



Ways You Can Help Haitian Recovery Efforts and Support Haitian Migrants

October 21, 2016

Here we've compiled suggestions for how you and your congregation can join UUSC's actions to support Haiti. The ideas below are as simple as making a donation to UUSC to support our work with partner organizations on the ground in Haiti, or the deeper commitment to become a sanctuary congregation and host immigrants at risk of deportation. These activities can be done as an individual or as a congregation.

We also urge that you research the Facebook and organizational websites of your local Haitian community organizations, cultural centers, and churches in your city. When you reach out, make sure to ask what they need and listen to their ideas before making your own proposals. In whatever ways you choose to take action, we thank you!

1. Make a Donation to UUSC

UUSC is working with local partners in Haiti to assess of the greatest threats to hurricane survivors and put together an emergency crisis response. We're also working to build our capacity to deliver emergency assistance, which make the difference between life and death for the most marginalized people affected by the storm and its aftermath. Please make a donation as soon as you can at <http://www.uusc.org/helphaiti>.

2. Send a "Selfie of Solidarity"

Show solidarity with the people of Haiti by sharing a message of support in Haitian Creole. Make your own sign using the language below or download a pre-made version at <http://www.uusc.org/solidarity-selfie>, then take a selfie or group photo while holding the message.

Ou pa pou kont ou! (You are not alone!)

Nou sipòte ou! (We support you.)

Send the photos to mobilization@uusc.org by Friday, November 4, 2016. We'll compile all the images we receive and send them to our partners on the ground. Please include your full name, city, state, and, if applicable, the name of your congregation or organization so we can share that information.

3. Coordinate Tabling Activities at Your Church

Set up a table at coffee hour and if possible, bring a computer or tablet for people to use for signing onto UUSC's online action. If you don't have a tablet or laptop, print copies of the link to hand out (or use the UUSC bulletin insert) so people can sign on to the letter at home:

- **Sign your name to UUSC's action at** <http://www.uusc.org/stophaitiandepotation>.
- **Provide direct comment to ICE.** Share the ICE comment line number, 202-282-8000, and ask supporters to call and urge officials to change U.S. policy. They can use this script when they call:

"My name is [Full name] and I'm from [City, State, Congregation/Community]. Haitians are dealing with catastrophic conditions in their home country, and as a UUSC supporter and a person of faith, I urge Secretary Johnson to provide every available option for immigration support to Haitians in the United States:

- *Temporary Protected Status should be designated for all Haitians in the U.S.*
- *Parole should be restored for Haitians at the border.*
- *The Haitian family reunification program should be expanded.*

4. Write a Letter to the Editor

Send a message to your local newspaper to raise awareness of the issue in your community. Keep your letter short; aim for no more than 150 words. Many newspapers have their own strict word limits; you can usually find this information on their website. You can also learn about their preferences by calling the newsroom directly.

In order to be considered for publication, you must make specific reference to a recent article in the newspaper about Haiti. We've provided some sample language below, but letters that are personalized are often the most successful.

SAMPLE LANGUAGE

Dear Editor:

In response to the recent article about the impact of Hurricane Matthew on Haiti [title and date here], it is important for us to realize that there is another, man-made, disaster unfolding for Haitians, and it is happening in the United States. Recently, the Department of Homeland Security slammed the door shut for Haitians seeking to migrate to the United States. Individuals and families who have already attempted to come to the United States are now locked away in detention and many who have recently emigrated are also at risk of being deported to a country that is already struggling to recover from the hurricane. As a person of faith, I believe that we can do better as a nation to show compassion and hospitality at a time of great need. Surely we can all recognize the dignity and worth of every Haitian.

Name, city, congregation

5. Sign up to Volunteer with UUCSJ

The UU College of Social Justice is in conversation with Haiti partners to determine whether volunteers from the United States can be of use in recovery efforts. As we engage in this discernment, we welcome potential volunteers to fill out this form, so we can begin to create a "skills bank" of those willing and able to assist. Add your name to volunteer at <http://www.uusc.org/volunteer-csj>.

6. Join the Sanctuary Movement to Prevent Deportations

The Sanctuary Movement began in the early 1980s by religious congregations in an effort to provide safe-haven for Central American refugees fleeing civil conflict created by United States policy. The congregations provide housing and support to individual and families, sometimes for months, as asylum hearings were delayed or appealed.

If you are already a Sanctuary congregation, this is a time for action! Notify your relevant partner groups and local Haitian organizations that your congregation is willing to offer sanctuary for Haitians at risk of being deported if the need arises.

If your congregation is not part of the Sanctuary Movement, consider taking steps to join. Sanctuary congregations provide a safe haven for immigrants targeted for deportation while they fight for permission to stay. Learn more at <http://sanctuary2014.org>.

Thank you for your support of this work!