

Thank you for tuning in.  
We will get started shortly.



# LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR: EPISCOPAL MONTH OF ACTION SERIES

Episcopal Action on Asylum Webinar  
*Tuesday, June 23, 2020 | 3:30-5:00pm ET*



*episcopal*  
MIGRATION MINISTRIES

# Housekeeping

- **Mute:** All audience lines are muted.
- **Recording:** Today's webinar will be made available online and in a follow-up email.
- **Participants' View:** Select Gallery View or Speaker View. Drag sides of the frame to change size of PPT or presenter.
- **Chat Box:** Send questions for panelists through the chat box. Be respectful and thoughtful in the words you choose.
- **Questions:** Please submit questions for any panelist using the chat box. We will respond to questions at designated times.
  - Be welcoming, considerate, and patient. We are all at different places in this work and everyone has something to offer and learn.
  - Personal attacks or insults, harassment, or discriminatory jokes and language will not be tolerated. EMM reserves the right to remove any person from the webinar who does not follow the rules of respectful conduct.

# Agenda

ABOUT TODAY'S WEBINAR

INTRODUCTIONS

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

BACKGROUND ON ASYLUM, CHANGES UNDER TRUMP ADMINISTRATION,  
NEW RULE

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR PANELISTS

HOW YOU CAN BE AN ADVOCATE

Q&A

ACTION TIME

# **About the LGLN Series and Today's Webinar**

# **Introductions of Today's Presenters & Panelists**

# **Prayer & Reflection**

*The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa*

# Background on Asylum



# International law & obligations to protect

- Formation of international law regarding protections
  - World War I - the advent of nation-states and statelessness.
  - World War II - sociopolitical movements that engaged in mass persecution and genocide.



*Memorial stone in the ruins of Auschwitz-Birkenau crematorium  
(Allison Duvall, May 2006)*

# International law & obligations to protect

## Geneva Convention 1951

- Key legal framework for refugee protections
- UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency)
- Defines refugee status
- Core principle of *non-refoulement*



Source: UN Archives

# International law & obligations to protect

## Protocols 1967

- Strengthened protections
- Countries cannot discriminate based on a refugee's race, religion, or country of origin
- Countries cannot penalize for illegal entry

U.S. is a signatory to the 1967  
Protocols; adopted Protocols into  
the 1980 Refugee Act



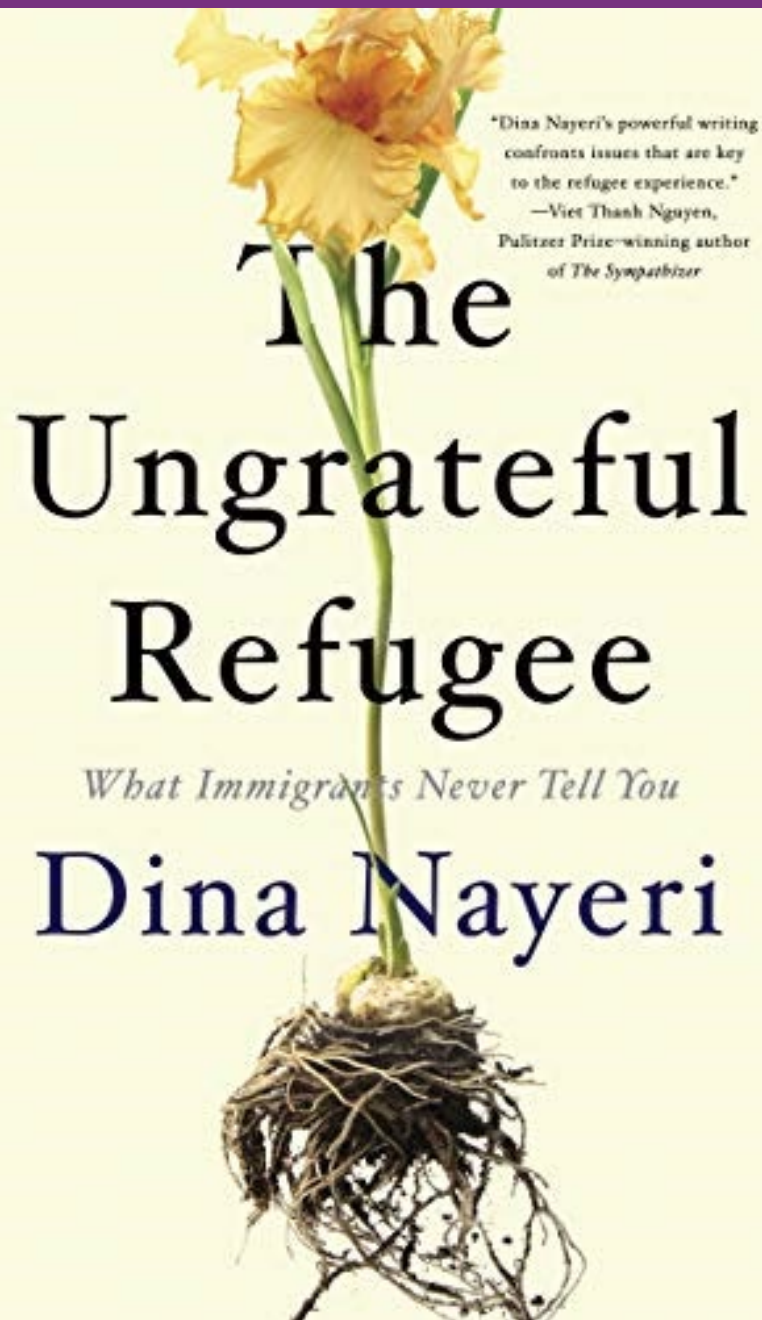
Honduran migrants move north after crossing the border from Honduras into Guatemala. (John Moore / Getty Images)



