

## Matthew 25 Movement Pledge: Protecting and Defending the Vulnerable in the Name of Jesus



**The Matthew 25 Movement Pledge:** I pledge to protect and defend the vulnerable in the name of Jesus.

How can the church show the love of God at this historic moment? Whatever we do to the stranger, to the other, we do to Jesus himself. Can we as Christians be light and salt, witnessing with our words and deeds to God's compassion and justice by protecting and defending the most vulnerable in our midst?

Who is vulnerable? DACA recipients (young people who were brought to the country as children) are about to lose the Executive Order protecting them from deportation. Muslims may be persecuted. Families with immigrant members may be separated because someone has committed a minor infraction. Police and immigration officers may be able to discriminate in their enforcement of the law and their use of violence without consequences.

Potential Matthew 25 Actions:

- Praying for just and merciful treatment for everyone in our communities, including all of the "strangers" in our midst
- Creating educational opportunities in your church to study and learn about the potential danger to vulnerable people represented by the pending policy changes
- Being trained to offer and providing legal support (e.g. prosecutorial discretion advocacy)
- Ensuring that Dreamers and other vulnerable people in your circle have a way to contact you if they are in danger of sudden deportation.
- Preparing to welcome Dreamers and others who are facing sudden deportation into your church to provide short-term emergency shelter, pastoral care and legal assessment
- Donating funds for family support and legal representation
- Preparing a team of prayer warriors to come out to a place where Dreamers and others are facing the threat of sudden deportation to pray with and for them. (ICE currently has a policy treating churches as "sensitive zones." By praying in a place for an extended period of time, we might delay the deportation long enough for legal assistance to arrive.)
- Local and national prayer vigils and other advocacy actions at key moments
- If you live in an area where protections have been removed, transport a Dreamer or other targeted immigrant to an area where protections have been locally retained (a modern Underground Railroad.) If you live in a safe area, receive and resettle those seeking refuge.

(Pledge Signatories receive information about local coalitions and training opportunities, window star/church banner, wrist bands and a toolkit.)

