

POLICY PLATFORM

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE JUSTICE

PROGRESSIVE VALUE

Ensuring dignity, honor, and humane treatment for all immigrants and refugees, regardless of their origin.

ROOTED IN JUDAISM

“Remember that you [the Israelites] were once strangers in the land of Egypt,” we are told in the Book of Exodus. Welcome the stranger. Protect the weak. Jews went into Egypt to seek a better life. And when our hosts turned against us we sought a way out. We were expelled from our homeland repeatedly and found ourselves as refugees, seeking the comfort and protection of “host countries” that never once ensured acceptance or equality for the Jews living there. This is our history. The Torah leaves no ambiguity when it says that there should be one law for people native to the land and those who have immigrated to it, and our later teachings are equally clear that every person is entitled to dignity and honor.

Judaism leaves no room to treat immigrants or refugees differently just because they came here more recently.

REFLECTED IN ZIONISM

Zionism is a movement to return to the place to which we are Indigenous, after thousands of years of experiencing the world without it. We recognize that, too often, war, violence and persecution require other innocent people to leave their homelands seeking the opportunity, freedom and liberation and asylum we hoped the world would provide for us. As Americans, as progressives, as Jews and as Zionists, we also share an experience of immigration, both ancient and modern. While we, as Zionists, know the urgency of self-determination, as Americans we know that not all members of our Jewish nation can or will live in the Jewish state, and we dream of a world where we can all live freely anywhere we choose.

POSITION STATEMENTS

- **We support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and rights for DREAMERS—people who came to the U.S. as children and have lived here their whole life—including a path to citizenship.**
- We oppose any policies which cause immigrants or refugees to be treated without dignity or honor, including policies which detain people in inhumane conditions along the Southern border.
- **We know the need for asylum is greater than our current capacity to process asylum seekers. We support policies which prioritize treating people who are in the United State seeking asylum humanely, providing livable conditions and a timely process for their applications.**
- We oppose policies which treat some immigrants or refugees differently from others, especially those that differentiate based on where a person is coming from, their religion or ethnicity, or other immutable factors.
- **We support the work of cities to find housing for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers and encourage this work in other cities.**
- We support the work of many states to create offices to coordinate services for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, like Oregon and Illinois, and we oppose state-level legislation which creates cultures of fear for immigrants including mandating collaboration between local agencies and national immigration enforcement agencies. These policies often exacerbate bias in law enforcement and create unsafe conditions for legal immigrants and refugee communities.
- **We acknowledge that those seeking asylum are escaping untenable conditions - often fleeing violence that, for women and children, often manifests as sexual violence. Sending these asylum seekers back to their home countries is particularly inhumane.**