# U.S. Asylum Law – Two Asylum Processes

## Key Differences Between “Affirmative” and “Defensive” Asylum Process

Affirmative	Defensive
Individual <b>has not been placed in removal proceedings</b> before an Immigration Judge	Individual <b>has been placed in removal proceedings</b> before an Immigration Judge
Individual affirmatively submits Form I-589 to USCIS	Individual: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Is placed in removal proceedings by an Asylum Officer or for immigration violations; or</li><li>•EWI (entered without inspection) andd was found to have a credible fear of persecution or torture</li></ul>
Individual appears before a USCIS Asylum Officer for a <b>non-adversarial</b> interview	Individual appears before an Immigration Judge with the Executive Office for Immigration Review for an <b>adversarial, court-like hearing</b>



Dina Nayeri, author of  
*The Ungrateful Refugee: What  
Immigrants Never Tell You*

**Book Discussion Kit:**

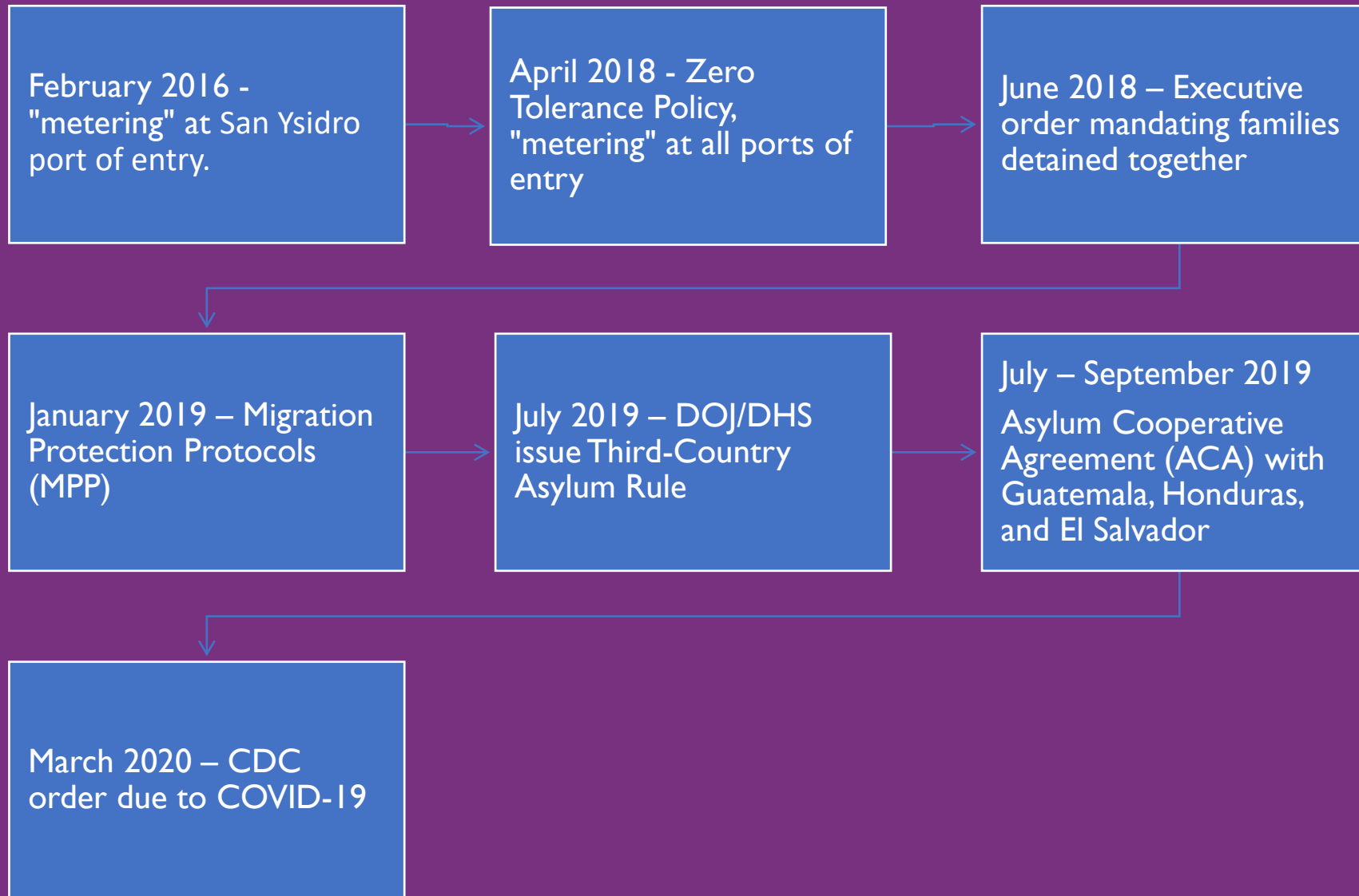
[episcopalmigrationministries.org/book-kits/](http://episcopalmigrationministries.org/book-kits/)

**EMM's Hometown Podcast episode  
featuring interview with Dina Nayeri:**

[episcopalmigrationministries.org/an-  
interview-with-dina-nayeri/](http://episcopalmigrationministries.org/an-interview-with-dina-nayeri/)

# **Changes under the Trump Administration**

# Asylum Policy Changes



# New Asylum Rule



- June 15, 2020: Trump administration announces new asylum rule
- DHS Statement: new rule will "more effectively separate baseless claims from meritorious ones. This would better ensure groundless claims do not delay or divert resources from deserving claims."

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security



# What the New Asylum Rule Does



Source: Interpress Service

- Narrows and Redefines "persecution"
- Broadens authority of immigration judges to dismiss asylum claims
- Define new negative and adverse factors

