

Social Justice Committee proposal to Hebrew Tabernacle Board

Resolution on Immigration Justice

We at Hebrew Tabernacle endorse this campaign and these principles from the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism:

Today, we face the enormous challenges posed by our nation's broken immigration system. Over 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the shadows of our communities across North America. Families face up to decades-long backlogs in acquiring visas, workers are left without protections, and children are left behind as parents are deported. We can no longer delay reform of our immigration system based on streamlined processing, a pathway to citizenship for DREAMers and TPS holders, upholding the right to seek asylum, family reunification, just and humane border security, and an end to immigrant detention.

Why Jews Should Care

Welcoming the stranger, or immigrant, is a core part of Jewish tradition, mentioned at least 36 times in the Hebrew Bible. Leviticus commands, "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (19:33-34). Our own people's history as "strangers" reminds us of the many struggles faced by immigrants today, and we affirm our commitment to create the same opportunities for today's immigrants that were so valuable to our own community not so many years ago.

Why Hebrew Tabernacle is committed to immigration justice

Our congregation was founded by Jewish immigrants and became a home for refugees from Hitler and survivors of the Holocaust, primarily from Germany. Our community includes 2nd and 3rd generations from this wave and families with more recent migrants from Latin America, Asia and Europe. We reside in Northern Manhattan, with the largest concentration of Dominicans outside the Dominican Republic, and we stand with all our immigrants neighbors and families.