

## Spotlight – September 2009

### Social Issues

**U.S. Immigration Policy Likely to Boost Population** by Joseph Chamie. *Yale Global*. July 2009.

As the new U.S. Administration and Congress begin to tackle immigration reform they will again be faced with the question of how large America's population should be in the future. Clearly, any answer to this demographic question has serious economic, political, social and environmental consequences for the U.S. as well as for the international community of nations, says the author. [ARTICLE 739](#)

**From Unpaid to Paid Care Work: the Macroeconomic Implications of HIV and AIDS on Women's Time-Tax Burdens** by Rania Antonopoulos and Taun Toay. *The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College*. July 2009.

The paper considers public employment guarantee programs in the context of South Africa as a means to address the nexus of poverty, unemployment, and unpaid work burdens, all factors exacerbated by HIV/AIDS. It further discusses the need for gender informed public job creation in areas that mitigate the "time-tax" burdens of women, and examines a South African initiative to address social sector service delivery deficits within the government's Expanded Public Works Programme. [ARTICLE 740](#)

**In Tough Times, Volunteering in America Remains Strong.** *Corporation for National and Public Service*. July 27, 2009.

The report finds that even during a time of prolonged economic recession, volunteering has remained steady, fueled by a compassion boom led by young adults and a wave of do-it-yourself volunteers working with their neighbors to fix problems. [DATA](#) [RANKINGS](#)

**Same-Gender Marriage & Religious Freedom** by C. Welton Gaddy. *Interfaith Alliance*. Aug. 2009.

The author calls for a new national discussion on marriage based on the premise that "law, not scripture, is the foundation of government regulations related to marriage in our nation." The paper expresses support for same-gender marriage, seeking to shift the perspective on LGBT equality from problem to solution. To do so, the author advocates moving from scriptural argument to religious freedom agreement. [ARTICLE 741](#)

[ICE announces major reforms to immigration detention system.](#) *U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement*. August 06, 2009.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Assistant Secretary John Morton announced today that ICE is undertaking a major overhaul of the agency's immigration detention system.

**Improving Savings Incentives for the Poor** by D. Sean Shurtlefee. *National Center for Policy Analysis*. August 12, 2009.

Americans have been saving less of their after-tax income for the past 15 years. The annual personal savings rate averaged 8% from 1929 to 2000, but reached a historical low of 0.4% in 2005. With the onset of the 2008-2009 recession the savings rate rose again to more than 6%. [ARTICLE 742](#)

**Racial and Ethnic Disparities Among Low-Income Families** by Margaret C. Simms et al. *Urban Institute*. August 11, 2009.

Of the more than 13.4 million families with children living on incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level, 30% are Hispanic, 22% are African American, and 6% are other nonwhites. This fact sheet provides statistics on racial and ethnic differences in family structure, work effort, nativity or immigration status, earnings, and education. [ARTICLE 743](#)

**CBO's Long-Term Projections for Social Security: 2009 Update.** *Congressional Budget Office*. August 2009.

According to the update, without changes in law, CBO expects that the Social Security trust funds will be exhausted in 2043. If that point is reached, the Social Security Administration will not have the legal authority to

pay full benefits and the amounts that could be paid would be about 17 percent less than those scheduled under current law.

[\*\*ARTICLE 744\*\*](#)

**Mexican Immigrants: how Many Come? How Many Leave?** By Jeffery S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn. *Pew Hispanic Center*. July 22, 2009.

The flow of immigrants from Mexico to the U.S. has declined sharply since 2005, but there is no evidence of an increase during this period in the number of Mexican-born migrants returning home from the U.S., according to the report. The current recession has had a harsh impact on employment of Latino immigrants, raising the question of whether more Mexican-born residents are choosing to return home.

[\*\*ARTICLE 745\*\*](#)