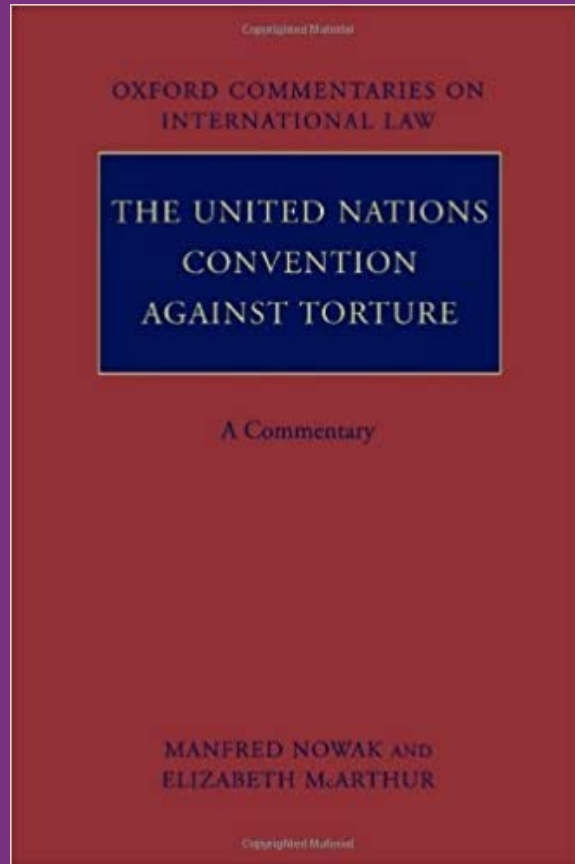
# What the New Asylum Rule Does



Source: Global Citizen

- Eliminates gender-based asylum for female domestic violence survivors and LGBTQ+ persons fleeing persecution
- Enable DHS officers to rule that an asylum application is "frivolous"
- Denies access to asylum to those persecuted by gangs and terrorists

# What the New Asylum Rule Does

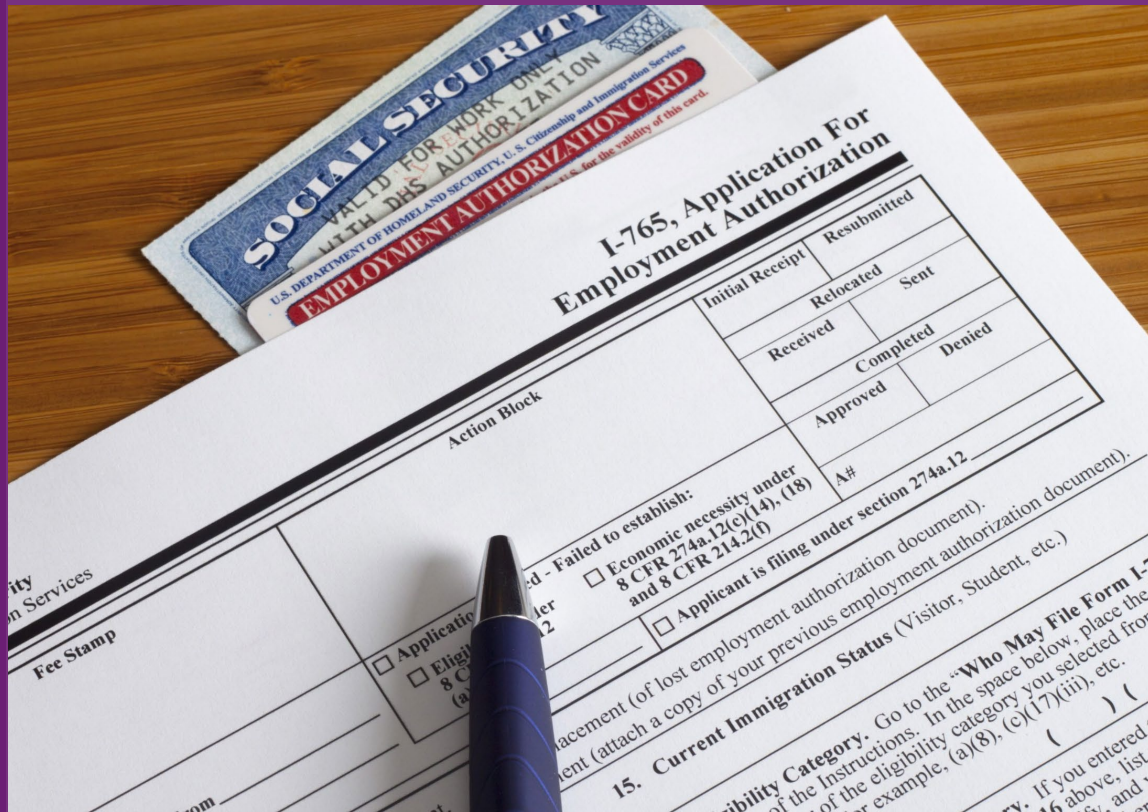


Source: Amazon.com

- Eliminate protection under the United Nations Convention Against Torture to persons who were tortured, physically or mentally, by the police or members of the military who are deemed as "rogue" officials acting "not under color of law."
- Make it harder for asylum-seekers in expedited removal proceedings to apply for withholding of removal when they have been barred from asylum by this Administration's existing changes to the asylum process.



