

## **RESOLUTION #13 - Comprehensive Immigration, Refugee, Migrant, and Asylum Reform**

**RATIONALE:** The decision to not consider domestic abuse and gang violence as grounds for asylum, will affect large numbers of Central Americans who have increasingly turned to the United States for protection. With the already more than 700 children being separated along the southwest border from adults claiming to be their parents, including 100 children under the age of 4, this anti-female and family policy will put tens of thousands of domestic violence cases in the current immigration court backlog

**WHEREAS,** it will also undermine claims of women suffering violence throughout the world, including sex trafficking. It is needlessly ripping kids, toddlers, and babies away from their parents in a very inhumane way.

**WHEREAS,** likewise, the policies that have slashed the number of refugees entering to our country has put millions of families lives in jeopardy. Refugees do not choose to leave their homes but who are forced to flee.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Plains Conference of The United Methodist Church, partnering with the Church World Service through UMCOR and the faith community with our proud history of standing with the vulnerable and protecting the persecuted, we believe that we should take care to live out our nation's values of compassion, hospitality, and solidarity with our fellow human beings and see and call for the end to these inhumane and vicious acts upon humanity.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Plains Conference of The United Methodist Church call on our fellow citizens to rescind the unchristian and inhuman death sentence for many asylum seekers trying to enter this country to escape the dangerously unstable situations in the homes they are fleeing.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the churches study the issues and respond in these or other ways:

- Join the National Call-in Day Actions
- Host an interfaith #WhereRtheRefugees event
- Plan a visit with your member of Congress
- Write op-eds and letters to the editor
- Share on social media
- Celebrate World Refugee Day June 20<sup>th</sup> every year.

**Implemented by:** UMCOR, Church World Service, Great Plains Conference, and Dellrose United Methodist Church.

**Signatures:** Rev. Dr. Kevass J. Harding plus 5 others

**Submitted by:** Rev. Dr. Kevass J. Harding, Dellrose United Methodist Church, Great Plains Conference