

# EVANGELICAL IMMIGRATION **table.**

In 2012, a number of evangelical leaders came together to draft and then publicly affirm an Evangelical Statement of Principles for Immigration Reform, recognizing that, while the Bible does not provide a specific prescription for U.S. immigration policy and Christians can respectfully disagree on the best legislative solutions to our country's immigration challenges, there are biblically informed principles that can prudentially guide lawmakers.

## **OUR MISSION**

*The Evangelical Immigration Table exists to encourage distinctly biblical thinking about issues of immigration, providing discipleship resources focused on immigration from a biblical and missional perspective as well as advocating for public policies consistent with biblical values.*

## **OUR PRINCIPLES**

*Our national immigration laws have created a moral, economic and political crisis in America. Initiatives to remedy this crisis have led to polarization and name calling in which opponents have misrepresented each other's positions as open borders and amnesty versus deportations of millions. This false choice has led to an unacceptable political stalemate at the federal level at a tragic human cost. We urge our nation's leaders to work together with the American people to pass immigration reform that embodies these key principles and that will make our nation proud.*

***As evangelical Christian leaders, we call for a bipartisan solution on immigration that:***

- ◆ Respects the God-given dignity of every person
- ◆ Protects the unity of the immediate family
- ◆ Respects the rule of law
- ◆ Guarantees secure national borders
- ◆ Ensures fairness to taxpayers
- ◆ Establishes a path toward legal status and/or citizenship for those who qualify and who wish to become permanent residents

Learn more and obtain resources at

**[www.evangelicalimmigrationtable.com](http://www.evangelicalimmigrationtable.com)**

# Immigration: A Short Practical Guide to Resources

## Scripture on Welcoming & Loving Immigrants

*'I am a stranger and an alien residing among you; give me property among you for a burying place, so that I may bury my dead out of my sight.'* Genesis 23:4

*"Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt."* Exodus 22:21

*"Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt. Exodus 23:9*

*The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. Lev.19:34*

*If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them as you would a foreigner and stranger, so they can continue to live among you. Do not take interest or any profit from them, but fear your God, so that they may continue to live among you. You must not lend them money at interest or sell them food at a profit. Leviticus 25:35-37*

*'Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow.' Then all the people shall say, 'Amen!'* Leviticus 27:19

*He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:18-19*

*Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns. Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin... Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Deut. 24:14-15,17*

*Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" Deuteronomy 27:19*

*When they were few in number, of little account, and strangers in the land, wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people, he allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account, saying, 'Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm.' 1 Chronicles 16:19-22*

*I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy, and I championed the cause of the stranger. I broke the fangs of the unrighteous, and made them drop their prey from their teeth. Job 29:15-17*

*The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. Psalm 146:9*

*For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever. Jeremiah 7:5-7*

*“This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.” Jer. 22:3*

*You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the aliens who reside among you and have begotten children among you. They shall be to you as citizens of Israel; with you they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. Ezekiel 47:22*

*Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another. Zechariah 7:9-10*

*You have heard that it was said, ‘you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy’. But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you. Matt 5:43-44*

*I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35*

*Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brethren you did it to me. Matthew 25:40*

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27*

*Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. Acts 10:34*

*He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Acts 17:26-27*

*Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Romans 12:13*

*Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8*

*Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Rom13:10*

*In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all. Colossians 3:11*

*Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Hebrews 13:1-3*

*Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the friends, even though they are strangers to you; they have testified to your love before the church. You do well to send them on in a manner worthy of God; for they began their journey for the sake of Christ, accepting no support from non-believers. Therefore we ought to support such people, so that they may become coworkers with the truth. 3 John 1:5*

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them." Revelation 21:3*

## **Local Ministries working with internationals in Memphis**

- **World Relief Memphis:** [www.worldrelief.org/memphis/](http://www.worldrelief.org/memphis/)  
Volunteer opportunities at WRM: <https://worldrelief.org/memphis/volunteer/>
- **Su Casa Family Ministries:** [www.sucasamemphis.org](http://www.sucasamemphis.org)
- **Citizenship Test practice questions:**  
[www.uscis.gov/citizenship/civics-practice-test-2008](http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/civics-practice-test-2008)

## **Names for different legal statuses of an international in the US:**

### **U.S. Citizen:**

- A person born in the U.S. or naturalized through a legal process, with full rights and privileges, including the right to vote and work without restrictions.

### **Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) or Green Card Holder:**

- Granted the right to live and work permanently in the United States.
- Holds a green card, which is evidence of LPR status.
- Not a U.S. citizen but has many of the rights and protections of a citizen.

### **Asylee:**

- Granted asylum, a form of protection, due to a well-founded fear of persecution in their home country.
- Eligible to work and may apply for permanent residency after one year.

### **Refugee:**

- Granted refugee status due to persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution.
- Admitted to the U.S. as a refugee and eligible to apply for permanent residency after one year.

### **Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Holder:**

- Granted temporary protection due to conditions in their home country, such as armed conflict or natural disaster.
- Allows individuals to live and work in the U.S. for a specific period.

