

What does the Bible say?

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. **(Leviticus 19:33-34)**



I [Jesus] was a stranger and you welcomed me. **(Matthew 25:35b)**

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. **(Hebrews 13:2)**

So now you are no longer strangers or aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. **(Ephesians 2:19)**

What does the United Methodist Church say?

We commit ourselves as a Church to the achievement of a world community that is a fellowship of persons who honestly love one another. We pledge ourselves to seek the meaning of the gospel on all issues that divide people and threaten the growth of world community. **(Paragraph 165, 2016 Book of Resolutions)**



The United Methodist Church commits itself to provide support and opportunities for refugees, asylees, and migrants, including annual conference and local church ministries that promote the Right to Stay in traditional sending countries, Safe Passage in countries of transit, and training for Welcoming and Belonging in receiving locales. **(Response of the Church, Global Migration and the Quest for Justice, Book of Resolutions 2020/2024)**

We affirm the dignity, worth and rights of migrants, immigrants, and refugees, including displaced and stateless people. **(Section G, The Political Community, UMC Social Principles)**





What do the facts say?

- As of mid-2024, the number of international migrants worldwide reached 304 million, accounting for approximately 3.7% of the global population. This marks an increase from 275 million in 2020. Notably, 48% of these migrants are women, highlighting the gender-balanced nature of global migration. (International Migrant Portal)
- By the end of 2022, the number of forcibly displaced individuals globally hit a record 117 million. This surge is attributed to conflicts, violence, persecution, and environmental disasters. Regions such as Sudan, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are both significant sources and hosts of displaced populations. (IOM World Migration Report)
- In 2023, climate-related disasters, including floods, storms, and wildfires, led to the internal displacement of 7.7 million people across 82 countries. Projections indicate that by 2050, over 200 million people could be displaced within their countries due to climate-related factors. (IOM World Migration Report)

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...



- **Engage** in policy advocacy that protects the rights and dignity of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. See our Action Alerts on the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act and Religious Workforce Protection Act
- **Ground your congregation** in the biblical and theological imperative to welcome the stranger through resources such as the “Called to Journey, Called to Welcome: A Biblical Perspective on Immigration” and other biblical studies on migration and movement.
- **Work with** or start United Methodist immigration ministries (like Immigration Law and Justice, formerly Justice for Our Neighbors) that provide legal services and accompaniment.

For more information contact:
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