



Dear Diocesan Director/Coordinator,

One of the many challenges facing immigrants to the United States is how to secure knowledgeable legal representation as they navigate our complex immigration system. Given their difficulties in finding and affording legal assistance, immigrants commonly try to represent themselves in court.

The bishops of the United States founded the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), more than 35 years ago to help low-income immigrants secure the legal services they need to protect their rights. CLINIC's assistance in the complex case of Viviana is an example of the positive difference that legal representation can make.

Viviana, a political activist from Cuba, applied for asylum in the United States in 2018. Her initial application was denied. When she represented herself in an appeal, the judge denied her relief based on a technicality in her supporting documents. After reviewing her case, CLINIC connected Viviana with volunteer private attorneys, who filed a petition in 2019 for her to remain in the United States. This petition was denied and she was removed to Bolivia, where her husband was living, but neither had permanent status there. Despite her removal to Bolivia, her volunteer attorneys here continued to advocate for Viviana's return to the United States, even as she faced deportation from Bolivia back to Cuba. Finally, in March 2024, CLINIC and Viviana's private attorneys secured permission from Immigration and Customs Enforcement for her to return to the United States.

In success stories such as Viviana's, human dignity is protected thanks to the funds that CLINIC receives through The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

We rely on you to promote this collection, and we are here to support your efforts. Bulletin announcements, parish appeals, web banners, and more are available for your use at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief. There you can also find a social media tool kit with posts and photos you can use. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or mbren@usccb.org. On behalf of the National Collections staff and all who benefit from The Catholic Relief Services Collection, thank you.

Gratefully in Christ,

Margaret Hren
Assistant Director, Promotions



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

The Catholic Relief Services Collection

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