



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service

Justice as Welcome:

**Immigration Detention & Community Based
Alternatives**

Justice as Welcome

Introduction

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Justice as Welcome

Who is coming to the United States?

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40.2 million | # of foreign-born people living in the United States.

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72% of newcomers living
in the United States are
doing so legally.

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In 2008, 1.1 million people applied
for legal permanent residence
status.

2/3 had family ties in the U.S.

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Top five countries of birth accounting for
39.5% of all Legal Permanent Residents

Mexico

China

India

Philippines

Cuba

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Key destinations of legal permanent residents

California

New York

Florida

Texas

New Jersey

Illinois

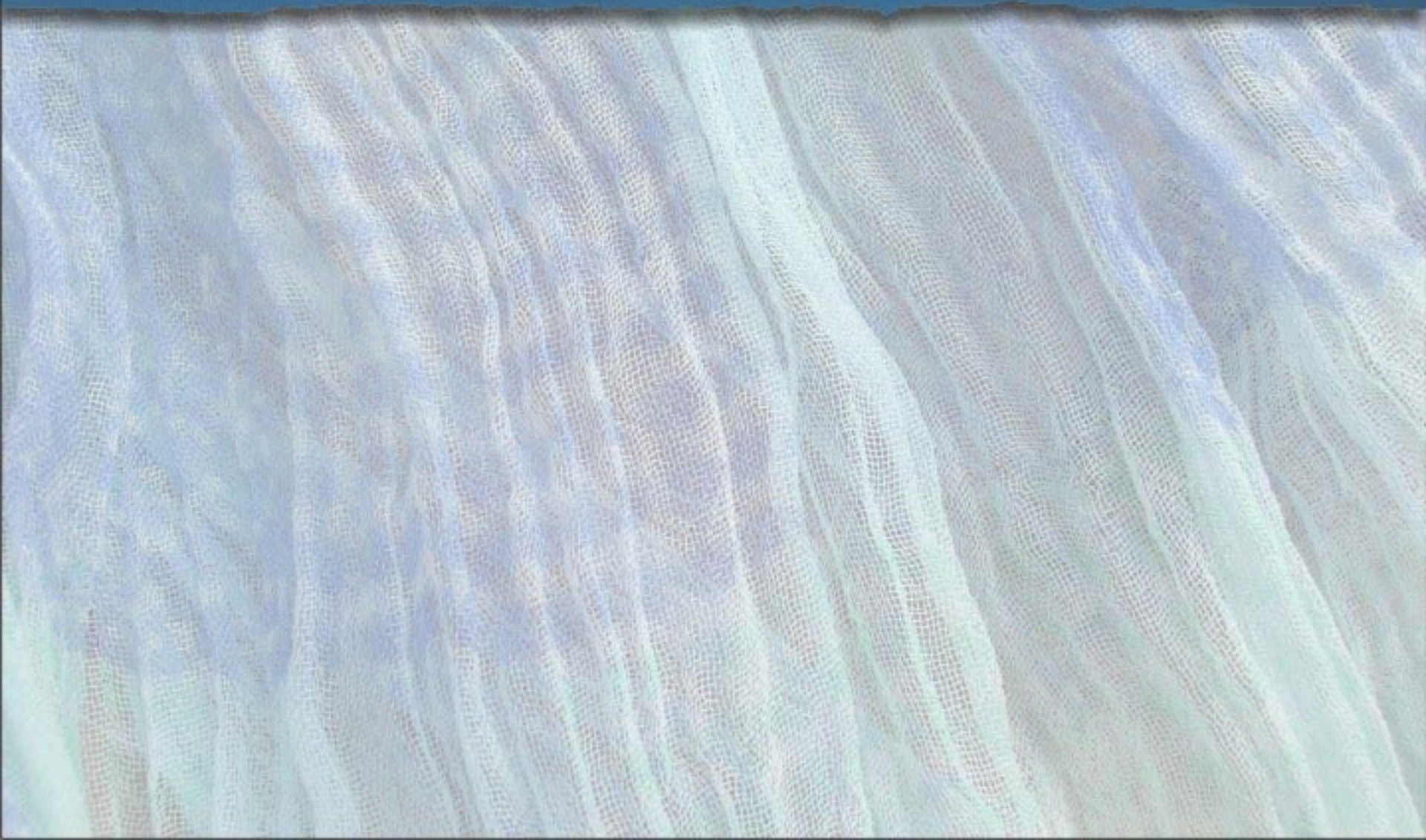
Refugees

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Definition | “Owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.”

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- In 2011, approximately 74,000 refugees came to the United States.
- Each year, approximately 50,000 – 70,000 refugees come at the invitation of the U.S. Congress and President of the United States
- 2012 Presidential Determination – 76,000



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Top three ethnic groups coming to the
United States through the refugee
resettlement program

Burmese | Bhutanese | Iraqi

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For nearly 75 years, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has been welcoming refugees. LIRS is the second largest of 9 refugee resettlement agencies in the United States.

Asylum Seekers

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Asylum Seeker definition | a person who, from fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, social group, or political opinion, has crossed an international frontier into a country in which he or she hopes to be granted refugee status

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In 2011, nearly 279,000 people sought asylum in the United States. What are the top 5 countries from which people sought asylum in the U.S.

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Afghanistan – 35,729

China – 24,446

Iraq – 23,469

Serbia – 21,246

Pakistan – 18,141

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In 2009, the number of people granted asylum in the United States was 22,119.

