

Temple Shir Tikvah Public Stance Form

Name: *****

Email: *****

Phone number: *****

Proposal:

I would like to ask Temple Shir Tikvah to co-sponsor the showing of a short documentary entitled, "Invisible Crisis: The Female Face of Forced Migration," followed by a panel discussion, presented by the immigrant rights organization Centro Presente (www.cpresente.org). I'm organizing this event as a volunteer with the Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project (www.arlingtonteosinte.org), a volunteer-run town nonprofit that since 1988 has fostered Arlington's friendship with the village of Teosinte, El Salvador.

The documentary, which is appropriate for middle schoolers through adults, elucidates the situation of women migrants from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, who are fleeing overwhelming violence but are often not able to establish a claim to asylum because of the limitations of US immigration policy, along with a history of US support for repressive governments in the region. This humanitarian crisis has dramatically worsened with the new administration's increasing criminalization of immigrants. The panel will include the director of Centro Presente, herself an immigrant from Honduras, and other immigrants who will share personal experiences seeking safety in the United States. The documentary can be previewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iINd0WG3-cl>.

The event will take place on Wednesday, May 24, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, at the Robbins Library Community Room, 700 Mass Ave in Arlington. Arlington Town Meeting will have recently made a decision on Arlington's sanctuary resolution, and regardless of the outcome, this event will help in our ongoing community conversation about the human rights, financial, and political implications of immigration policy.

As a co-sponsor, Temple Shir Tikvah would allow me to:

- Include Temple Shir Tikvah in the list of co-sponsors on the event flyer and in other publicity for the event
- Help to get the word out about the event by allowing me to post a flyer at the synagogue, and if the timing works, to submit an announcement to the newsletter. I'd appreciate any other ideas about getting the word out to congregation.

I'm also seeking co-sponsorships from Arlington Stands with Immigrants, Arlington Human Rights Commission, the First Parish Church of Arlington (Unitarian Universalist, and possibly other immigrant support organizations (to be determined).

The event will have a suggested donation of \$5 - \$20 per person, to benefit Centro Presente. The Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project will set up a table of crafts from Teosinte to sell.

Is the request time-sensitive? If so, when do you need an answer? I would appreciate an answer by Friday, April 14. If it is possible to notify me sooner, that would be helpful.

What costs will be entailed in taking the stance? There is no cost to co-sponsors.

What is our clergy's position on the issue? This event is educational; it does not advocate for a particular policy. However, it does reflect a belief in the rights and human worth of immigrants. Last autumn's educational program in the TST 6th grade reflected a similar philosophy, so I assume that our clergy would be comfortable with this event as well.

How does the issue and stance relate to the temple's established positions and current activities and priorities? Recently a Sanctuary/Refugee Task Group organized at the synagogue, because of strong interest of many members of our congregation in this issue. This group discussed this event at its April 2nd meeting, and there was interest and support for it.