

## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

### “A Statement Addressing the Concern of Undocumented Persons and Refugees in the United States”

1982 – Annual Conference



*This section, as well as the full text, comes from the denomination's website:*

<http://www.brethren.org/ac/statements/1982refugees.html>.

“Many people in the United States—and many more of our sisters and brothers in troubled regions around the world—suffer today as captives: captives of economic conditions that deny basic human needs such as adequate food, shelter or health care; captives of social systems that violate standards of human rights or undervalue personal worth and abilities; captives of political structures that oppress through violence or injustice. ...

Inability to enforce the existing laws has led to a large population of undocumented persons, that is, those who enter the U.S. legally or have overstayed their visas. **Lacking legal status and fearing deportation these persons have become easy prey for those who want cheap labor or who offer unsafe working conditions.** The outcry of the exploited and unemployed is increasing. ...

We seek to be faithful to the Word and call upon members of the Church of the Brethren to respond as it has done in the past to **serve the spiritual and social needs of migrating; immigrating and refugee persons.**”