

# IMMIGRATION, REFUGEE PROTECTION, AND OTHER U.S. GLOBAL POLICY ISSUES AT HOME



FRIDAY, 12 JUNE  
NOON  
238 HRCB



## Jen Smyers

ASSOCIATE FOR IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE POLICY, CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Jen Smyers serves as the associate for Immigration and Refugee Policy with Church World Service, an ecumenical humanitarian organization that extends disaster assistance, social and economic development, and refugee protection to people around the world. As chair of the Refugee Council USA Advocacy Committee, Smyers coordinates the work of twenty-five humanitarian organizations in efforts to increase humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and improve services for resettled refugees. As co-chair of the Legislative Committee for the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, she advises twenty-two national faith-based groups on legislation and coordinates congressional advocacy for humane

immigration reform. Recently, she has helped enact legislation to prioritize family unity in the immigration system and assist and admit Iraqi refugees. She has also worked with the administration to remedy the consequences of the “material support” bar and improve implementation of legislation. Previously she has worked with Border Action Network in Tucson, AZ, and the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. In addition to immigration and refugee advocacy, she is active in serving youth, homeless, and financially struggling populations in the D.C. area. Smyers received BAs in law and society and public communication as well as an MPP from the American University.