Stepping Faithfully Into the Public Square

Office of Government Relations

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

Public Policy, Partnership & Witness Division

Opening Prayer

Thanksgiving for Peaceful Elections, *11.6.26*

Gracious God, who sustains the world and bestows blessings freely upon all creation, we give you thanks for peaceful elections in the United States. We give you praise when people everywhere live peaceably with one another, when we let love and mutual respect guide our disagreements, and when we faithfully honor your image in others. Keep this nation under your care as we endeavor to live as faithful citizens of the land you have entrusted to our stewardship. Increase our responsibility and love. Make us instruments of your peace and justice on behalf of our fellow citizens and the world. We pray for all newly elected and returning officials in this nation. Give them wisdom, strength, and courage to live out their call to serve the common good with diligence and integrity, through your well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

EPPN Prayers

For Civil Hearts and Listening Ears, *08.29.25*
God of compassion, your Son Jesus spoke peace to the anxious and gave rest to the weary. In our own nation, public life is often spoiled by anger, division, and reckless words. Raise up leaders who shape their conduct after Jesus, and transform our discourse so that the public square may be marked by civility, fairness, and love. Teach us to use our words for the sake of the suffering, and renew in us the Spirit promised by Jesus—the Spirit who tames our tongues and prepares our minds for the good work you call us to do. Through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

For an End to Political Violence, *09.12.25*
God of mercy and peace, we grieve for all lives lost to political violence. Comfort all families who have experienced such loss and those who experience threats of violence. Grant us self-control in political discourse, that anger and fear do not lead us into harm. Stir our hearts toward compassion, and bless us with the gift of understanding, that we may listen and not judge. Lord, guard us from the pride that built the Tower of Babel, and unite us in patience and humility—building together for the good of all. We trust in your justice and your steadfast love, through Jesus Christ our Prince of Peace. Amen.

For Speech Guided by the Spirit, *10.03.25*
God of wisdom and truth, you give us the gift of speech to bless and to build. Freedom of speech, along with freedom of association and self-determination, are also foundational for religious independence and tolerance for all. We grieve when political pressure seeks to silence voices. Guard us from fear that stifles honest expression, and from speech that wounds needlessly. Teach us to speak and act with compassion, not in retribution; to listen with patience; and to discern wisely when words are meant to harm. Strengthen leaders to uphold freedom of speech with justice and mercy and guide your church to speak truth in love. Through Jesus Christ, your Living Word, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Peaceful Elections, *11.07.25*
O God, our governor, who desires that all your children live in safety, we give you thanks for the recent elections held in peace throughout this nation. Grant that future elections may continue in safety, and that our civic life may be marked by fairness and justice. We pray for those elected this week to public office: Give them wisdom and strength to serve with integrity and compassion. Fill all who govern, and all people of this land, with a love of truth and righteousness for the sake of the common good. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the source of all truth and righteousness. Amen.

