

Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation December 2019 Update
Signs of Charity Rising amidst the Signs of the Times

The Sisters of Charity of New York Immigration Committee invites you to join them in prayer, advocacy and raising up the voices and stories of our migrant brothers and sisters. The *Remain in Mexico* order which sends those seeking asylum in the USA back to Mexico puts them in danger. Since *Remain in Mexico* has been in place, the numbers of unaccompanied minors crossing the border have increased. As people of faith and as faithful citizens, we call upon ourselves and those responsible for making and implementing policy and practices to be aware of this reality; to advocate with President Trump and Government officials and lawmakers that *Remain in Mexico* be rescinded; and, that we respond with compassion, integrity and justice to migrants fleeing from violence. We ask that all of us take time to: become aware of the complexities of the issue; get to know a person (or at least listen to their story) of what has made them flee their home country; and, address the root causes of migration. The Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of New York, with its educational, job and human development programs with youth, farmers, families, and others experiencing poverty and violence addresses root causes. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD_XPLTyG8I). Please do also!

Advocate for the United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act!

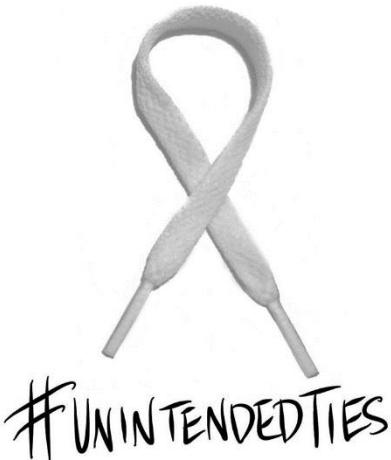
H.R.2615 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) which, passed in the House, is now in the Committee on Foreign Relations in the Senate. It authorizes foreign assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras (the Northern Triangle), and requires the Department of State to devise strategies to address economic development, corruption, and other issues in those countries. It also requires reports on various related topics, including factors that drive migrants from those countries to the United States. Please urge your Senators to advocate for a similar bill in Senate.

Sign up for information and action alerts at: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/>

Click on link to ask your U.S. Representative and Senators to End *Remain in Mexico*:

http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51250/c/200/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=26584

Accompaniment through New Sanctuary Coalition NYC – Spread the word that volunteers are needed to accompany the increasing numbers of people to their immigration and deportation hearings. We are grateful that John Alexander, PJIC Office IVC volunteer, accompanies people on a regular basis. For more information visit <https://www.newsanctuarynyc.org/>



US Shelters for Asylum Seekers Declare: There is

Room at the Inn. An explanation of #unintendedties is

given in the December 10, 2019 press release below. It is also on <https://www.facebook.com/Alitasprogram/>

LAREDO, TEXAS – Today, representatives of 31 US border shelters who have collectively provided temporary shelter to welcome over 320,000 asylum seekers in 2019 demand an end to the misleadingly named “Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP).” In a two-day meeting this weekend in Laredo, Texas, the shelters shared testimonies of the difficult decisions families make to leave their homes and seek safety for themselves and their children at the

border. We also discussed the extraordinary work of people of goodwill along the border who have volunteered their time and donated resources for asylum-seeking families because they are motivated by an understanding of our common humanity. Within our border communities, we reject the message that our capacity to help is overwhelmed.

Collectively, we are here to let the US government know that there is room in our inns.

Instead of allowing us to welcome these families, through MPP the US government is returning them to Mexico, where they face homelessness and danger from human traffickers and cartels.

As border shelters, we are ready to provide places of safety and welcome to asylum seekers. We know that when the US government returns families to Mexico to await court dates, the very process of return identifies them as targets for organized crime and heightens their risk of trafficking. US officials remove asylum seekers’ shoelaces purportedly so that they don’t harm themselves while in detention. But when they are sent back to Mexico, the cartels identify families with missing shoelaces as easy prey for kidnapping and trafficking. These unintended ties between US border policy and cartel violence harm families and strengthen organized crime. According to Human Rights First, there are 636 publicly reported cases of violent attacks against asylum seekers returned under MPP, and the vast majority of such attacks are not reported. We know from our firsthand experience that we can avoid feeding such violence by allowing families to seek asylum from within the US, instead of returning them to Mexico.

We, the representatives of 31 shelters are ready and eager to welcome asylum-seeking families. We oppose US government practice and policy that instead subject them to suffering and call on the US Administration and Congress to immediately end MPP.

Consider putting a shoelace in a prominent place in your home or office space this Christmas Season and into the New Year. May the shoelace be a reminder for us and those whom we welcome into our home or work space: to pray for; to raise up the stories; and to advocate for our migrant brothers and sisters, in our country, in Mexico, and throughout the world.

Submitted by Carol De Angelo, PJIC Director, December 16, 2019