

FAITH4DACA SCOTUS

Tool-Kit March 2020

JOIN #Faith4DACA Prayers and Actions & Connect with the National [Home is Here Campaign](#) as we hear a decision from Supreme Court (SCOTUS) on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

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Introduction

Faith partnerships with DACA Recipients

Faith communities across traditions have repeatedly demonstrated an unwavering commitment to immigrant youth and their families. Faith communities have for years written [letters](#), made [statements](#), issued [comments](#) and [alerts](#), joined [Amicus briefs](#), engaged in national [actions](#), and supported [grassroots actions](#) in solidarity with DACA recipients and the DACA program.

Faith partners have likewise in recent months [called for swift passage](#) of the bipartisan [Dream and Promise Act](#), a unified and stand-alone legislation that would provide a path to citizenship for all Dreamers as well as Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders, which has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, but has not moved in the U.S. Senate.

Continued attacks on DACA

On Sept. 5th, 2017, the Trump administration terminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, no longer allowing new DACA eligible Americans to apply for DACA and impacting hundreds of thousands of youth. Immigrant youth across the country challenged the end of DACA, and now the highest court in the land will soon decide on the case.

In these uncertain times due to COVID 19, we are hearing that Supreme Court Justices, many at elevated risk of contracting the novel virus, wish to finalize pending cases by the end of April. Thus, a decision on DACA and a number of other high-profile cases are expected to come in less than a month.

The impact would be enormous

If DACA were to end, hundreds of thousands of people who are Americans in every way but their status would be vulnerable to deportation. People would eventually lose their work permits and their way to make a living. We cannot let this happen. We must use our voices to protect our community and let everyone know that #HomelsHere #DefendDACA #DACAHope.

People of faith are called to act

As we wait for the Supreme Court (SCOTUS) to announce their ruling on the future of DACA, thousands of DACA recipients remain in danger of losing their protected status and face potential deportation. We, as faith communities, must prepare to answer the call to take action in solidarity with DACA recipients and undocumented youth in response to whatever decision is made by the Supreme court and the aftermath.

We invite people of all faiths to stand in solidarity with immigrant youth by dedicating a time of prayer or testimony in support of DACA at your regular weekly worship service to pray with Dreamers and undocumented youth. As we spiritually prepare for the Supreme Court arguments, we must pray for the protection of undocumented youth in these dire moments.

We also encourage you to post your prayers on social media, invite dreamers to speak at your virtual worship sessions, and organize an online action to show the country that people of faith support undocumented youth through this critical moment.

Pre-Decision Actions

Join the Interfaith Immigration Coalition in [urging](#) the Supreme Court of the United States to delay a decision until it considers the impacts that any decision they make would have on families during the COVID-19 crisis

1. Urge Scotus To Stand With DACA Recipients And Delay Decision On DACA

- [#Faith4DACA Pre-Decision Tool-Kit](#)
- Find more graphics, videos, and content to share in this [toolkit](#) from the #HomelsHere campaign and United We Dream

2. Prepare A Statement Of Solidarity/ Press Release To Be Issued When A Decision Is Made

[Faith themed messaging to guide your response:](#)

People of every faith background are united in their condemnation of this Administration's consistent attacks on immigrant families and communities.

We have a moral obligation to use our voices when policies are implemented that destroy families and hurt individuals.

The Supreme Court's decision on DACA is not just about whether immigrant youth can work in the United States, but rather, if they can continue to participate in life in the homes and faith communities they grow up in.

SCOTUS should not leave DACA recipients at the mercy of an anti-immigrant administration.

No matter where someone came from or how they arrived, their life is of value and they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect — free to live without fear of being separated from their loved ones or displaced from their home; that's a core value of our faith traditions.

Rooted in the values and teachings of our diverse faiths, we urge the Senate to pass the *Dream and Promise Act of 2019* (H.R. 6). This legislation must be passed without the addition of more detention, deportation, and border militarization plans. These are unnecessary and harmful to our communities.

Congress should not balloon an already bloated immigration detention system, deportation force, or border militarization plan that separates families and harms American border communities.

