

Who Are My Sisters and Brothers?

Glossary Terms

Alien: Under U.S. law, **any** person who is not a U.S. citizen is considered an “alien”; most aliens have some form of legal status in the United States and some are undocumented. (This term has commonly been associated with the assumption of “illegal” status, and therefore has strong negative connotations.)

Undocumented immigrant: A person who is in a country without the permission of that country’s government. Such persons are called “undocumented” because they lack required paperwork.

“It is necessary to avoid recourse to the use of administrative regulations, meant to restrict the criterion of family membership, which result in unjustifiably forcing into an illegal situation people whose right to live with their family cannot be denied by any law.”

World Migration Day 1996, John Paul II