### **Nonimmigrant Visa Holder:**

- Temporary status for individuals with specific purposes, such as tourism, work, study, or family visits.
- Examples include H-1B (for skilled workers), F-1 (for students), and B-2 (tourist visa).

### **DACA Recipient:**

- Granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, providing temporary relief from deportation and work authorization.
- Typically applies to individuals who arrived in the U.S. as children.

### **Undocumented/Unauthorized Immigrant:**

- Individuals who do not have legal authorization to reside or work in the U.S.

## **Legal categories of all displaced persons:**

- **Refugees:** A person who has fled their own country because the risks to their safety and life were so great that they felt they had no choice but to leave and seek safety outside their country because their own government cannot or will not protect them from those dangers.
- **Asylum Seekers:** A person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn't yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim.
- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Individuals who have been forced to flee their homes, like refugees, but they remain within the borders of their own country. They have not crossed an international border.
- **Stateless Persons:** Individuals who are not considered as nationals by any state. They may lack citizenship and the associated rights.

## **Difference between a refugee and asylum seeker:**

A refugee has already been granted refugee status after crossing an international border, while an asylum seeker is seeking protection but has not yet been formally recognized as a refugee and may be physically present in country where they are seeking asylum.

## **Difference between an asylum seeker and a asylee:**

The key difference is that an asylum seeker is in the process of seeking asylum, while an asylee has successfully obtained asylum and is officially recognized as having a well-founded fear of persecution.

## **Number of displaced people in the world today:**

- As of May 2023, more than 110 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations.
- 35.3 million refugees
- 62.5 million internally displaced people
- 5.4 million asylum seekers
- 5.2 million people in need of international protection.

## The meaning and usage of the term “migrant”

- The term "migrant" is a broad and general category that refers to a person who moves from one place to another, typically across borders or within a country.
- The reasons for migration can vary and may include factors such as seeking better economic opportunities, fleeing conflict or persecution, joining family members, or responding to environmental changes.
- There are two main types of migrants:
  - Internal Migrant:** An individual who moves within the borders of their own country. For example, someone moving from a rural area to a city for employment opportunities.
  - International Migrant:** An individual who crosses international borders when moving from one country to another. This can include individuals moving for various reasons, such as work, family reunification, or seeking asylum.

## Say "Welcome" in the 10 languages commonly used in the U.S.?:

- **English:** Welcome pronounced *wél kum*
- **Spanish:** Bienvenido/Bienvenida (masc./fem.) pronounced *byen-veh-nee-doh*
- **Chinese (Mandarin):** 欢迎 Huānyíng - pronounced *Hwan-Yíng*
- **Tagalog (Filipino):** Mabuhay: pronounced *Mah-boo-high*
- **Vietnamese:** Chào mừng: pronounced *Cow-moong*
- **Arabic:** أهلاً وسهلاً — Ahlan wa sahan: pronounced *Ah-lahn wa sah-lahn*
- **French:** Bienvenue pronounced *byan vuh-nuh*
- **Hindi:** स्वागत है (Swagat hai: pronounced *swuh-gut high*
- **Urdu:** خوش آمدید (Khush āmadīd: pronounced *kush ah-mah-deed*
- **Korean:** 환영합니다 Hwanyeonghamnida pronounced *hwan-young ham-nee-da*

## Movies about Refugees

- **The Swimmers** Sally El Hosaini (2022)
- **The Good Lie** by Philippe Falardeau (2014)
- **Amreeka** by Cherien Dabis (2009)
- **Between Earth and Sky** by Kalyanee Mam & David Mendez (2009)
- **Human Flow** by Ai Weiwei (2017)
- **The Breadwinner** by Nora Twomey (2017)
- **Salam Neighbor** by Optimist and 1001 Media (2015)
- **All Saints** by Steve Gomer (2017)

## **Ethnic Restaurants in the Memphis Area**

### **ASIAN**

- Kwik Check on Madison Ave (Bi Bim Bop)
- Lotus Thai on Bartlett Blvd (Lemon Grass Chk,
- Red Koi Japanese on Poplar Ave.
- Mosa Asian Bistro on White Station Rd.
- Pho Binh on Madison Ave.
- Lotus Vietnamese on Summer Ave.
- Dim Sum King on Summer Ave.

### **MIDDLE EASTERN**

- Casablanca on Poplar Ave
- Cedars on Germantown Pkwy
- Queen of Sheba on Summer Ave
- Aldar Cafe on Summer Ave.
- Ali Baba Mediterranean Grill on Raleigh Lagrange Rd
- Abyssinia Ethiopian Restaurant on Poplar Ave
- Castle on Park Ave.
- Flames Med. Grill on Highland

### **INDIAN**

- Mayuri on Quince
- Curry Bowl on Hacks Cross Rd.
- Golden India on Madison
- Hyderabad Biryani on Southwind Park Cove.
- Mantra Indian Grill in Germantown
- Cafe India on HacksCross Rd — lunch buffet

### **MEXICAN**

- La Guadalupana on Summer Ave.
- Los Comales on Summer Ave.
- Las Delicias on Quince and another on Park Ave.
- La Palapa on Summer Ave.
- Chile Verde Truck on Park Ave.



