongoing basis;
- Detention visitation;
- Advocacy focused on improving the US immigration system;
- Work with unaccompanied children in foster care



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## Bishop Jim Gonia's insights and observations from the border :

### Border Perspectives

# AMMPARO

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## ELCA AMMPARO Pro Bono Network

- CARA Dilley Pro Bono Project - Preparing people for credible fear interviews in Dilley



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## Update on the situation in Tijuana/San Diego

- Stephen Deal, ELCA Regional Representative





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## Congress

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) FY18 budget deadline **Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**
- What's on the line:
  - Border wall funds
  - Detention of families
  - Unchecked power at the border
  - Continued inhumane enforcement



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## What can you do?

- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> action in DC
- Call Members of Congress
  - (866) 940-2439
  - “reject any increases in funding for immigration enforcement and to ensure we uphold our moral and legal obligations to protect people from harm.”
  - “We need additional oversight of enforcement and investment in community-based alternatives to detention.”



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## A moment to show up

- **Dec 10<sup>th</sup> event in Tijuana**
  - Events from people of faith across the country
  - <https://migrantjustice.afsc.org>
- Find out more information through our **asylum pledge**
  - Speak the truth, accompany and advocate
  - <https://bit.ly/2PbvAbA>



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## Volunteer or donate

- Border Servant Corps
  - Amazon Wishlist- search "Border Servant Corps"
  - Gifts to:
    - Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey: 1010 East Yandell Dr, El Paso, TX 79902
    - Peace Lutheran Church: 1701 East Missouri Ave, Las Cruces, NM 8800
  - Volunteer: [HospitalityNM@gmail.com](mailto:HospitalityNM@gmail.com)
- Tijuana/San Diego Network
  - Volunteer: [volunteer@alotrolado.org](mailto:volunteer@alotrolado.org)





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## Volunteer or donate

- In Mexico
  - Legal: [zavila@alianzaamericas.org](mailto:zavila@alianzaamericas.org)
  - Not-legal: [holea@alianzaamericas.org](mailto:holea@alianzaamericas.org)
- In your community
  - ELCA AMMPARO network
  - Contact: [Mary.Campbell@elca.org](mailto:Mary.Campbell@elca.org)





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## Advocacy Updates: Seeking Asylum at the Border

- Legal Framework
- Mexico and United States Asylum Agreement
- Litigation Update: Presidential Proclamation and Interim Final Rule

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## More Opportunities

- December 3-5 Tijuana visit for legal professionals and teachers – contact Pastor Alexia Salvatierra,
- UN Migrant Day – Tuesday, December 18
  - Deliver the signed pledge to stand in solidarity with asylum-seekers
  - Las Posadas
- Late January Tijuana visit – if interested, email Mary Campbell
- For lawyers only, ELCA AMMPARO Pro Bono Lawyers Network, January 13-19, 2019





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## Detention Visitation

- Number of immigration detention facilities: **over 205**
- People detained each year (2017): **323,591**
- The United States possesses the **largest immigration detention system in the world**







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## What Can You Do?

- Compassionate visit to someone in immigration detention
- Become a Pen Pal and help break the isolation
- Participate in the Hope for the Holiday campaign



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## Hope for the Holidays 2018

- Write messages of hope and encouragement
- Donate to purchase gifts for children in detention
- Build new relationships over a shared meal

For more information, visit:  
[LIRS.org/Hope](https://LIRS.org/Hope)



## HOW TO SUPPORT LIRS



**Never before has our work been so important.**

Donations enable LIRS to reach further, support clients longer, and advocate more powerfully for those we serve.

Visit [www.lirs.org/donate](http://www.lirs.org/donate) to give today.

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## More opportunities to donate

- [You can donate to ELCA AMMPARO, which accompanies children and families in the U.S., in transit and in their countries of origin.](#)
- [You can donate to ELCA World Hunger, which supports the work of LIRS \(LIRS.org\).](#)







# **AN UPDATE ON THE BORDER AND THE CARAVAN**



**Questions?**

**Thank you for joining**