Prayers related to elections and civil discourse

available from Election engagement webpage

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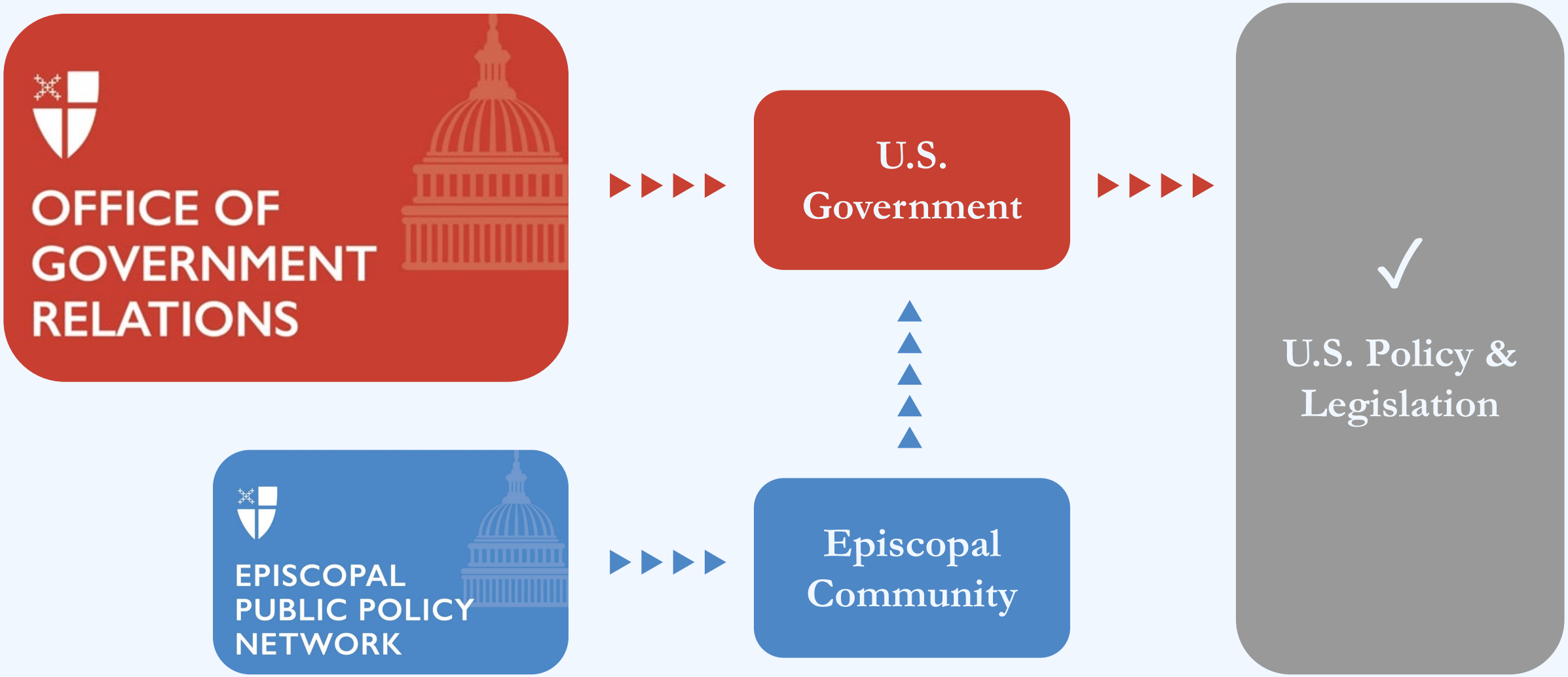

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
EPISCOPAL PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK
U.S. Government
Episcopal Community
✓
U.S. Policy & Legislation

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Mission of The Office of Government Relations

Advocate

Convey the policy priorities of The Episcopal Church to the U.S. government.

Influence

Help shape policy, legislation and public perspectives to align with The Episcopal Church priorities.

Amplify

Highlight the voices and experiences of Episcopalians and Anglicans globally.

ROOTS IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

- **3rd largest** Christian community globally
- **80** million members
- **44** regional and national member churches
- More than **165** countries



THE PUBLIC POLICY, PATNERSHIP & WITNESS DIVISION



Includes:

- **Government** Relations
- **Global** Partnerships
- **Migration** Ministries
- **Ecumenical** and **Interreligious** Relations
- The Episcopal Church to the **United Nations**
- **Socially-responsible Investing**

The Division of Public Policy, Partnership and Witness **amplifies** and **advocates** for the church's values, **lifting up** the witness of the church in the public square. **We build** relationships, **facilitate** connections, and **collaborate** with global, ecumenical, and interreligious partners. **We engage** the U.S. government, the United Nations, and the private sector on public policy issues based on General Convention and Executive Council resolutions. **We support** dioceses and ministry networks around the church **in serving** communities, **providing** resources, **addressing** global migration, and **protecting** the rights of migrants.

