

## **Faith Advocacy Days to #DefundHate September 12-13 in Washington, D.C.**

Join Church World Service (CWS) from **Tuesday, September 12—Wednesday, September 13, 2017** in Washington D.C. to reduce funding for immigration detention, deportations, and border militarization.

**Background:** Congress is considering billions of additional funding to balloon an already bloated immigration detention and deportation force. This funding would tear families and communities apart, significantly expand immigration detention, and further militarize communities living along the southern U.S. border. September 12-13 is a critical time to meet with your Members of Congress as they consider their vote on the Fiscal Year 2018 funding bill that will pay for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to carry out these attacks on our immigrant neighbors. This is also an important opportunity to tell your Members of Congress to protect federal funding for U.S. refugee resettlement programs that support local schools and successfully help refugees find employment and integrate in their new homes.

**Who:** CWS is inviting faith leaders from key states to come to Washington, D.C. to meet with their U.S. Senators and Representatives to discuss federal funding for immigration enforcement. CWS will cover flights, lodging and food. There may be some points where you will have to cover a meal, but CWS will book your flight and lodging, and cover meals that are eaten with the group.

### **Key States:**

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Hawai'i, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

**Schedule:** Please plan to be in Washington, D.C. from 5pm ET on Tuesday, September 12 until 5pm ET on Wednesday, September 13.

CWS will host an advocacy training, help you prepare for your visits, invite you to attend a press conference, and schedule visits with your Members of Congress. CWS will also organize a prophetic action on Wednesday afternoon to offer prayerful witness to counter hate and bigotry with welcome and compassion.

### **Tuesday, September 12**

- 5:00pm ET: Arrival in Washington, D.C.
- 6:00pm ET: Advocacy Training
- 7:30pm ET: Dinner at restaurant (location TBD)

### **Wednesday, September 13**

- 8:00am ET: Prep meeting at CWS ahead of scheduled visits
- 9:00am and afternoon: Meetings with Senators and Representatives
- 10:00am ET: Press conference at House Triangle

- Afternoon: Action
- Evening: Departure from Washington, D.C.

**What to Pack:** The weather is expected to be [warm with a chance of showers]. Please bring business dress attire for your meetings with Representatives and Senators. For any press conferences and other actions that we participate in, it would be helpful to bring a clergy collar, stole, and anything that identifies you as a faith leader and from your state.

**RSVP:** Please note that due to limited resources we can only cover travel for a certain number of faith leaders from key states, so please RSVP as early as possible.

**PLEASE RSVP** at <https://goo.gl/forms/qM974SYgigbGnutO2> by **Wednesday, September 6** if you are interested in attending so we can book your flight and lodging and prepare congressional visits. Please email Meredith Owen at [mowen@cwsglobal.org](mailto:mowen@cwsglobal.org) with any additional questions.

**Please let Jeania Ree and Rebecca know if you are making plans to participate so we can also coordinate with you and the rest of the UM contingent.**

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Rebecca Cole [rcole@umcjustice.org](mailto:rcole@umcjustice.org)