****

**June 10, 2019**

***"Spirit
giving life to all life, moving all creatures,
root of all things, washing them clean
wiping out their mistakes, healing their wounds,
you are our true life, luminous, wonderful,
awakening the heart from its ancient sleep."-Hildegard of Bingen***

**JUNE**

**June 12 World Day against Child Labor**

**June 14 Flag Day**

**June 17 World Day to combat Desertification and Drought**

**June 19 Juneteenth**

**June 20 World Refugee Day**

**June 22-29 Religious Freedom Week**

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**TAKING ACTION**

**Be a voice for the voiceless
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***Pro refugee bills***

Stand in solidarity #WithRefugees and #StopRefugeeTrafficking on World Refugee Day, Thursday, June 20, 2019. [Join us in calling](https://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org/2019-world-refugee-day-campaign/2019-take-action-on-world-refugee-day/) our Representative and Senators and urging them to support two pro-refugee bills:

1. [H.R.2146](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr2146) / [S.1088](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr2146) GRACE Act
2. [H.R. 2214](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr2214) / [S.1123](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/s1123) NO BAN Act

Visit our [website](https://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org/2019-world-refugee-day-campaign/) to learn about our 2019 World Refugee Campaign and discover more ways that you can support refugees on June 20 and throughout year. You’ll find backgrounders, resources for prayer, stories of trafficked immigrants and  asylum seekers, sample social media posts and more.

If you would prefer to download and print the 2019 World Refugee Toolkit, you’ll find a PDF file [HERE](https://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-USCSAHT-Toolkit.pdf).

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| ***The PROTECT Immigration Act* would eliminate 287(g) agreements nationwide in one fell swoop and prevent local police from acting as immigration agents.** Since 287(g) agreements began in 2006, ICE and its police deputies have torn apart countless immigrant families and communities. In the first 16 months of the Trump administration, local law enforcement agencies helped ICE deport more than 12,000 immigrants through these agreements. [**Sign the petition telling Congress to pass the PROTECT Immigration Act and prevent ICE from using local police to target our immigrant neighbors!**](https://default.salsalabs.org/Tc18059e0-5ba1-419f-9e6d-c30f0055f624/2fbd0865-94c4-4210-9118-8a2fe9047b80)  |

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**INFORMATION/RESOURCES**

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***Your voice makes a difference!***

**On June 5th, the Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6) passed the House in a 237-187 vote!** This is an important step in creating a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, and DED recipients. Catholic Sisters and activists of NETWORK were proud to support the passage of the American Dream and Promise Act in the House, and we want to **thank you for calling your Congressperson and advocating for this bill.**

As wonderful as this successful House vote is, we know that the fight is not over. **The Senate must quickly follow suit to provide a pathway to citizenship and protection from deportation for our immigrant family.**

[***UN resolves to mark day for victims of faith-based violence***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lyjXCCjbkDDhumvyCieHdeCicNyENr?format=multipart)

Members of the United Nations General Assembly this week passed a resolution to observe an International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief each year on Aug. 22. "The establishment of the International Day is being put forward to honor the victims and survivors who often ... remain forgotten," says Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz.

[***World falling short of gender-related SDGs***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lyxOCCjbkDDhveeACieHdeCicNzYyJ?format=multipart)

Every country in the world is falling short of the gender equality targets involved in meeting the sustainable development goals agreed to in 2015, according to recent data. Many countries still need to make significant progress in equal representation in government, equal pay and addressing gender-based violence, according to an index developed by Equal Measures 2030.

***Plastic Eating Bacteria***

Humans produce 300 million tons of new plastic each year -- yet, despite our best efforts, less than 10 percent of it ends up being recycled. Is there a better way to deal with all this waste? Microbiologist Morgan Vague studies bacteria that, through some creative adaptations, have evolved the unexpected ability to eat plastic -- and could help us solve our growing pollution problem.

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| [Watch now »](https://ted.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=07487d1456302a286cf9c4ccc&id=c48efc03c0&e=21df47c728) |

***Resources on Racism***

**Check out our resources for working and praying to end racism in our country.**
Have you seen the resources surrounding the U.S. Bishops’ letter against racism, Open Wide our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love? [Educational resources](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=c14fa815f0&e=3a5fc3789d) for schools, parishes, and small groups along with videos and print copies of the new pastoral letter are available on [usccb.org/racism](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=eb6134e4f7&e=3a5fc3789d). A new [prayer card](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=27bd0eb6a8&e=3a5fc3789d) and [backgrounders on the many factors of systemic racism are also available](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=9bd11e0284&e=3a5fc3789d), along with a myriad of other ways to help your community learn, pray, and act to end racism.