

The Migration Challenge on the Texas Border

“If you cannot hold a child in your arms, hold it in your heart.”- Ethiopian Proverb

The National Council of Negro Women’s mission is to lead, empower, and advocate for women of African descent, their families, and communities. As African American women, our community extends beyond our immediate family and beyond those who share our physical characteristics. Webster defines a community as persons or nations having a common history or common social and economic interest. There is a quote by the late renowned civil rights activist Pauli Murray, who was a friend to Dr. Height and a supporter of NCNW, that states: “True community is based upon equality, mutuality, and reciprocity. It affirms the richness of individual diversity as well as the common human ties that bind us together.”

As African Americans, we know first-hand the pain of “forced migration” or the diaspora to ensure safety, security, and economic equality for our families and most importantly for our children. In her book [*The Warmth of Other Suns*](#), Isabel Wilkerson discusses the migration of “six million Black Southerners out of the terror of Jim Crow to an uncertain existence in the North and Midwest.” As a people, we are familiar with the migration journey whether imposed or voluntarily seeking refuge for a better life. Thus, we have an opportunity to assist those who do not know the barriers, challenges, and pitfalls they may encounter along the way. We are a compassionate and resourceful people and there are many ways we can provide aid especially for the unaccompanied minors who are seeking refuge in our country.

For further information on how you can be of assistance, please go to [Red Cross News on Immigration](#).

There are things that we can do as an organization and things we can do individually. Here are some suggestions in my humble opinion.

As an organization:

1. Follow what our government and organizations like Amnesty International are doing and lend support.
2. Support the Sections in Texas and their efforts around this issue.
3. Ask questions of the media in every city to raise the profile of this crisis.

As an Individual:

4. Call or email the Texas Legislators, no matter where you are from, so they know this a national issue.
5. Have conversations with our friends, families, and others so that the issue stays in the forefront of people’s minds and hearts.
6. Support non-profits that are legitimately working with people caught up in the politics.

“A stray chick is a target for birds of prey.” – Tanzanian Proverb

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