Every day that passes with the Trump administration continuing to target DACA recipients, undocumented people and immigrant communities is a threat to all of us, the sanctity of family unity, and community wholeness in this country.

Press Release Template (for SCOTUS ruling for DACA termination)

Headline: [Faith organization decries Supreme Courts cruel decision to support the Trump administration's ending of DACA]

[FAITH ORGANIZATION] condemns the administration's decision to terminate. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) DACA protects individuals and families from the harms of a deadly detention and deportation force. It was more than a work permit.

The Supreme Court's decision top side with Trump, will put over 800,000 undocumented youth at heightened risk of deportation, without legal protections and bar them from renewing their work permits. As [PEOPLE OF FAITH] we believe in the dignity of human life and denounce a decision that supports the targeting of immigrants in our communities by this administration.

[INSERT QUOTE FROM LEADER OF YOUR ORGANIZATION describing the impact of this decision on DACA recipients, their families and communities and stating that separating these families and communities is a violation of American, moral, and faith values.]

[INSERT QUOTE FROM DACA recipient or family member of DACA recipient in your congregation or community and what it means to have to leave the U.S. and be deported to an unfamiliar country.

DACA was a testament to the power of youth organizing and remains the single most successful immigration victory the nation has seen. [INSERT QUOTE from DACA recipient or community leader about not giving up and continuing to organize to protect DACA recipients and all undocumented immigrants.]

[INSERT QUOTE FROM LEADER OF YOUR ORGANIZATION about concern with breaking up families and removing people from their communities. End by calling on Congress to act to protect DACA recipients and undocumented youth.]

Pre + Post-Decision Actions

Support #Faith4DACA and Join the #HomelsHere Campaign:
NOW is a critical time! President Trump has terminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and a decision on DACA is expected to come in less than a month. This could decide the fate of 800,000 young people protected from deportation by DACA. Here are 5 actions you can take after a decision:

1. Dedicate Prayer, Testimony Or A Message At Your Faith Community

- Share the stories of DACA recipients or undocumented youth to move your congregation and community to action in support of DACA #Faith4DACA. Contact your local United We Dream or other immigrant led organization for assistance.
- Stand in solidarity with DACA recipients by offering prayer with and for undocumented youth who are facing the unknown possibility of losing their protection from deportation
- Share and use [Prayer Resources Here](#), [Stories of DACA Recipients Here](#), [Quotes of DACA Recipients Here](#), [Interfaith DACA Prayer Litany](#)
- Promote the [8 Part DACA Lenten Devotional, with stories, actions, prayers](#)

The 8 Part DACA Lenten Devotional

Are you observing Lent?

If so, pray and learn with the 8-part #Faith4DACA devotional which includes stories from DACA recipients, reflections on scripture, prayer, and actions you and your community can take to protect DACA recipients. Download your copy here: bit.ly/DACALent2020 #Lent2020 #HomelsHere

The #Faith4DACA Lenten Devotional allows you to enter into a deeper partnership with Jesus and our 700,000+ DACAmented neighbors in the struggle for justice this season. Download your copy here: bit.ly/DACALent2020 #Lent2020 #HomelsHere

Journey towards justice this Lent. The #Faith4DACA devotional shares stories from #DACA recipients, reflections on scripture, prayers, and actions—strengthening our resolve to face an uncertain future with courage. Download your copy here: bit.ly/DACALent2020 #Lent2020 #HomelsHere

2. Organize/Join A Virtual Vigil Or Rally To Support DACA Recipients And Undocumented Youth

- Join the Home is Here virtual rally. 1pm the day after the decision is issued.
- Organize a public witness event to educate the broader public about the importance of protecting DACA, TPS, and DED.

