

## Info Alert 202

February 14, 2023

Martin Luther King, Jr., reminded us that “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” Change takes a long time, but it does happen. *Quote taken from Theodore Parker*

### Black History Month

For over a year, Bill H.R. 40 which sought to form a commission on the study of reparations to the African American Community has languished in the Senate. NETWORK Lobby has been engaged with organizations who study legacy reparations, with civil rights groups, faith tables, and other coalition partners in the effort to get President Biden to sign an executive order which would create a reparations study commission in the style of H.R.40. Please spend some time with this website and use what you can to promote racial justice.

<https://networklobby.org/black-history-month-2023/> Read the Black Sisters’ Conference Statement on Tyre Nichols.

### Steps to a Humane Border Policy

The National Immigration Justice Center has published five steps the Biden Administration could adopt to provide a more humane response to immigration needs at our southern border:

- 1) **Develop and support communication and planning between federal, state, local governments and NGO’s**
- 2) **Fully fund and support NGO’s providing respite, shelter, social and legal services to arriving migrants**
- 3) **Create non-custodial, humanitarian reception centers at the border**
- 4) **Overhaul the federal immigration budget by moving funds away from detention and enforcement and toward asylum processing and humanitarian needs.**
- 5) **Abide by its obligation to ensure asylum access to those arriving at the United States’ borders and ports.**

For a more detailed explanation: [https://immigrantjustice.org/staff/blog/solutions-humane-border-policy?utm\\_source=suppnewsletter\\_feb23&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=textlink&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=92a17e4a-d457-436c-b5e8-844c6be6e6ed](https://immigrantjustice.org/staff/blog/solutions-humane-border-policy?utm_source=suppnewsletter_feb23&utm_medium=email&utm_content=textlink&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=92a17e4a-d457-436c-b5e8-844c6be6e6ed)

### Shut Down Berks

On January 10th, 2023, the Berks County Detention Center in Leesport, PA ended the day with an empty facility and has remained empty until it finally closed on January 31, 2023. This is an answer to our advocacy and prayer. Learn more: <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/news/2022/12/1/berks-shut-down-a-win-for-communities>

### Hope for Haiti Reconstruction Update

The Little Sisters of St. Therese completed reconstruction of their novitiate building and their combined juniorate and infirmary building in January 2023. The buildings were destroyed in the devastating January 2010 earthquake. On January 18, 2023, Sister Denise Desil, the Little Sisters’ general responsible, shared that “we are in the Altagracia novena” in thanksgiving for the completed reconstruction.

### Prayer for Haiti (Catholic Relief Services)

God of all creation, as we weep with our family in Haiti, console us.

In this time of crisis, open our eyes to look beyond the disaster to see Christ in our brothers and sisters in Haiti, as Christ sees us.

Be with us as we stand in solidarity with those living and working in Haiti.

Be with us in our mourning and guide our efforts to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, comfort the grieving and stand for justice. With your mercy, sustain us at this time as we continue to work for peace and justice. Amen.

### Actions

1. Support Haiti Awareness Week (see 2/6 Constant Contact)
2. Read the testimonials of the immigrants who have been detained in Berks Detention Center.