



# Voices from the Americas Workshops for your Congregation



For more than twenty years the  
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America  
has been working with congregations to create workshops that bring the  
faces and voices of the Americas in dialogue with US policy and our faith traditions.  
Now we are pleased to be able to add workshops on immigration issues,  
developed by the Chicago New Sanctuary Coalition, a project of CRLN.  
Each session includes action steps for people of faith  
to create solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Americas.  
Below you will find some of our most popular workshops,  
but we are happy to work with you to customize a workshop for your congregation.

To discuss workshops on immigration please  
contact: Jenny Dale at 773-293-2964 or  
jdale@chicagosanctuary.org



To discuss workshops on Latin America please  
contact: Marilyn McKenna at 773-293-2964 or  
mmckenna@crln.org

### Immigration and faith, an introduction

The complexities of this global phenomenon are intricately affected by economic, political and environmental forces. Explore with us a brief history of migration and immigration, the reasons people migrate and current immigration policies. Dialogue and learn how various faith traditions have responded to this global issue, what our role can be as well as our responsibility as people of faith.

### Globalization and the roots of migration

As a strong contemporary force both economically and politically, globalization has caused significant changes to our planet including migration and immigration. It's not simply a global network of communication, transportation, and trade. Explore with us the roots of this system, the push and pull factors that influence change, how it's all connected and the larger human and environmental repercussions that are rarely discussed.

### A history of U.S. migration and immigration

The United States has been shaped in wonderful and unprecedented ways by migration and immigration since its inception. Join us as we explore, dialogue and share personal stories as well as learn from the historical universalities of migration and immigration.

### Realities at the U.S. and Mexico border

The realities at the border have more tangible implications for our communities than we generally understand and acknowledge. Learn and dialogue with us as we explore the human, political, economic and environmental realities that are at play in the border regions.



### Detention and deportation

On an average day, over 30,000 people are held in immigration detention facilities. Every day about 1,100 people are deported from the United States. Families are being separated, children are left without parents and communities are being destroyed. Together, let's explore the current detention and deportation system, the criminalization of immigrants and the move towards privatization. Help us reflect on the moral imperative of the religious community in this moment of crisis.

### A Call to Be Peacemakers — Militarism in Latin America

Currently, U.S. military and police assistance to Latin America nearly equals U.S. economic and social assistance to the same countries. From the funding of the U.S. Army School of the Americas, now called WHINSEC, which trains Latin American military on U.S. soil, to the deployment of U.S. Special Forces to protect the Caño Limon pipeline in Colombia, U.S. military involvement in Latin America is devastating. Religious, union, and human rights leaders have been killed and entire villages have been massacred. But our faith traditions teach peace. This session will examine the role of the U.S. military in Latin America and ways we can advocate for peaceful solutions.



### Embargo and Abundant Life in Cuba

For more than 50 years, the U.S. has maintained an increasingly harsh, unilateral embargo against Cuba, limiting both trade and travel. The Cuban Council of Churches, the Cuban Catholic Bishops, the Pope, the World Council of Churches, and the United Nations are united in their appeal to the United States to end the embargo because of the damaging effects on the well-being of the Cuban people. Diplomatic, human rights, medical, and business communities around the world have denounced the U.S. embargo. This session will look at the abundant life in Cuba, including its vibrant faith communities, which contrast with the harsh economic policies of the U.S. toward Cuba.

### We Are Colombia. We Want to Live!

Colombia has been described as a human rights emergency. Colombia is in the midst of a 40-year-long civil war, rooted in extreme poverty and injustice that has led to the deaths of human rights and union leaders in civil society as well as to the forced displacement of more than 3 million people from their homes. The United States has contributed approximately \$3 billion in military aid which has only added fuel to this already fiery conflict. What do we, as people of faith do?