- [How to organize a virtual vigil resources below](#) / [Media Resources Below](#)
- Join “Monday Morning DACA Prayers,” led by DACA leaders with allies, at 9:30-10 ET every Monday, and organize your own ways locally to build partnerships between DACA leaders and faith communities.
Call in at: 1 929 205 6099 or 669 900 6833, Meeting ID: 990 112 562
<https://zoom.us/j/990112562>

3. Engage On Social Media With #Faith4DACA and #Homeishere

- [SHARE THESE PRO-DACA GRAPHICS](#)
- 24hrs after the decision amplify the virtual #HomelsHere Rally, **text DACADecision to 877-877**
- Post A Prayer/video and promote your actions on your social media with #HomeisHere #Faith4DACA
- Join the Virtual Prayer Chain. Take over social media with our prayers with DACA recipients and undocumented youth:

Promoting the Virtual Prayer Chain

1. Record a video of yourself holding a printed, filled out #Faith4DACA [download page here](#)

Say: My name is _____ and I'm _____ (faith tradition)

I am from _____ (city, state)

I pray with DACA recipients because _____

2. Upload your video to Twitter with the hashtag #Faith4DACA and tag the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (@interfaithimm) and tweet at your members of Congress.

3. Post the video to Instagram and Facebook with #Faith4DACA. Make the post public on Facebook and tag Interfaith Immigration Coalition and your members of Congress!

- Share some sample media posts:
 - My faith community stands with DACAmented immigrant neighbors & call on Congress + @realDonaldTrump to #defendDACA #Faith4DACA
 - Faith communities urge @realDonaldTrump to #DefendDACA and protect 800,000 immigrant youth #Faith4DACA
 - People of faith call on @realDonaldTrump to #defendDACA + the 800,000 immigrant youth it protects #Faith4DACA
 - If @realDonaldTrump rescinds DACA 800,000 youth will be back at risk of deportation! We will not stand idly by! #Faith4DACA
 - With DACA, immigrant youth have been able to purchase homes and support their children. We have to #DefendDACA #Faith4DACA

- .@realDonaldTrump, make it clear that DACA will stay in place and immigrant youth are not under threat #Faith4DACA

4. Write An Opinion Editorial Or Letter To The Editor For Your Local Newspaper

- Writing for your local newspaper or your church newsletter is a great way to both educate your community members, demonstrate support for DACA recipients.
- [See Draft Op-Ed](#). For tips, go to www.theopedproject.org
- [See Draft Letter to the Editor](#), Here are [Tips on how to create an LTE Ladder](#)
- Contact media@interfaithimmigration.org for help with op-eds and LTEs

5. Connect With Your Elected Officials

- **Topline Messaging for Members of Congress**
 - Demand Trump halt deportations of DACA recipients
 - Demand Trump automatically extend DACA permits that expire in 2020 by 2 years
 - Pass the Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (HR6 and defund ICE & CBP)
 - Reject immigration-related proposals that seek to eliminate pathways to the country, create added barriers for immigrants, or increase enforcement attacks against immigrants.
 - Make a public statement in support of DACA recipients by sharing stories of DACA recipients and their families in statements, floor speeches, op-eds, and on social media.
- **Call your Senator at Capitol switchboard (202) 224-3121 and tell them to support DACA recipients.** **Call 3 times to connect to your 1 Representative and 2 Senators.

The Trump Administration's decision has wrought fear and uncertainty for millions of immigrants. This senseless injustice calls for immediate action in Congress. We urge you to support the Dream Act of 2019 (S.874) or the Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (HR6)- common-sense legislation that would provide a pathway to citizenship for people eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The cornerstone of responsible immigration reform is compassion and a firm foundation of principles and values.

- **Tweet at your senator/representative.**
Find your [Senators/Representatives'](#) Twitter handle here.
- **Sign The #FaithDACA Petition**
Between now and the end of June, the Supreme Court will announce its decision on the administration's efforts to cancel the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, which will affect the futures of hundreds of thousands of young adult immigrants.

We urge Congress to invest in permanent and healing solutions for DACA-mented youth and their families by passing a clean Dream Act in the Senate immediately, as expressed in the bi-partisan H.R. 6 and in S. 874, to give DACA recipients and eligible undocumented youth a pathway to citizenship.

