

Evangelical Immigration Table

Council for Christian Colleges
and Universities

Ethics and Religious Liberty
Commission of the Southern
Baptist Convention

Korean Churches for
Community Development/Faith
and Community Empowerment

National Association of
Evangelicals

The Wesleyan Church

World Relief

October 30, 2018

Dear EIT Signatories,

You have probably seen the news about a large group of [migrants](#) making their way through Central America and Mexico, apparently seeking to reach the United States.

Within this large group of people, there are very likely some who will qualify for asylum under the [terms of U.S. law](#) and others who will not qualify. We encourage our government to respect and enforce our laws, which prohibit unlawful entry into the United States but which also allow individuals with a credible fear of harm to request asylum, whether at a port of entry or elsewhere on U.S. soil. Each individual should be afforded due process under the law and treated with respect, even for those who will be found not to be eligible to stay lawfully in the U.S. and are returned to their country of origin.

Beyond the role of the government, we encourage churches—both in the U.S. and in Latin America—to respond with Christ-like love to the vulnerable families and individuals who form this caravan. We are mindful of Jesus' words that when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and welcome the stranger, who are one of the least of these, we do so unto Jesus himself (Matthew 25). We are very encouraged to know that many churches are [already providing care](#) for immigrants in their communities, along with those who may arrive in the future.

As Christians, we know that [each of these individuals](#) is a person made in God's image with inherent dignity, a neighbor whom we are commanded to love. Our care for them is either love for a brother or sister in Christ—as is the case for many individuals from Central America—or a fragrant witness of the God we serve. We encourage the church to [pray](#) both for these vulnerable migrants and for the elected officials in each country, that God would grant them wisdom as they discern how to respond to these situations. Pray too for an end to the violence that has plagued so many communities in Central America.

We also invite you to continue to join us in calling for a comprehensive solution to our deeply broken immigration system, which limits our government's ability to effectively manage a large influx of asylum seekers and to protect those whose lives are in danger.

Sincerely,

Leith Anderson, President, National Association of Evangelicals

Scott Arbeiter, President, World Relief

Shirley V. Hoogstra, President, Council for Christian Colleges and Universities

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Hyepin Im, President & CEO, Korean Churches for Community
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Baptist Convention