Causes of Immigration on Our Southern Border

This week we discuss:

- Suketu Mehta on Fear of Immigrants. Prof. Suketu Mehta, author of *This is Our Land*, argues the West is being destroyed not by immigrants, but the fear of immigrants. [http://www.pbs.org/wnet/amanpour-and-company/video/suketu-mehta-on-fear-of-immigrants/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/amanpour-and-company/video/suketu-mehta-on-fear-of-immigrants/)
- “The Genesis of Exodus” by PC(USA) OGA. Often, the rhetoric in the United States frames the arrival of Central American migrants as a story that begins at the U.S./Mexico border. This film dives into a much deeper and more complicated journey that begins in the homes, schools, and streets of Central American towns. [https://vimeo.com/222008830](https://vimeo.com/222008830)

Goal for Class

The goal of this class is to better understand the circumstances, lives, and motivations of those who seek to immigrate to America from central America.

Questions for Discussion

- How does the presence of immigrants benefit our community? our state? our country?
- What examples of discrimination against immigrants in our community are you aware of?
- How can we, as a church, be more welcoming to immigrants in Santa Fe?

Additional Resources

- **NPR articles and short videos on immigration.** A number of articles and short (3-4 minute) videos on various topics related to U.S. immigration on our southern border. Published in 2019. [https://www.npr.org/series/710243964/migration-at-the-southern-border](https://www.npr.org/series/710243964/migration-at-the-southern-border)


- **“Immigration Nation”** on Netflix. (6 one-hour episodes) With unprecedented access to ICE operations, as well as moving portraits of immigrants, this documentary takes a deep look at U.S. immigration today. (6 one-hour episodes)

**Action Items**

Following are organizations that aid immigrants that our church supports. Check them out to see what they do and how you might be able to contribute to their efforts.

- **Somos Un Pueblo Unido**—A statewide community-based and immigrant-led organization that promotes worker and racial justice. [https://www.somosunpueblounido.org/somos-un-pueblo-unido.html](https://www.somosunpueblounido.org/somos-un-pueblo-unido.html)

- **Santa Fe Dreamers Project**—Provides free legal services to immigrants and refugees. [http://www.santafedreamersproject.org/](http://www.santafedreamersproject.org/)

- **No More Deaths**—A humanitarian aid organization that seeks to end death and suffering in the US-Mexico borderlands. [https://nomoredeaths.org/en/](https://nomoredeaths.org/en/)