



# Immigration Update

PICO National Network unlocking the power of people

Led by clergy from cities that have been targeted by controversial [mass immigration raids](#), religious leaders from across the country traveled to Washington, DC, to demand that the raids halt and that Congress hold hearings to investigate I.C.E. behavior. The religious leaders delivered a [statement](#), signed by more than 350 clergy from 38 states, to the White House, the Department of Homeland Security, and key Congressional leaders.



The letter was circulated to clergy nationwide, including an invitation to add their names, by six PICO-affiliated organizations:

[United Interfaith Action](#) (UIA, New Bedford, MA)

[Congregations Building Community](#) (CBC, Greeley, CO)

[Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization](#) (CCISCO)

[People Acting in Community Together](#) (PACT, San Jose, CA)

[Peninsula Interfaith Action](#) (PIA, San Mateo County, CA)

[Oakland Community Organizations](#) (OCO)

The statement reads, in part: "We object to federal government action that has broken up families, left children abandoned, and traumatized whole communities. We should not need to shelter young children asking, 'Where is my mother? Where is my father?'"

Faith leaders also participated in the Children's Hearing on the Social Impact of Raids on Families and Communities on May 17 in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill. Rev. Anna Lange-Soto, from PIA, gave moving [testimony](#) about the impact of the raids on her congregation and Norma Mejia, from CCISCO, told the [story](#) of being separated from her husband while seven months pregnant. UIA procured a [statement](#) from Sen. John Kerry for the event.

All those who testified at the hearing asked for a meeting with President Bush to press him to end the raids. The White House responded and New Bedford priest Fr. Richard Wilson, from UIA, hand delivered the PICO Clergy Statement at a meeting with immigration staff at the White House yesterday.

**Clergy Letter:**

[Clergy Statement on Halt to Immigration Raids](#) (including signatures)

**Press Release:**

[Faith Leaders Deliver Immigration Statement to White House, Congress](#)

**Media Coverage:**

[Greeley Mayor Describes Need for Immigration Reform](#)

[Redwood City Pastor Speaks to DC Immigration Panel](#)

[Berkeley Considers Proposals to Counter Raids](#)

[Greeley Mayor Goes to Washington](#)

[Mayor Speaks in Washington](#)

[Immigration Raid Parents Testify in DC](#)

[Greeley's Mayor Call for End to Raids Ignites Firestorm](#)

[Richmond Mayor in DC to Demand End to Raids](#)

[Greeley Mayor Heads to DC to Stop Immigration Raids](#)

[Deported Immigrants' Kids Face Dilemma](#)

**Testimony:**

[Norma Yahira Olivedo Mejia Statement](#)

[Mayor McLaughlin Testimony](#)

[Rev. Anna Lange-Soto's Testimony](#)

**Also See:**

[Clergy Letter Calls for Halt to Immigration Raids](#)

[Background on Raids](#)

[Sen. John Kerry Statement](#)

PICO federations are developing civic leadership within immigrant communities and addressing a range of local and national issues that affect the lives of immigrant families.

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