Sign the #Faith4DACA petition to the Senate today: <http://bit.ly/Faith4DACApetition>

Promoting the #Faith4DACA Petition to the Senate

Ask the Senate to provide permanent security for the 800,000 eligible DACA recipients living in the U.S. Sign the #Faith4DACA petition here: <http://bit.ly/Faith4DACApetition> #HeretoStay #HomeisHere

During this week of action on behalf of DACA, encourage your faith community to sign the #Faith4DACA petition, which asks the Senate to protect Dreamers, their families, and other undocumented youth. Sign it here: <http://bit.ly/Faith4DACApetition> #HeretoStay #HomeisHere

Add your name! ✍️ Sign the #Faith4DACA petition to ask the Senate to give #DACA recipients and undocumented youth a pathway to citizenship. Learn more and sign the petition here: <http://bit.ly/Faith4DACApetition> #HeretoStay #HomeisHere

Immigrants deserve protection and a pathway to citizenship! Ask the Senate to bring the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (H.R. 6) and the Dream Act of 2019 (S.874) forward for a vote. Sign the #Faith4DACA petition here: <http://bit.ly/Faith4DACApetition> #HeretoStay #HomeisHere

Resources



How to Host a Virtual Interfaith Vigil

Hosting interfaith vigils—including virtual ones in this time of social distancing concerns--provides the opportunity for faith leaders to express how welcoming immigrants is part of all faith traditions, reflecting on the deep scriptural and spiritual roots of our work to support immigrants. Even small events, multiplied across the country, will send a powerful message to the Trump administration, Congress, and the Supreme Court that welcoming immigrants and DACAmented youth are moral issues that are important to people of faith and conscience.

Steps to a Successful Virtual Prayer Vigil:

- Coordinate a virtual prayer vigil with faith leaders, immigrants' rights groups, refugee resettlement agencies, immigrant leaders, community members, and if possible local elected leaders. Use Zoom or other available platforms to gather.
- Collect the social media identities of your key partners; including Twitter handles, Facebook sites, Instagram--or wherever are the primary ways that your partners virtually communicate and can influence primary targets/audiences.
- Identify the core leaders and speakers, make sure there are impacted people, including undocumented individuals and faith and interfaith organizations who are invited to help plan and speak at your gathering.
- Consider inviting elected officials including Representatives, Senators, City Council Members, or the Mayor to join your virtual discussion.
- Be clear about your goals, what you want to accomplish, and how many people you hope will join the event.
- If you can meet with a small group in person, identify the best location for the vigil, which is generally somewhere central in a symbolic memorial, state capitol, park or city hall. If

you are meeting only virtually, share images of key locations where decision makers work, or of locations symbolically important for dreamers.

- If you are meeting virtually, practice with your technology ahead of time, meet ahead with presenters online, and be sure all participants have the needed links for connecting. If you are having an allowable event with social distancing, apply for any permits needed for the location; reserve or order any equipment you'll need such as microphones, cameras, banners, candles, projectors; and make sure you can access electrical outlets.
- Choose a time of day best for attendance and media -- most news reports take place at 5-6 PM and 9-10 PM, so a few hours before those time blocks is best for press events.
- Promote the event through social media, public service announcements, flyers, websites, and congregation bulletins. Use creative imaging to catch attention!
- Agree on messaging and talking points.
- Encourage those who are dialing in to make signs that are consistent with your messaging and agreed upon ahead of time--and invite them to even "hold and show them" during your event to generate interest. Develop signage to share on your screen as you talk.
- Assign specific talking points to each speaker and ensure they have time limits.
- Invite the media by issuing a media advisory and following up with a press release after the event.
- Invite participants at the virtual vigil to be part of further action and advocacy by taking actions such as writing and calling the White House and their Representatives and Senators, posting their commitment for DACA recipients, inviting DACA recipients to testify in their virtual services, and more.

The set-up for the vigil should ensure that all faiths are respected and welcomed with awareness and consciousness. If you are holding an interfaith virtual event, drawing on multiple faith traditions and rituals can make vigils much more powerful, raising the creative and dramatic tension.

- Ask clergy attending (even virtually) to wear collars, stoles, robes and any other appropriate religious attire.