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Top 3 countries from which people are granted asylum in 2009:

- China – 6,100
- Ethiopia – 1,113
- Haiti - 998
- Others : Columbia, Iraq, Nepal, Venezuela, Guatemala, Russia, and Egypt

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Introduction to Detention in the United States

“The Least of These”

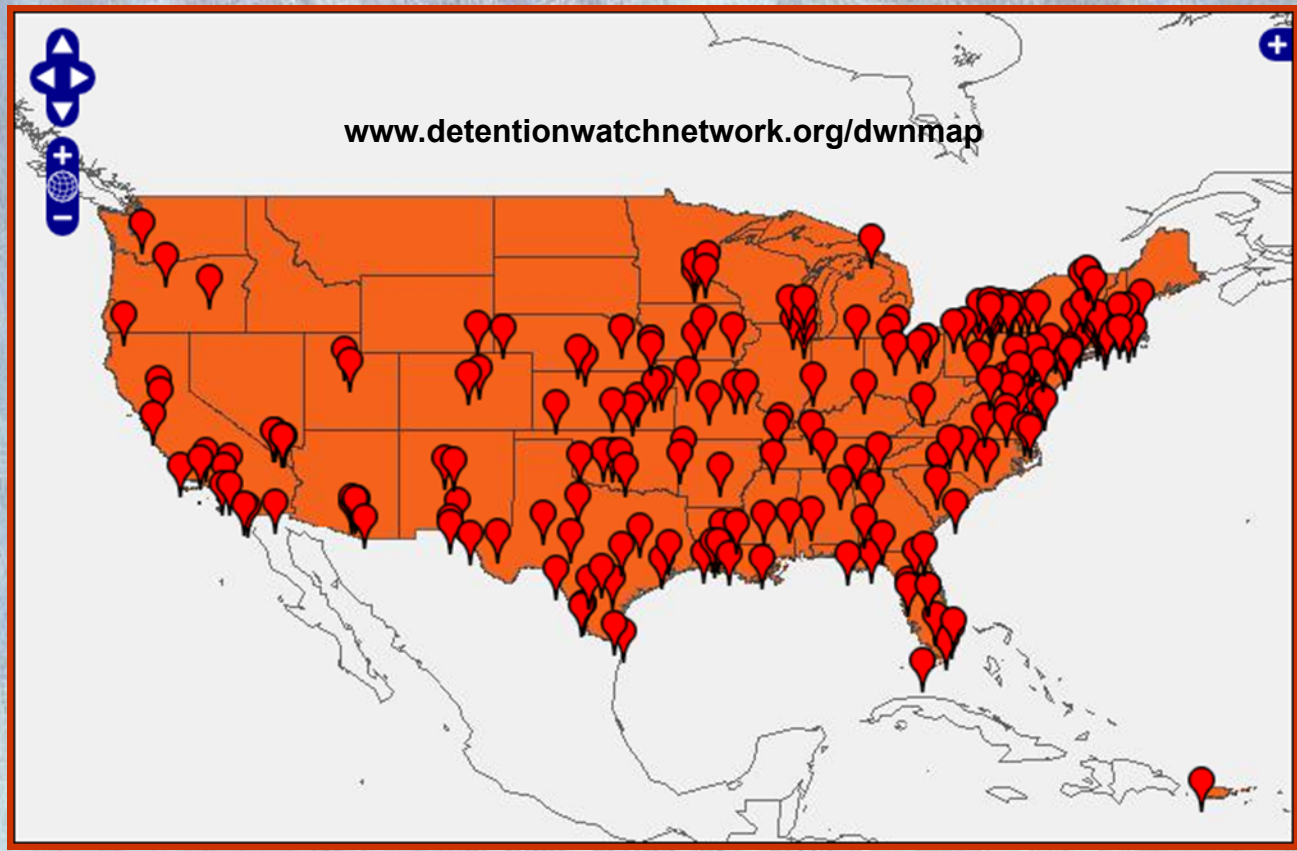
Detention in the United States

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By the Numbers

Immigration Detention & Alternatives

US Detention Centers



Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) uses over 250 facilities across the country to detain immigrants

On a daily basis, ICE is detaining over 33,000 people. This is 3X more than in 1996.

Immigration Detention & Alternatives

According to Detention Watch Network, last year 380,000 immigrants were detained, costing taxpayers \$1.7 billion at an average cost of \$122 per person, per day.

Since 2003, approximately 2 million people have spent time in a detention center.

Immigration Detention & Alternatives

The Washington Post has calculated that “with roughly 1.6 million immigrants in some stage of immigration proceedings, the government holds more detainees a night than Clarion Hotels have guests, operates nearly as many vehicles as Greyhound has buses and flies more people each day than do many small U.S. airlines.”

Who is profiting from increased detention?

ICE' s budget rose from \$2.4 billion in 2002 to \$5 billion in 2008.

In 2007, Corrections Corporation of America had record earnings of nearly \$1.5 billion.

Immigration Detention & Alternatives

A study conducted by the Vera Institute for Justice from 1997 to 2000 found that alternatives, at \$12/day, saved the federal government almost \$4,000 per person while showing a 91% appearance rate for individuals at their court hearings.

ICE spends only 3.7% of its budget on alternatives programs and uses overly punitive models.

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Who is welcomed to the United States and who is not?

What challenges to justice exist in the current US immigration system? In the hearts and minds of those in our churches and communities?

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How is working for justice a necessary accompaniment to acts of mercy?

What one thing can you do make a difference – nationally and/or locally?

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Visit

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
online at:

www.LIRS.org