The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a faith-based organization grounded in Quaker beliefs respecting the dignity and worth of every person. Since 1917 AFSC has worked with war refugees and displaced persons worldwide.

The principles and recommendations in this refreshed, abbreviated edition of *A New Path: Toward Humane Immigration Policy* are grounded in AFSC’s history and values and in the voices of the communities with which we are deeply connected.

There are approximately 11 million undocumented people residing in the US. Humane immigration policy must include a mechanism for undocumented immigrants to gain citizenship in a fair, timely, and orderly fashion. At the same time, it must stop the detention and deportation system that has torn apart families, and instead ensure that the human rights of liberty and due process are enforced.

We urge principled and visionary leadership on effective immigration policies that embody the best of the nation’s values. The full version of *A New Path* can be found online at www.afsc.org/newpath.

### Principle One:
**DEVELOP HUMANE ECONOMIC POLICIES TO REDUCE FORCED MIGRATION**

*International economic policies, including trade agreements, need to be consistent with human rights, trade justice, and sustainable approaches to the environment and economic development in order to prevent labor displacement and its consequences such as forced economic migration.*

**Recommendations:**

- Fully respect the right of local and indigenous communities to develop, safeguard, and nurture their economies and the livelihoods of their people without interference from developed nations or transnational corporations.
- Respect the human and labor rights of all workers by stopping the use of trade agreements and structural adjustment policies that displace people and create a vulnerable labor force.
- Support and promote global economic policies that invest in and develop a sustainable and strong social infrastructure and healthy environment.
- Explore alternative forms of economic integration that are consistent with international human rights laws, cultural rights, and environmental protections.

“NAFTA was a lie. It did not fulfill its promise of more and better jobs, but on the contrary—now everything is more expensive: food, school supplies, transportation, everything.”

—Teresa Hernández, a maquiladora worker from Matamoros, Mexico
Principle Two:
PROTECT THE LABOR RIGHTS OF ALL WORKERS

All workers are entitled to humane policies that protect their labor and employment rights.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- End guest worker programs. Experience shows that past and present programs are characterized by extreme exploitation and abuse akin to human trafficking.
- Repeal employer sanctions which have only led to exploitation of workers and an underground market for fabricated documentation.
- End electronic worker verification systems and other means of keeping immigrant workers out of the workforce, such as I-9 audits that punish both immigrant workers and employers.
- Allow all workers to apply for and obtain Social Security numbers, and to receive benefits from the system to which they often contribute.

Principle Three:
DEVELOP A CLEAR PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

Inclusive measures must be enacted that lead to permanent residence and citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Eliminate cap on visas to end the years-long delay for those currently awaiting visas.
- Pass legislation that allows people who reside in the U.S. to apply immediately for permanent residence and a path to citizenship if they choose.
- Create opportunities for migration to the U.S. for people who plan to migrate but who have no relatives here to petition for them.
- Ensure that positive factors (e.g., family ties, community service) are always balanced against any negative factors (e.g., criminal record, immigration violations) when determining eligibility for status.

Principle Four:
RESPECT THE CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS

Immigrants, regardless of status, deserve the same civil and human rights as all U.S. residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- End arrests, detention, and deportation of immigrants.
- Eliminate all agreements between the Department of Homeland Security and local/county/state law enforcement agencies (287(g)/Secure Communities).
- Ensure the due process rights of immigrants in detention, deportation, or removal proceedings including access to legal representation, fair trials, meaningful and expedient judicial review, and an end to racial, ethnic, and religious profiling and other forms of illegal searches and seizures.
- Eliminate arbitrary, indefinite, or mandatory detention or other forms of abusive treatment and detention practices that separate family members; end all ICE detention contracts.
**Principle Five:**
**DEMILITARIZE THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER**

*End costly, ineffective, and inhumane policies that have heavily militarized the U.S.-Mexico border region and undermined the quality of life of border communities.*

**Recommendations:**
- Demilitarize the U.S.-Mexico border and cease all enforcement policies and practices that criminalize and punish immigrants and members of border communities. Prevent the extension of militarized border operations to the U.S.-Canada border and the interior of the nation.
- Roll back federal funding for Border Patrol personnel and reduce the excessive numbers of Border Patrol agents. Instead invest in oversight mechanisms for the Office of the Inspector General and other independent investigative bodies.
- Require border enforcement agencies and their respective agents to comply with and uphold local, national, and international laws and civil and human rights along the border region and in the interior of the country.
- Create policies for border authorities to facilitate orderly, expedited crossings at the ports of entry and improve infrastructure at the ports of entry in order to prevent long and costly waiting periods.

---

**Principle Six:**
**MAKE FAMILY REUNIFICATION A TOP PRIORITY**

*Recognize the distinctly important and valuable role of family ties by supporting the reunification of immigrant families in a way that equally respects both heterosexual and same-gender relationships.*

**Recommendations:**
- Meet the global demand of immigrants to be reunited with their families by eliminating the cap on the total number of family-based visas available and funding the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to expedite the immigration adjustment process.
- Provide the same benefits to same-gender partners that are available to heterosexual partners.
- Eliminate harsh obstacles to immigrating, including prohibitions on returning to the United States based on prior immigration history, past criminal records, and high-income requirements for immigrant sponsors.
- Eliminate restrictions on eligibility for spouses of deceased U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents and ensure that children can immigrate with parents. Allow applications to be filed from within the U.S. so that families are not separated due to consular processing requirements.
Principle Seven: Ensure that Immigrants and Refugees Have Access to Services

Our values should not be contingent on immigration status. Public programs and services to address needs like public health or to fulfill our societal sense of fairness and compassion should never be dependent on a person’s race, ethnicity, or place of birth.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Extend access to quality, affordable health care and social services to everyone, regardless of immigration status.
- Eliminate rules based on immigration status in determining eligibility for public benefits.
- Re-affirm protected access to public schools at K-12 levels, protect admission to higher education, and promote eligibility for in-state tuition to public universities along with access to financial aid.
- Provide adequate funding for refugee protection and resettlement.

AFSC’s New Path Principles
FULL DOCUMENT AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.AFSC.ORG/NEWPATH

1. Develop humane economic policies to reduce forced migration
2. Protect the labor rights of ALL workers
3. Develop a clear path to citizenship
4. Respect the civil and human rights of immigrants
5. Demilitarize the U.S.-Mexico border
6. Make family reunification a top priority
7. Ensure that immigrants and refugees have access to services

Get Involved!
WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Contact your Senators and Representatives to share your support for AFSC’s New Path Principles. Go to www.house.gov and www.senate.gov to find out who your representatives are and how to contact them.
- Write letters to the editor to your local newspaper supporting humane immigration policy reform.
- Share this document with friends, family, and members of your place of worship and civic groups.
- Stay updated on AFSC’s Campaign for Humane Immigration Policy by visiting www.afsc.org/immigrantsrights.
- Get involved with your local AFSC office. Visit http://afsc.org/where-we-work to find an office near you.

Did You Know?

- Due to laws passed in 1996, Legal Permanent Residents (Green Card holders) are barred from receiving most public benefits, including food stamps, TANF, Social Security and others for five years.
- Undocumented immigrants are completely barred from receiving nearly all public services and benefits, including those listed above.

2013