# Denying Asylum Work Permits



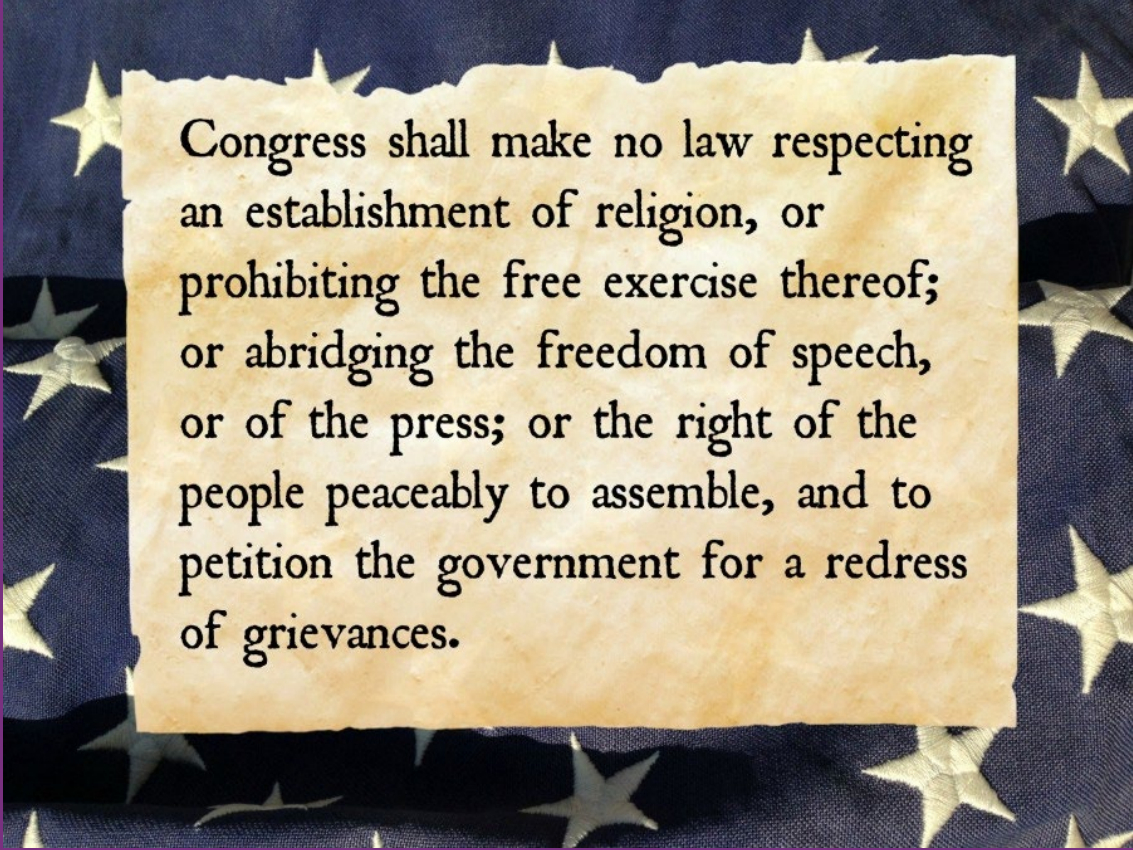
Source: Immigration Impact

- Asylum-seekers who do not cross into the country at a port of entry will be ineligible for a work permit in most cases.
- Delay work permits from 150 days to 365 days.
- Delaying asylum application beyond one year will disqualify asylum seekers from obtaining work permits.

# Conversation with our Panelists

# **How You Can Be an Advocate**

# What is Advocacy?



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Source: Scholars and Rogues

- Sharing your views with politicians to encourage them to take a certain course of action.
- Activity protected by the First Amendment: “petition the government for a redress of grievances.”