LEAPS


Litigation


Education


Advocacy


Prayer


Socially-responsible Investing

POLICY AREAS



Creation Care



Ending Poverty



Racial Reconciliation



Migration, Refugees, and Immigration



Human Rights and Peacebuilding

Why we advocate?



SCRIPTURE

"Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Proverbs 31:8-9



SCALE

Federal government funding supports 90% of all food assistance – from school meals to SNAP.

"There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds… and it was distributed to each as any had need."

Acts 4:32-35



AUTHORITY

- Immigration and Refugees
- Foreign Policy
- Environmental Regulation



How do we advocate?



Public Statements & Sign-on Letters

Action Alerts

Press Conferences



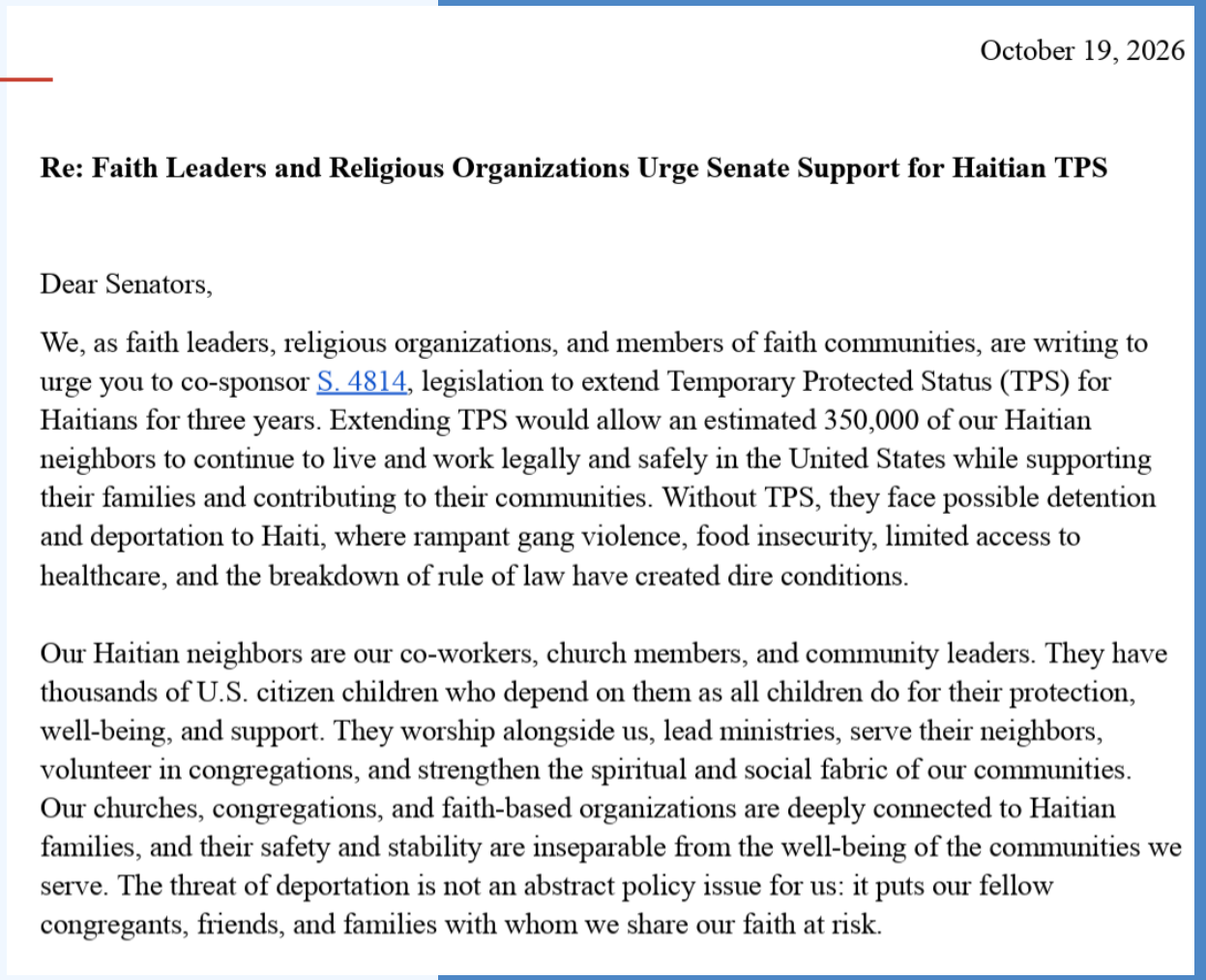
Social Media/Emails

Education Series

Newspaper Op-eds

PUBLIC STATEMENTS & SIGN-ON LETTERS

- Letter protecting access to SNAP/food benefits
- Public comment on changes to the 2030 Census
- Cuba Sanctions Letter to State and Treasury Department
- Investor letter to Walmart on impacts of immigration policy and enforcement on their operations and supply chains
- Public Comment on Notice of Intent Change for Refugees



October 19, 2026

Re: Faith Leaders and Religious Organizations Urge Senate Support for Haitian TPS

Dear Senators,

We, as faith leaders, religious organizations, and members of faith communities, are writing to urge you to co-sponsor S. 4814, legislation to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians for three years. Extending TPS would allow an estimated 350,000 of our Haitian neighbors to continue to live and work legally and safely in the United States while supporting their families and contributing to their communities. Without TPS, they face possible detention and deportation to Haiti, where rampant gang violence, food insecurity, limited access to healthcare, and the breakdown of rule of law have created dire conditions.

Our Haitian neighbors are our co-workers, church members, and community leaders. They have thousands of U.S. citizen children who depend on them as all children do for their protection, well-being, and support. They worship alongside us, lead ministries, serve their neighbors, volunteer in congregations, and strengthen the spiritual and social fabric of our communities. Our churches, congregations, and faith-based organizations are deeply connected to Haitian families, and their safety and stability are inseparable from the well-being of the communities we serve. The threat of deportation is not an abstract policy issue for us: it puts our fellow congregants, friends, and families with whom we share our faith at risk.

