



J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



March 2014 (en español)

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Immigration: Bed Quota

[Images](#) from CMSM trip to Migrant Trails in AZ.

For-profit companies supplying detention services to the federal government -- including the two largest providers Geo

Group (Geo) and Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) -- have been **covertly maneuvering in immigration policy to increase detention rates** while effectively misleading the public about their efforts. Currently the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency is **required to detain 34,000 immigrants on any given day**, translating into approximately 400,000 individuals every year. This mandate through the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2014 is also known as the "bed quota". Due to this directive, people whose liberty is restricted are housed in county jails, privately run detention facilities, and federal centers that cost taxpayers \$2 billion annually.



From a profit-oriented perspective, the expansion of grounds for immigrant detention means more detainees and thus increased revenue for shareholders. Private prison companies **try to influence immigration debates through political campaign contributions to key officials** active in this area of policy and by spending millions of dollars lobbying Congress to ease passage of legislation that benefit their industry and bottom lines. More details [click here](#).

Action: Write a letter to the editor, op-ed or even draft an organizational statement.

Useful Resources:

- b. [Detailed Data on federal candidates](#) funded by CCA/GEO.
- c. [Sample](#) LTE's, Op-Ed's, and Organizational Statements.

Action: Reminder to participate in April 4-6, 2014, events to stop deportations

More details: [click here](#)

Ecumenical Advocacy Days Report



With over 125 other Catholics, I attended a ground-breaking conference, 21-24 March 2014, entitled *Jesus Weeps: Resisting Violence and Building Peace!*

Over 1000 participants joined in prayer, communion, education, and advocacy to transform our church and our politics.

The policy asks were to invest in a culture of peace by reducing the acquisition and use of guns that cause harm along with reducing Pentagon spending. In addition, we called for investments in peacemaking such as the Youth Promise Act and the Complex Crises Fund. More details of the EAD ask [click here](#).

Action: Contact your congresspersons to support the EAD ask
Find your congresspersons [here](#)

Action: Advocate for the Youth Promise Act
[Click here](#) to send a message to the President and your Congresspersons.

Pope Francis Receives Obama



In preparation for the meeting between Pope Francis and President Obama, I took part in Network's congressional briefing panel on the pope's *Joy of the Gospel* and U.S. politics, March 25, 2014. I spoke on the pope's section about the common good and peace. I explained the themes of encounter, justpeace, the pope's four principles, the parable of the weeds among the wheat, seeing others in their deepest dignity, and how the common good of all people differs from utilitarianism.

Application to policy themes included the need to include women in negotiations with Syria; "No" to the death penalty, torture, and war; and "national interests" needing to at least include if not be replaced with the common good of all people. Follow the link for [Network's press release](#).

On March 27, 2014, President Obama met with Pope Francis. They discussed international conflicts, religious freedom, conscientious objection, and immigration. [Click here](#) for their statement from Radio Vaticana.

A Jesuit University and Divestment

Loyola University Chicago student union passes resolution to divest from Israeli occupation



"On Tuesday March 18, 2014, Loyola University Chicago became the **first Jesuit University**

in the United States to pass a student government resolution to divest from companies complicit in aiding the Israeli Occupation of Palestine. The Senate legislation calls upon Loyola University Chicago to remove its holdings from eight specific companies that play active roles in the human rights abuses committed by the Israeli Government.

The first corporation listed, **Caterpillar**, sustains the occupation by providing tools and bulldozers to destroy Palestinian infrastructure such as homes, neighborhoods, and agricultural fields. Caterpillar tools also aid in the expansion of illegal settlements as declared by the United Nations. The second corporation, **General Electric (GE)**, manufactures engines used for the same helicopters that violate human rights violations by attacking Palestinian civilians. **Hewlett-Packard Company (HP)**, similar to the aforementioned companies, also aids in the systemic oppression of Palestine. HP provides discriminatory identification systems used by the Israeli military checkpoints and profits from mass incarceration. **Group 4 Securicor (G4S), Raytheon, Elbit Systems, SodaStream, and Veolia** are the remaining companies that complete the list." [Read the full article.](#)

Human Trafficking

The **Collaborative to End Human Trafficking** has shared [this power point presentation](#) and handouts on "[red flags](#)" and "[what you can do](#)." Feel free to use and adapt these. For more details or questions contact Anne Victory, HM, RN, MSN, send an email to <avictory@hmministry.org> or phone 440-356-2254.

Climate Change

See this one minute [video](#) on the mechanism of "global warming." For more details and action opportunities [visit the Catholic Climate Covenant](#).

JusticeCraft Seminar

May 18-25, 2014

JusticeCraft 2014 is an intensive week-long seminar that prepares participants to lead and coordinate social justice activities for organizations and religious congregations. Our internationally-recognized faculty provides participants with insights and strategies on today's critical justice issues.

Co-sponsored by the Holy Cross International Justice Office and the Sisters of the Holy Cross, JusticeCraft will be **held Sunday, May 18, through Sunday, May 25**, on historic Saint Mary's campus in Notre Dame, IN. The tuition fee includes accommodations, all meals, and meeting materials for the workshop. The fee is \$975 per person, with group discounts available for groups of 3 or more. Free optional evening activities will be available as well.

Registrations will be accepted until **Friday, April 12**. Space is limited, so please make your reservations early. [Register online](#) today. See the [brochure](#) for information on our interactive sessions, visit us on [Facebook](#) or check our websites at:



- <http://www.holycrossjustice.org/JusticeCraft/JusticeCraft.asp>
- <http://www.cscsisters.org/justice/justicecraft/Pages/default.aspx>

Here is what some of our past participants have to say:

- I do not exaggerate when I say that every presentation I have given in the past year has included references to JusticeCraft ... which provided me the opportunity to re-commit myself to this great work rooted in the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.
- ***Last year, I was new to the position of Justice and Peace Director of my congregation. I found JusticeCraft not only to be informative about critical issues but most informative about the HOW TOs of justice work.***
- The week has made me a new person with a new and driven desire for justice.... Not only was the information beneficial, but the presenters were top-notch, the best in their respective fields.

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CMSM



- *assists major superiors in their role as leaders;*
- *promotes dialogue and collaboration with the conference of bishops and other major groups in church and society;*
- *provides a corporate influence in church and society.*

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 It is also sent to justice and peace directors of CMSM member organizations,
 and to others who have expressed an interest.
 If you fall into the last category and no longer wish to receive this newsletter,
 send an e-mail to postmaster@cmsm.org and you will be removed from the list.