

**Report to the UUSJ Board of Trustees,
of Immigration Task Group activities during FY 2019-2020**

June 13, 2020

Visits to Hill with Advocacy Corps

July 2019 -- To the House on HR 6, American Dream and Promise Act which would provide pathway to legal residence for DACA and TPS status immigrants

March 2020 -- to the Senate in collaboration with UUSC and TPS Alliance Massachusetts as well as Advocacy Corps, to support pathways to legal residence for those with Temporary Protected Status. We included a TPS-status Salvadoran small business owner with US citizen children on our team, and he was able to share his story with the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs.

Sponsored UUSJ Letters to Congress, Executive Departments and governors

Proposed raising Refugee Resettlement Levels (MD and VA Senators) to higher levels (July)

Letter to DHS/DOJ opposing change to rule on reasons for granting asylum (January)

Proposed releasing via alternatives to detention most immigrants in detention solely for crossing border so that they are not at risk of COVID-19 (April)

Joined interfaith letters and petitions

Interfaith letter to protect immigrants in places of worship (usually in sanctuary) (July)

Endorsed Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act (November)

Amicus Brief to 9th Circuit Court opposing diversion of federal funds from Defense and DHS budgets to building border wall (August)

Support to Partnerships

Provided logistical support to members of National Sanctuary Collective during their July and September visits to Hill to seek private bills protecting immigrants in sanctuary

Supported 2019 Immigration Film Fest by sharing information/promotion and providing site for showing one set of films (September)

Co-sponsored VA Immigrant Advocacy Summit

Joined Dreamers rally at the Supreme Court as DACA case was presented .(November)

COVID-19 related efforts: Monitored impact on immigrants of the virus itself, loss of employment and income, lack of access to affordable health services, higher impact on persons of color, high risk for those in detention. Held webinar on these issues to extend our search for UU inputs and ideas. April)

Internal:

Inventoried all strategic partners which we monitor and interact with to identify those who most represent impacted persons (immigrants/refugees) with the aim to strengthen our interactions with them as moral owners of UUSJ.

Reached out to Biden campaign's immigration team to share our priorities and ask to be kept informed of emerging platform planks on immigration.

Attended various virtual hearings of House Homeland Security Committee on family separation, health conditions at detention centers and other topics as well as webinars by United We Dream and other partners.

Three members of the task group participated in a five-session training webinar "Changing Systems, Changing Ourselves" to heighten our awareness of unconscious racism in interactions with immigrants in sanctuary, accompaniment and detention visitation. We also met separately with each other as the UUSJ team to process the readings and homework. (January-May)

Submitted by Charlotte Jones-Carroll, Convener, Immigration Justice Task Group, June 7, 2020