

IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

International Affairs Committee

2017 Edition Vol. 1

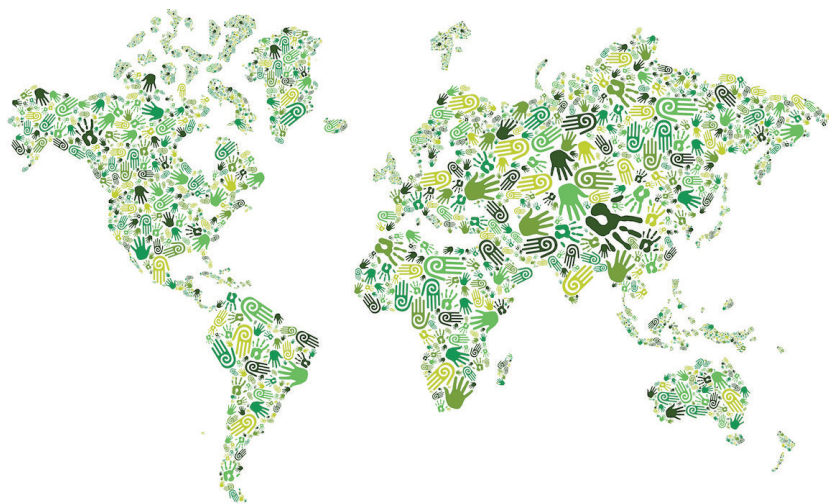
When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:33–34

Haitians in the Dominican Republic

On September 23, 2013, the Dominican Republic's Constitutional Tribunal made a decision that resulted in the seizure of Juliana Deguis Pierre's birth certificate because her parents were Haitian. Thankfully, her identity card has since been returned due to international pressure. Unfortunately, as a result of the Tribunal's decision, many other Dominican Republic citizens of Haitian ancestry have had their Dominican citizenship revoked.

This decision has resulted in the rounding-up and expulsion of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is concerned for those who are vulnerable to



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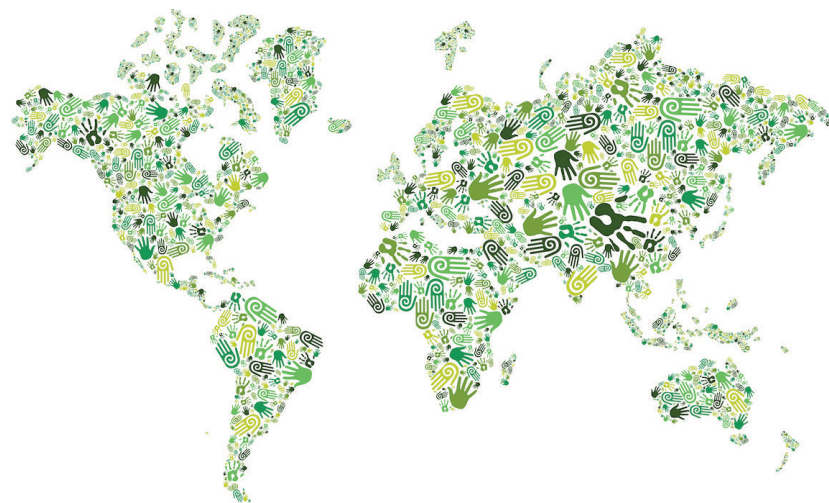
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statelessness as a result of the Tribunal's decision. This follows a pattern of racism, arbitrariness and disregard for human rights by the Dominican Republic authorities. It violates the Dominican Republic's commitment to uphold the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, particularly Article 15, which states that everyone has the right to a nationality and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her nationality.



The Church Responds

Following the recommendation made by General Assembly, the Moderator wrote to the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic and Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs expressing the church's concern about the treatment and deportation of Dominican Republic citizens of Haitian descent. The Moderator requested that the Government of the Dominican Republic discontinue revoking citizenship of its citizens of Haitian descent.

Prayer

God of all peoples, we pray for courage for people caught between borders, and who are struggling against racism. Bless those who are persecuted and call us to transformation so that we may live in unity.



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