# Faith-Based Advocacy



Source: Newsweek

- Yes! It is constitutional!
- No, it does not violate the First Amendment
- Faith voices have played a crucial role in spurring social and political change throughout American history, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century anti-slavery movement to the modern-day immigrant rights movement.
- Your voice as a person of faith MATTERS.



# Advocacy in the Age of COVID-19



- The work goes on despite the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Many ways to engage:
  - Phone Calls
  - Emails
  - Post Cards

# How to Engage in Advocacy



Source: Human Rights First

Prepare to submit your comment:

- Who you are
- Why you care
- What you want

# Social Media Advocacy

“

**EVERYONE HAS THE  
RIGHT TO SEEK AND TO  
ENJOY IN OTHER  
COUNTRIES ASYLUM  
FROM PERSECUTION.**

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

”

Graphic: IRC

Post photos of your action on social media using the hashtags:

- #EpiscopalAdvocacy
- #Comments4Asylum
- #Faith4Asylum

Use our Asylum Action toolkit for tweet suggestions

# Practice Advocacy With Your Family



- **Discuss asylum as a family:** Why does this issue matter to you? What do you know about this issue?
- **Watch the UNHCR animated video “Who is an Asylum Seeker?”**
- **Draft a letter or postcard with your children.** Encourage them to be creative in expressing why this issue matters to them.
- **Participate in a family pledge to continue advocacy for asylum seekers.** Create a document outlining the ways your family can continue to be involved in ensuring protection for immigrants.

# Advocacy Action Steps on Asylum

- **Submit a public comment.** Submit your official comment on the Federal Register. Instructions for submitting an effective comment are available in the comment area.
- **Write a personal letter to comment on the proposed public rule.** Send a handwritten letter expressing why the U.S. must protect asylum seekers. Instructions in Advocacy Toolkit we will send to you.
- **Write to your Members of Congress.** Send an Action Alert through the Episcopal Public Policy Network to urge your members of Congress to protect access to asylum.

Q&A



# Time to Act



Source:  
[HIAS](#)

# Take Action

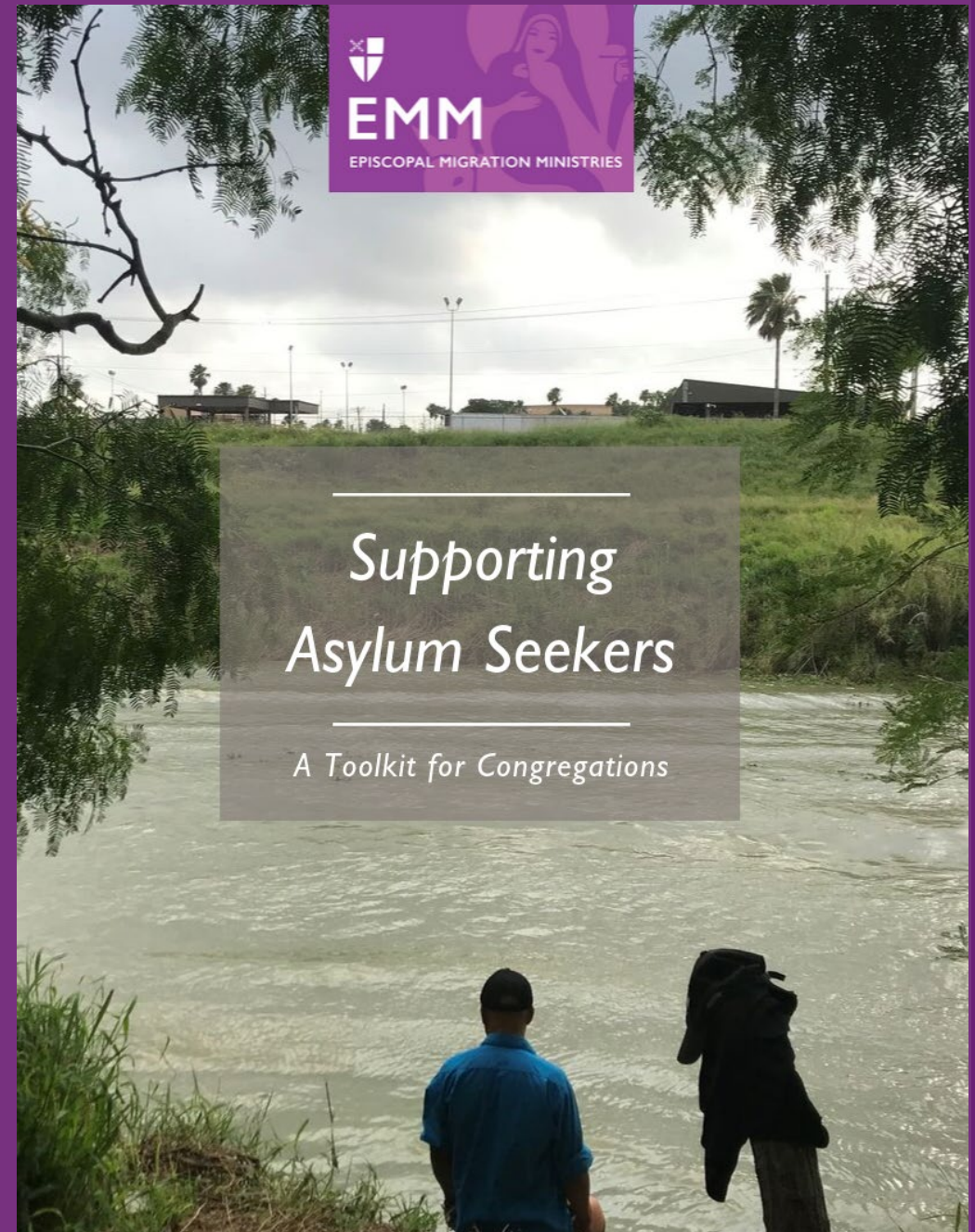
- Episcopal Asylum Action Toolkit
  - Will arrive to your inbox today!
- Submit your comment on the proposed rule.
- Submit the Action Alert
- Head to social media
  - #Comments4Asylum #Faith4Asylum #EpiscopalAdvocacy



