

Safety Team of the COM Report to Presbytery 5/3/2025

Purpose - to create a tool box of resources that will help clergy, Sessions and congregations coordinate and develop relationships with one another and supportive organizations and agencies to offer aid to immigrants with and without status and the LGBTQ+ community as status and rights are dismantled.

The strategy is to seek the resources available across the three states of MA, RI and CT, coordinating with the Presbytery of Boston and the PCUSA.

The team is made up of COM/CPM members and also has representation from the immigrant and LGBTQ+ community.

A member is being equipped to provide legal advice with some financial support from PSNE. The Safety Team is looking for other free legal advisors.

If you have any concerns, questions, additions to the resource list or any other reason to contact the Safety Team, please make contact at safetyteam@psne.org.

The Safety Team has created the following list of resources:

IMMIGRATION/STATUS RESOURCES

GENERAL

In order to center those who are most at risk, congregations and groups working in your context may benefit from examining the bias implicit among you. The PCUSA suggests this resource and test, followed by discussion:

Take the bias test.

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

App for your Phone - Know Your Rights 4 Immigrants

PC(USA) RESOURCES:

For all immigration related issues:

pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/immigration-issues

The **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** office has an excellent and comprehensive listing and includes formats for churches to use for policies and private property signage and financial resources:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/s88xc9p5fcdnrd75i2194/PCUSA-Immigration-Asylum-Refugee-Immigrant-Defense-Resources.docx?rlkey=53rrbmvr6xslajs8xx2ks79t&e=1&st=mf10zgba&dl=0>

For pastors and seminary students whose immigration status puts them at risk of deportation:

<https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/familycareplan/>

Scoring Legislation - Office of Public Witness - <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/26feCltGQUWuFDft7UgmPA#/registration>

UCC Southern New England Conference:

<https://www.sneucc.org/2025-immigration-enforcement-resources>

Roman Catholic Church resources:

<https://www.cliniclegal.org/toolkits/rapid-response-toolkit>

Civil disobedience as a rapid response:

RC Church has some very good resources as they have a large sanctuary movement. They have good flyers for describing immigrant/non-immigrant rights. <https://www.cliniclegal.org/resources/protecting-your-community/know-your-rights/know-your-rights-flyers>

CLINIC - rapid response tool kit. <https://www.cliniclegal.org/toolkits/rapid-response-toolkit>

Resource for lawyers who specialize on Port of Entry airports: <https://www.airportlawyer.org/>

Red card resource from the Immigration Legal Resources Center - pre printed cards that can be ordered and distributed that explain rights. <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards>

RHODE ISLAND

RI Council of Churches Immigration page: councilofchurchesri.org/immigration

Refugee Dream Center page: <https://www.refugeedreamcenter.org/>

Important "Immigration" News, Resources and Updates

Under the Guidance of **Rev. Charles Ortman**, RISCC Commissioner on Immigration (and his team), we provide the following resources and news updates. All of these links can be found on our Website's [Immigration Page](#):

Know Your Rights ([If you interact with ICE Agents at work](#))
Know Your Rights ([If ICE Agents show up at your door](#))

Conozca Sus Derechos ([Si Agentes del ICE ilegalan a tu lugar de trabajo](#))

Conozca Sus Derechos ([Si Agentes del ICE ilegalan a tu lugar de trabajo](#))

Trump's Rescission of Protected Areas Policies ([Factsheet](#))

Fulfilling Promises to [Afghan Allies Act](#)

DOJ [Accredited Representative](#)

For Asylum Seekers (Note: due to recent and continued Executive Orders some of this information may not be current. The Commission is endeavoring to update information where/when available)

[Renew Work Permits](#)

[Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project](#)

[Know Your Rights](#)

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Coalition (MIRA):
miracoalition.org

Webinar from MIRA: Know Your Rights and Best Practices:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13B3na2Zb1DU4qLg6FFefnhWQVuqvFx5-/view?usp=sharing_eil&ts=678f082e&sh=A3Hw1nU9dfyfp11J&ca=1&exids=71471469,71471463)

[13B3na2Zb1DU4qLg6FFefnhWQVuqvFx5-/view?](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13B3na2Zb1DU4qLg6FFefnhWQVuqvFx5-/view?usp=sharing_eil&ts=678f082e&sh=A3Hw1nU9dfyfp11J&ca=1&exids=71471469,71471463)

[usp=sharing_eil&ts=678f082e&sh=A3Hw1nU9dfyfp11J&ca=1&exids=71471469,71471463](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13B3na2Zb1DU4qLg6FFefnhWQVuqvFx5-/view?usp=sharing_eil&ts=678f082e&sh=A3Hw1nU9dfyfp11J&ca=1&exids=71471469,71471463)

Mass Council of Churches: <https://www.masscouncilofchurches.org/resources/new-neighbors/>

Know Your Rights for Clergy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUcr-nxPQjI&t=17s>

(held by Commonwealth AG's office and ORI with MCC and JCRC)

CONNECTICUT

New Haven - Resource Guide for New Residents <https://www.newhavenct.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/24233/638726397205770000>

Building One Community <https://b1c.org/community-resources/>

Unidad Latina en Accion - <https://ulanewhaven.org>

Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services - <https://irisct.org>

CT Family Preparedness Plan - <https://portal.ct.gov/governor/-/media/office-of-the-governor/immigration-resources-family-preparedness-plan/family-preparedness-plan-english-version-july-2019.pdf?rev=b919c29164b8400ba5bad09ac868078e&hash=29FBF84E82D4FB1B5735C7441CCD2708>

Center For Latino Progress - <http://www.ctprf.org>

Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants - <https://cirict.org>

Immigration Advocacy and Support Center - <https://www.iascct.org>

Hartford Public Library - <https://www.hplct.org/library-services/immigration-citizenship/immigration>

Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance - www.cljct.org
LGBTQIA+ Resources

Equality Massachusetts: massequality.org

ACLU: [ACLU.org](https://www.aclu.org)

PFLAG National: [PFLAG.org](https://www.pflag.org)

PFLAG Cape Cod (English, Portuguese, Spanish): <https://www.pflagcapecod.org>

GLAAD: [GLAAD.org](https://www.glaad.org)

Good Queer News: goodqueernews@substack.com

Equality Connecticut: [EQCT.org](https://www.eqct.org)

Covenant Network. [covnet.org](https://www.covnet.org)

In the News

27 religious groups sue Trump administration over immigration enforcement policy <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/11/g-s1-48184/27-religious-groups-sue-administration-over-immigration-enforcement-policy>

PC(USA) joins religious freedom lawsuit challenging ICE enforcement actions in churches <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/pcusa-joins-religious-freedom-lawsuit-challenging-ice-enforcement-actions-churches>

Stated Clerk and Executive Director joins other national faith leaders in public support of sanctuary movement

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/stated-clerk-and-executive-director-joins-other-national-faith-leaders-public-support-sanctuary>

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COM