

Machar, The Washington Congregation
for Secular Humanistic Judaism
www.machar.org

Position Statement on Immigration

WHEREAS, the progressive Jewish tradition of which our movement is a part calls on all of us to take seriously the Biblical admonition to love the stranger as ourselves, and Jews have historically been minorities and immigrants in many lands, our experiences as a people have led us to support the rights of immigrants today.

WHEREAS, Humanism speaks to helping people fulfill their basic needs, with their basic civil liberties maintained. Therefore, laws that unreasonably limit people's abilities to improve their own situations are not acceptable.

WHEREAS, as global citizens we realize that to control immigration in this country, we have to work to improve the situation of people living in other countries through support for fair trade practices and improved living and work conditions, so that people are able to earn more and to have their needs met at home rather than having to travel far from their families and live in squalor and constant fear.

WHEREAS, our connection to the labor movement increases our interest in pro-labor causes such as: support for a reasonable and realistic immigration policy, fair work standards for the lowest wage and lowest status jobs and raising up all workers and improving overall working conditions. When others complain about immigrants, both documented and undocumented, bringing down wage and benefit standards for unskilled workers, our answer is to legitimize immigrant rights and support livable work standards overall.

THEREFORE,

MACHAR, The Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism, seeks to:

1. Support legislative efforts to provide a reasonable and fair path to legal status for undocumented immigrants.
2. Vigorously support labor and employment laws that protect immigrant workers.
3. Protect the civil liberties of all immigrants as we do those of citizens, and reject efforts that stigmatize documented immigrants and that interfere with their process to become citizens.
4. Support, through education and informational activities, fair trade movements that enhance the economic situations for people living in their home countries.
5. Support legislation to improve working conditions for low-wage workers and acknowledge the work of undocumented workers.
6. Work for policies that maintain the unification of families that may be divided through current immigration policies.
7. Continue to advocate for better health care and education opportunities that support the betterment of the entire society.

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