ACTION ALERTS

iam.ec/action

EPISCOPAL PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK

ACTION ALERTS

Scan to take action!

THE Episcopal CHURCH



Act Now to Help End Homelessness

Every year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releases its Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, a point-in-time count for people experiencing homelessness on any given night. The numbers continue to show upward trends, going up 18 percent in 2024, the...



Congress Must Protect the Vulnerable

The Episcopal Church has long supported social safety net and foreign assistance programs aimed at combating poverty in the United States and around the world. The effects of poverty are profound, impacting individuals, families, and communities for generations. As people...



Tell Congress to Protect Disaster Aid!

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United States' dedicated disaster agency, is equipped with decades of intergovernmental partnerships, tens of billions of dollars in disaster aid, and the operational infrastructure needed to respond swiftly and...



Permanently Protect the Arctic Refuge

Congress has reintroduced legislation that would protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas exploration by designating it as a wilderness area. We urge you to speak up now and ask members to cosponsor this legislation. In recent years, there have been...



Stand with Human Rights Defenders

Join us in standing in solidarity with human rights defenders around the world. Human rights defenders often risk their freedom—and their lives—to uphold justice, advocate for the voiceless, and protect the integrity of the legal system. When governments target those who...



Building relationships & informing policy makers

Developing strategies with coalitions

Conducting discrete diplomacy & outreach

Facilitating grassroots & grass-tops advocacy

Tracking legislation, finding co-sponsors

Contributing to bill drafts

Authoring internal letters/statements

To whom do we advocate?









PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

Congress

The White House

State Department

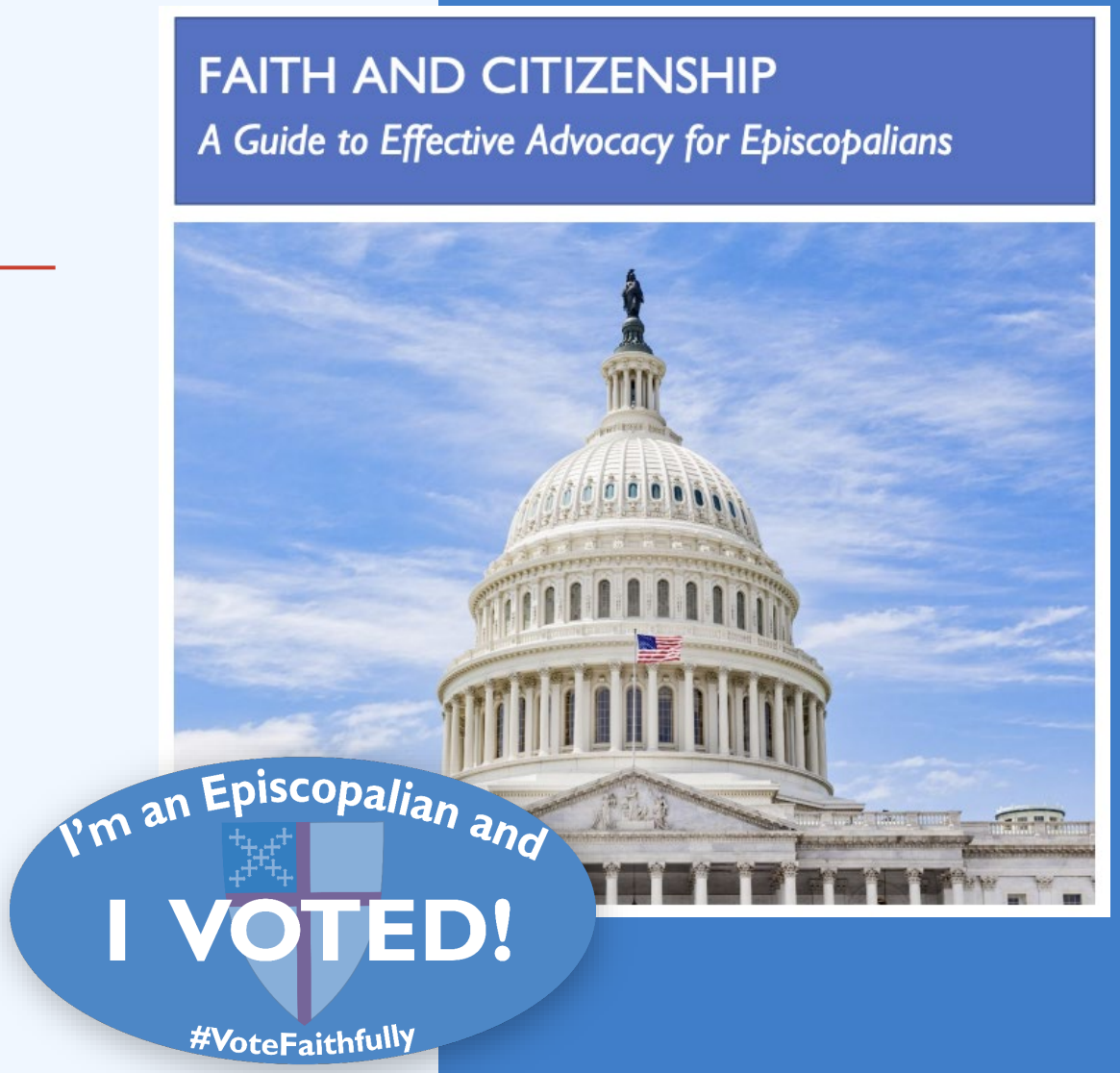
Other U.S. Government Departments & Agencies

Private Sector

How can you help?

TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY

- Faith and Citizenship Advocacy Guide
- The Postcard Project
- Vote Faithfully Election Engagement Toolkit
- Civil Discourse Curriculum
- Policy for Action
- Weekly Network Calls | iam.ec/OGR



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Stay Involved

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