# *Supporting Asylum Seekers:* A TOOLKIT FOR CONGREGATIONS

Request the toolkit: [bit.ly/EMMToolkit](https://bit.ly/EMMToolkit)

*Initial Organizing Meeting:  
Discerning an Episcopal  
Ministry Network on Asylum  
Monday, July 20, 12-1:15pm ET*





# EMM Book Club



Discussion Guides  
and Resources

Episcopal Migration Ministries offers these book discussion kits as a way to empower local congregations, book clubs, and other groups to learn more about immigrant communities and individuals.

Request:  
[www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/book-kits/](http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/book-kits/)

The logo features a stylized house silhouette in a light purple shade. The word "hometown" is written in a large, lowercase, serif font, with the "h" and "t" extending slightly outside the house's boundaries. Below it, "EMM" is written in a bold, uppercase, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES" is written in a smaller, uppercase, sans-serif font.

# hometown

**EMM**

EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES

The Hometown podcast features interviews with people resettled to the U.S. as refugees, history and background on refugee-producing countries, interviews with authors, and spiritual reflections from lay and clergy across the Church.

Listen on  
[www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/hometown/](http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/hometown/)

Subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Stitcher, SoundCloud, and Spotify.

# Closing Prayers

For an end to the violence and poverty that displaces so many people from their homes and homelands, we pray.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

For migrant workers that they may labour and live in safe and just conditions, we pray.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

For the families and children of migrant workers that they be reunited, we pray.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

For our lawmakers that they establish and enforce laws that protect the rights and dignity of everyone, especially those most vulnerable in our country, including Asylum Seekers, we pray.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

For employers and corporations that they choose the dignity and worth of each human person over profit and power, we pray.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

For our community and parishes that we may continue to serve those without homes and resources, and that we speak out for just immigration reform, we pray.

People: **God of love, hear our prayer.**

**All: Look with compassion, O gracious God, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**





## Episcopal Migration Ministries

episcopalmigrationministries.org

**Social Media:** @EMMRefugees

**Video:** [www.vimeo.com/EMMRefugees](http://www.vimeo.com/EMMRefugees)

Join *Partners in Welcome* today!

[www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/register](http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/register)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

*Thank you for joining us!*

