



House Party Host Toolkit Families Freedom and Faith

Dear Host,

Thank you for participating in the Reform Immigration FOR America November 18th action: the- **Families, Freedom, and Faith: Call to Action for Immigration Reform.** This call is the next opportunity for you and thousands of families, friends, church groups, ESL classes, and union halls to join together on a teleconference with Congressman Luis Gutierrez and guests to hear about the upcoming progressive comprehensive immigration reform bill and take action in the fight for immigration reform. Immigration reform must pass, and no one knows how important this is more than us. Our families have been torn apart by raids and a broken bureaucracy, our talented youth have been robbed of their potential, and even in this era of hope and change, our families still live in fear of deportation from a country they call home. We must support our progressive leaders like Congressman Gutierrez and demonstrate to the White House and other elected officials that this issue can no longer wait: we have the infrastructure across the country, we have the courage, and we have the votes it takes to take this across the finish line! This call is **YOUR** opportunity to continue your leadership in your community in the fight for Immigration Reform! Your participation on this November 18th Day of National Action truly shows your hard work and dedication to immigration reform and we thank you.

Sincerely,

Rich Stolz
Reform Immigration FOR America

CONTENT OF THIS TOOLKIT

- What is a House Party? p. 2
- What do I need to know as the House Party Host? p. 2
- What action steps do we take at the House Party? p. 3
- What do I need to do as the House Party Host? p. 4
- Sample Discussion Questions p. 5
- Sample Invitation for the Party p. 5
- Sign- in Sheet p. 6

WHAT IS A HOUSE PARTY?

A “**house party**” is a social gathering (in this case about an hour) held in a living room or any other comfortable setting to listen to the call, to discuss, and to take action. A house party is a family-friendly event, in which everyone can participate. A house party is ideal for organizing 15 to 25 people. And a house party doesn’t have to happen in a house – it can happen wherever people are already congregating: an ESL class; a church, synagogue, mosque or temple; end of a shift at a workplace, etc.!

Your house parties can be formal or casual, depending on your taste. The party should primarily focus on engaging people in discussion and advocacy over the issue of immigration. Conversation and dialogue are central to the event, but house parties are not political debates. The tone for the evening should be supportive and mutually respectful. Food and drinks help bring people together. Keep the food simple, light, and easy to eat. Appetizers and desserts are the best. You can also make the event “potluck” and ask people to bring drinks and snacks to share.

Be intentional about inviting people who either already have a passion for issues affecting immigrant communities and families, or are likely to be supportive of immigration reform but may need more information or an outlet for that advocacy.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW AS A HOUSE PARTY HOST?

It’s simple! To be a host you need to be prepared to:

- Supply a quiet, comfortable venue with adequate space and a working speakerphone.
- Create a guest invitation list and try to ensure 15-20 attendees.
- Have on hand the name and phone number of your Senators and Congressmembers.
- Bring a camera to take photos.
- Ask your guests to bring a picture of their family to send to the White House!
- Ensure each attendee completes the action steps listed below!

**FAMILIES
FREEDOM
& FAITH**

**A CALL TO ACTION FOR
IMMIGRATION REFORM**

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FAMILIES
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WHAT ACTION STEPS DO WE TAKE AT THE HOUSE PARTY?

In order to win, there are **3 Action Steps** we need everyone to do together:

ACTION 1) Share family pictures and stories with White House and Elected leaders.

Every guest should bring a picture of their family and please collect the pictures. After the call, the guests should share their story and write a note on the back of the family picture urging immigration reform by completing this sentence, “**I hope for** _____”

**The thousands of pictures we collect will be used to show the White House and our Members of Congress the families effected by our broken immigration system. Our pictures will remind everyone that these are broken immigration system hurts real people and American families!*

ACTION 2) Sign up and spread the work about this campaign!

