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**January 6, 2020**

*“The superfluous wealth of rich countries should be placed at the service of poor nations.  The rule, which up to now held good for the benefit of those nearest to us, must today be applied to all the needy of this world.  Besides, the rich will be the first to benefit as a result.  Otherwise their continued greed will certainly call down upon them the judgment of God and the wrath of the poor, with consequences no one can foretell.”*

*The Catholic Bishops of the World at the Second Vatican Council*

**January**

**Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month**

**Catholic Poverty Awareness Month**

Jan, 5-11 National Migration Week

Jan. 11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Jan. 11 Freedom Walk

Jan.16 National religious Freedom Day

Jan. 18 Walk for Life

Jan. 18 Women’s March

Jan, 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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**TAKING ACTION**

**Be a voice for the voiceless  
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***Speak out for Peace***

News that the United States has unilaterally assassinated IRGC Quds Force Commander Qassem Soleimani without Congressional approval—a profoundly reckless move that could have deadly consequences and result in a war with Iran.

Senator Tim Kaine has introduced a privileged resolution in the Senate, and Representatives Barbara Lee and Ilhan Omar have introduced it in the House, to **force a vote** on ending U.S. war on Iran. [**Click here to email your Senators and Representative.**](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/_wA/ni0YAA/t.2y6/Zy_UDAc5QFubPUUwXLHfsw/h1/v8Sxf4oE50lk4ks5EVD8-2FLZe92k-2FpiNJEVZ8WnP0Iu30UdnauJMsLEykIopu77jNSv5B58TyHFVABs5Bi6zrUW6U6cwNy0Rpao2NizoN1My8KEcORrLCT8Vyu0KsYvlkDZ2-2F-2FIqa3iRsex74orVUySqJ-2FXcpLIYH3tlVFzgnV7ftK-2BmX9ROrygF9UrS-2FD2Vj-2FdiCjbVQjxEGSmI8AsrWyCe0grQBunoAjKxwZSjsYZTlv4Pi2G6EjcAZ5koHcsmGJkIL2aCTP41crFL-2FFNCo48mj9uJHFDGgUSW8cXmU052mnzh0sJviT5hBLggip-2FcZQLJ7HkdlnUTFjwTRh7cfcJxoFNjOhSzOXIWK4hmupHlh7ayf-2BOpOBINkOfZ7OwRo/r7DP)

***Injunction against Executive Order 13888***

On Wednesday, January 8th - the District Court in Greenbelt, Maryland will hear oral arguments about this anti-refugee executive order and consider a preliminary injunction to block its implementation. On September 26, the President Trump issued an [Executive Order](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-enhancing-state-local-involvement-refugee-resettlement/) (EO 13888) that could drastically reduce, if not entirely end, the resettlement of refugees in your community. It requires state and local officials to provide written consent in order for refugee resettlement to continue in their states and localities.

LCWR is one of many faith-based organizations supporting the injunction against the Trump administration’s EO. This could decide the fate of the refugee resettlement program and impact thousands of refugees and their families. We’ve created a [Toolkit for Action: Support Court Intervention to Save the Refugee Resettlement Program](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t9a5CaxpkFXCEjXCdKDQAkdPXCfWlcX3pWITo3Dl6Y0/edit)—which contains background information about the EO and the court case, talking points, sample letters-to-the-editor and opinion pieces, sample social media posts, and an action alert that you can share with your folks. **Call Congress:** [**Click here**](https://greateras1.org/take-action-tell-congress-to-protect-refugees-and-restore-the-refugee-resettlement-program-2/) **to call your 2 Senators and 1 Representative (***Alternatively, you can call 202-858-1581 three times to be connected with your 1 Representative and 2 Senator.)* See attached script for the call.

***Ask your U.S. Senator to Support S. 874, the Dream Act of 2019***  
From November 2019 until Spring 2020, while the U.S. Supreme Court deliberates, it is vital that we encourage Congress to act to provide DACA recipients with a path to citizenship. As the House passed H.R. 6 which includes a path to citizenship for DACA recipients, we ask that you turn your attention to your Senators and urge them to stand in support of young adult immigrants by supporting legislative protection for DACA recipients generally and the [**Dream Act of 2019, S. 874**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/874/text), specifically.

***U.S Postal Service at Risk***

Did you know that the U.S. Postal Service is the most popular federal agency? USPS provides critical services to the American public, but now it is at risk of privatization. If we don’t all act soon, USPS could be privatized.  
[**Tell the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors: Don’t privatize the Postal Service**](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/5QA/ni0YAA/t.2y3/SXggTRC_TJ2R9IZfRNlRlQ/h2/CA0gLXQEKb6jqGkD7RqZiVCso-2FILbuaAIEEtVZapgA-2FDZVSCp-2FQeY3jAfHSMZpYXRK4IVlLdrKyomkNAAfNTncARmnpeflcA-2Ffj3KiHJ9I-2Fnn-2FP85JIDoCsUS15cOmvBGhu5Ued0vrKMd4Q7iqzkcNX3aQBwZe1ppIUtBdabBsnNNQADVqB15XrXuMKGDsPq2rZDzeg-2BaGtk5ri9P-2BBQb5kiTaW-2FMjkOZrdfLYlnLDc17fh-2Bn9kmAdLQ9PAi72oxiCUICYk-2B50CXQ4G9WsBPSvqzfGIkZAPsgSI7s9VjbUE9FId-2F9K5vUXpRaogxMHY1v-2F-2FRrv6HMrkHXpAlae512i16GmwtM1vo-2FxwJd6w9l6S0DQz18nOC4Of-2FmpKZ8A4UgZGb7VGrPXjfz67f6-2BsWzw-3D-3D/MXvX)

