

# INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION COALITION

## **Advocate's Toolkit**

**Educate your community on the upcoming  
*Arizona v. United States* Supreme Court Case**

# Write a Letter to the Editor About the Importance of the Striking Down SB1070

A powerful way to reach out to members of your community is by writing a letter to the editor. They are among the most widely read sections of newspapers and magazines and are closely monitored by legislators to find out what voters are thinking and hearing.

**STEP 1: Make your letter current and relevant by referring to the upcoming Supreme Court hearing on April 25.** Highlight how anti-immigrant laws do not reflect your faith values. Remember to also mention how they violate basic rights and encourage discrimination and/or racial profiling against American citizen as well.

**STEP 2: Explain how your values frame your response.** Here's an example: *As a person of faith and as an American, I value our tradition of being a nation of immigrants. Our faith guides us to welcome the stranger, whereas state immigration laws unjustly target immigrants.*

**STEP 3: Conclude with a concise, powerful closing.** Here's an example: *Deporting all of Arizona's undocumented workers, consumers, and taxpayers would eliminate 581,000 jobs and reduce state tax revenues by \$4.2 billion. Anti-immigrant bills like Arizona's affects us all and results in a society that, frankly, doesn't reflect American values.*

**STEP 4: Check your letter for spelling, grammar, clarity and length.**

## Tips

**Be Clear and Concise** - Limit your letter to one topic and check your grammar. Most publications prefer 250 words or less. Check for submission requirements.

**Be Current** - Responding to a recent article in the newspaper or to an upcoming or very recent event greatly increases your odds of being published.

**Be Compelling** - Make sure your lead sentence draws attention. Consider using a personal story or attention-grabbing facts. Always refrain from personal attacks.

**Contact** - Include your name, organization address and telephone number. Newspapers will often only publish a letter if they are able to contact the signer to make sure s/he is the author.

# Use Your Social Media Accounts to Enhance Your Voice

During the Supreme Court hearing, let's cut through the noise and level the playing field. The faith community will be able to connect and communicate with other faith advocates across the country in strong support of overturning SB 1070.



## Using Facebook

*Follow the Interfaith Immigration Coalition on Facebook. We'll be posting content regularly in the days leading up to the hearing. Remember to also share the content so your friends.*

Is your congregation holding an event in solidarity? Make sure to share it on our Facebook page!

After the hearing, you can share photos, articles, or interesting pieces of information to make sure your community knows about the consequences state immigration bills have.

*TIP: Remember to pose questions in your posts – this will help create a conversation.*

## Using Twitter

For real-time updates on the events in front of the Supreme Court, follow us on Twitter! *Use the hashtag #ImmigrationJustice and join the conversation, as well as these sample tweets:*

- As people of faith, we believe #SB1070 must be overturned to protect families. More info at [www.interfaithimmigration.org](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org). #ImmigrationJustice
- #SB1070 goes against our faith traditions of welcoming the stranger. More info at [www.interfaithimmigration.org](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org). #ImmigrationJustice #immigration
- Praying during the #SCOTUS hearings on Arizona's anti-#immigrant #SB1070 law. More info at [www.interfaithimmigration.org](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org). #ImmigrationJustice
- What will it say about American faith values if we discriminate against the stranger? More info at [www.interfaithimmigration.org](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org). #ImmigrationJustice #SB1070
- Upholding racial discrimination will not be supported by people of faith. More info at [www.interfaithimmigration.org](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org). #ImmigrationJustice #SB1070
- Tearing communities apart is not reflective of our religions More info at [www.interfaithimmigration.org](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org). #ImmigrationJustice #SB1070