As social distancing allows, you may consider:

- Procession with candles to symbolic location. If your action is virtual, use images or a video to ask persons to "virtually process".
- A Prayer Wall with handwritten prayers for immigrants. If you are virtual, ask for prayers to be shared via chat.
- Lift up stories in sacred texts.
- Highlight passages in scripture and send electronically to Members of Congress.
- Collect and deliver prayers electronically to your Senators and Representatives.
- Make visuals – photos, drawings, art, etc.that show the consequences of the loss of DACA protections.

Sample Vigil Program:

- *Welcome*—a few words about the focus and purpose of your vigil. Why now? What's the concern? Who's affected? How can this vigil convince your members of Congress to support DACA? What values shape your faith traditions' response to these concerns? This may take the form of brief comments from one of your speakers, or a welcome and an opening prayer.

Music- Invite local musicians who share similar values to join your vigil, you can have them do one or two songs throughout the program. Choose songs that are connected to the cause, or songs that everyone knows and can sing along.

Opening Prayer—Ask clergy or key lay leader to open with a prayer song—A singer, choir or instrumentalist can perform, or a few singers can lead participants in singing.

Speaker—A personal story from a local community member of how the outdated and unjust immigration system has impacted families. More than one story can be integrated throughout the program as well. Creative Ritual: Integrate creative symbols or rituals from faith traditions that draw more attention to the importance of immigration reform (see above suggestions)

Prayer—One person may lead the prayers, or you might invite several faith leaders to pray according to their traditions. Involve vigil participants in praying a refrain throughout your prayer time, or pray in a circle so everyone has the opportunity to pray. Consider offering prayers in multiple languages.

Song & Closing—reiterate the focus and purpose of your vigil, and send participants off with a call to welcome newcomers and raise their voices in the public sphere to stop the deportations. Consider a procession or march to another symbolic and strategic location.

Media Resources

If you have planned a #Faith4DACA event or vigil, we encourage you to reach out and invite members of the media. Look online at the local publications or outlets you would like in attendance and search for past articles on immigration or refugees, then consider pitching your event to reporters who frequently cover those issues or other community issues if there is not a designated immigration or refugee reporter.

Consider inviting the editorial director at your local newspaper. By inviting members of the press, you will be able to further share our message of welcoming to a larger audience and also inspire local media to cover immigration issues more frequently in a positive way that highlights broad community support for DACAmented youth and TPS recipients.

To invite multiple members of the press, send a media advisory at least two full business days ahead of the event. Ideally, send the media advisory one week before the event and then again the day before your event.

Please see the draft pitch email for media invitation, as well as the media advisory below.

Draft Pitch Email for Media Invitation and Follow Up from Advisory

Hello,

I hope you are well! I wanted to let you know of a potential story opportunity in regards to the continued debate over the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), in CITY/STATE and the ongoing response from communities to protect the program and DACA recipients. On DATE, ORGANIZATION will host an interfaith vigil. Community leaders including LIST will join DACAmended youth, and other faith leaders to stand in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors and support DACA.

In light of the continued and heated political debate over DACA, we would like to highlight the human stories behind the program. Given your past articles highlighting immigrants in our communities, I would love to offer you an exclusive interview with the group next DATE if you are interested!

I have attached the invitation flyer to this email with a full list of individuals in the group, but please let me know if you are interested or if you have any questions!

Sincerely,
NAME

DATE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

NAME, PHONE NUMBER

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Date of Event, Time, Location

Local (Faith Group) Hosts (Vigil/Rally) to Welcome Immigrants in (Name of Town)

Your City Name, State Abbreviation – As the (City/Town Name) community seeks to demonstrate interfaith support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and DACAmended youth, leaders from (Organization/Congregation) will host (event type) to show support for the DACA. They will be joined by XX (list other special guests, especially clergy or elected officials). Participants will discuss how DACA and DACAmended youth positively impact the community. All participants will be available for interviews before and after the event.

WHAT: Event type with faith and community leaders to welcome immigrants

WHERE: Address of event

WHEN: Date and time of the event

SPEAKERS: List of all speakers and their titles

DETAILS: Add event details such as security (if applicable), special visuals (religious symbols, art pieces, etc.), or any other important event information.

Credit

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