At the end of the call, you'll receive a text message from Congressman Gutierrez asking you to sign up 20 of your friends for the Immigration Cell Phone Action Network. This will ensure you receive updates on the Campaign's progress. Text "**AAPI**" to **69866** to join the movement! You will receive the same information as those who text the word "Justice," but will be recognized as a member of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community.

ACTION 3) Contact your Member of Congress

Have every guest call their local Member of Congress and say "We need immigration reform now!" Due to the timing of the call you will most likely get the voice mail, but we want Congressmembers to come to work in the morning to all of those messages!

If there is no voicemail or if you cannot leave a message, please try again during business hours on November 19th.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!

A year ago, President Obama made a promise of starting the immigration reform debate during his first year. During the State of the Union Address this January 2010, we ask that you come together again and organize a "watch party" to listen and stand the President and his administration to pass comprehensive immigration reform in 2010!

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO AS A HOUSE PARTY HOST?

(1) Register your house party.

Go to www.reformimmigrationforamerica.org and register your house party. You will receive registration confirmation with the teleconference number. Please also email the AAPI constituency lead, Sookyung Oh at soh@nakasec.org to let us know about your participation. If you have any questions about the teleconference call the Host Hotline at 1-866-572-7042.

(2) Send out invitations.

Invite your friends, family, and community members who would like to be active in the push for immigration reform to your home, a church, a community center, or any location where you could meet to celebrate, advocate, and be a part of the November 18th National Call to Action. Samples of an invitation email for your use is attached at end of packet. **** We advise that you send invitations out to 25-30 people just in case some of your guests cannot make it to your party. ****

(3) Look up your members of Congress

Find the names and phone numbers of your Senators and Representatives so that attendees can call their Congressional leaders and ask for immigration reform now.

(4) Suggested Agenda

4:30PM PST/7:30PM EST: Participants arrive, sign in and get food

4:50PM PST/7:50PM EST: Welcome and overview by the Host

5PM PST/8PM EST: Join the Teleconference

5:30PM PST/8:30PM EST: Use discussion questions (provided) to have a follow up discussion with participants. Share family photos and stories.

5:55 PM PST/8:55 PM EST: Ask participants to join the RI4A text messaging campaign and call their representatives

6 PM PST/9PM EST: Adjourn

(5) After the party (NOV 19TH):

Contact the AAPI organization that got you involved, and share your experience as a host as well as any comments and photos you took during the event. Family photos that were collected and the sign in sheet can be sent to:

Asian American Justice Center
Attn: Lianna Chang
1140 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What reactions, thoughts and comments do you have after hearing Representative Gutierrez?

Share your family photo as well as stories about how immigration has affected your family and friends.

Why you think immigration reform is important?

How can AAPIs be better engaged in immigration reform?

SAMPLE EMAIL INVITATION

Dear friends and family,

Please join me for a nationwide conversation with Representative Luis Gutierrez. On November 18, people all across America will pick up their phones to get an exclusive perspective on the fight for immigration reform. The national town hall call will discuss why America needs to fix our broken immigration system. Representative Gutierrez will lift up the stories of families who are hurting right now, and let us know how we can make sure that Congress and the White House deliver immigration reform that keeps families together.

By attending a party, you'll show the world that you're committed to this cause. Not only will you hear firsthand what we're already doing for immigration reform, you'll learn about what's next for this movement and how we're going to take a stand.

When: November 18th, 4:30pm PST/7:30EST

Where: []

[Refreshments will be provided/please bring contributions to the potluck]

Please bring a photo of your family that will be sent to the White House and leaders in Congress. Please RSVP by Friday November 18th. Thank you and I hope to see you there!

Regards,

[]



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FREEDOM
& FAITH**

**A CALL TO ACTION FOR
IMMIGRATION REFORM**

**BE PART OF THE WINNING STRUGGLE
FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM!**

NAME	EMAIL
ADDRESS	CELL PHONE
	BIRTHDATE
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES! I WANT TO JOIN THE IMMIGRATION CELL PHONE ACTION NETWORK
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES! PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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