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**INFORMATION/RESOURCES**

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[***UNSC members alarmed as Iran vows retribution for general's killing***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/mdAzCCjbkDDjpWpiCieTdfCicNWDdo?format=multipart)

Members of the United Nations Security Council have voiced concern that the death of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani through a US airstrike and the country's promise to retaliate against the US will increase instability and tension in the Middle East. Some allies of the US asserted Iran bore some responsibility due to provoking the attack.

***The United States Institute of Peace top 5 analysis and Commentary***

From the conflict in Kashmir to the Afghan peace process, our experts provided [in-depth, timely analysis](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=89953909b97e53513400db66f2a1c8976c6bebd58db963389aa3a82e7ef1a8a7f58c3ec539e5875ce97f563bae26e0c782433cb6431d82e6) on a host of critical topics.

1. [**The Latest Kashmir Conflict Explained**](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=89953909b97e5351a16211d0ff043b9240de67c8dca3733fdbc57dd746b5cc1aff7a8d8d65238b187d87245136a8777181fabdfbf5db0258)
2. [**Afghanistan Talks: No Women, No Peace**](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=89953909b97e5351503193dbff997509d245004df9d6ca55018e35d6c34ac3ab13114516e7108a291a3c39027bfcd1e23cf22b0e449d840d)
3. [**How Women Are Using Technology to Advance Gender Equality and Peace**](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=89953909b97e535190c865467961d8b811834b5c71111be0b86d4e1abe38a3f63caf4166bcf93e57b35226afd037edca5f99e9a8bd537889)
4. [**How Civil Society Can Help Prevent Violence and Extremism**](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=89953909b97e5351a604fa7485c940c21b82df87a89a3c52f87fad578d1bc6e8d32b61b3eb5c5775ce44b9c83daade24f3aa319325b7ddd5)
5. [**Understanding Libya’s South Eight Years After Qaddafi**](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=89953909b97e5351c039e74a3407cfff8100d93907e061ac419763029e6cd1ddf95f61fa5e4edade7e9ea71162de15680b2f92f3e293b5a7)

***Catholic Poverty Awareness Month***

Income inequality in the U.S. is at its highest level in more than **50** years.  *U.S. Census Bureau*

US Real Weekly Wages by Population

***1979***  ***2015***

Bottom 10%: **$414**  **$397**

Median: **$762**     **$832**

Top 10%: **$1,479** **$2,004**  *US Bureau of Labor Statistics*

US Average Household Incomes in 2015

Bottom 90%      **$34,074**

Top 10%            **$312,536**

Top 5%              **$477,293**

Top 1%               **$1,363,977**

Top 0.1%            **$6,747,439** *University of California at Berkeley*

**66%** of poor children in related families live with an adult who works and nearly **33%** live with a family member who works full time year round. *The Urban Institute*

For more on **Poverty,** [click here.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rUeAeY2un25arefXOrtdgYWuAVsSXOONIc16cWkmI2_ApdeSYXr2lg6fp9fXW-uulcZXjJ2xVI31ZZyYkkR8oju6fdwhBU0WhMv2MCNH2X-8Nbd0BMFPGoKkcI1yXPL4jWbLS0u910K9yuwANkUDAbIBs-_KlW9bG1qTBQqyTEwxqOIqQIfU2dpk5HzxaY9S&c=YFWxY1MhG52EmAgSJhRCLfgpRcMolRpbFp5GR5MfN_DtF1UDeEVt9Q==&ch=b8brUIPXErZFg1YSVqXCcKSeh-gQCyLSHaJcQHvbBq5EKZtsiU2Aqw==)

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***Words to Ponder***

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*"Much violence is based on the illusion that life is a property to be defended and not a gift to be shared." —Henri Nouwen*

*"The Sufis tell a story of the Holy One who said to his disciples, ‘What’s better, do you think? Is it contemplation, or is it action?’ . . . They said, ‘Why, Holy One, it’s action, of course. What good is contemplation in a suffering world?’ And the Sufi said, ‘Ah, yes, but what good is action that proceeds from an unenlightened heart?’"* —Sufi Wisdom

*"O Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze, we need your strength and wisdom. May we walk in beauty. May our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us. Help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades, as the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame." —From a Native American Prayer*