

## **FAITH LEADERS' STATEMENT ON FAMILY SEPARATION**

Recently, the U.S. Administration announced that it will begin separating families and criminally prosecuting all people who enter the U.S. without previous authorization. As religious leaders representing diverse faith perspectives, united in our concern for the well-being of vulnerable migrants who cross our borders fleeing from danger and threats to their lives, we are deeply disappointed and pained to hear this news.

We affirm the family as a foundational societal structure to support human community and understand the household as an estate blessed by God. The security of the family provides critical mental, physical and emotional support to the development and wellbeing of children. Our congregations and agencies serve many migrant families that have recently arrived in the United States. Leaving their communities is often the only option they have to provide safety for their children and protect them from harm. Tearing children away from parents who have made a dangerous journey to provide a safe and sufficient life for them is unnecessarily cruel and detrimental to the well-being of parents and children.

As we continue to serve and love our neighbor, we pray for the children and families that will suffer due to this policy and urge the Administration to stop their policy of separating families.

*His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian*  
Diocesan Legate and  
Director of the Ecumenical Office  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

*Mr. Azhar Azeez*  
President  
Islamic Society of North America

*The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera*  
Bishop of Scranton, PA  
Chair, Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

*Senior Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.*  
Presiding Prelate, Piedmont Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

*Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.*  
President, Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church

*The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry*  
Presiding Bishop  
Episcopal Church (United States)

*The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer*  
General Minister & President  
United Church of Christ

*The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton*  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*The Rev. David Guthrie*  
President, Provincial Elders' Conference  
Moravian Church Southern Province

*Mr. Glen Guyton*  
Executive Director  
Mennonite Church USA

*The Rev. Teresa Hord Owens*  
General Minister and President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

*Rabbi Rick Jacobs*  
President  
Union for Reform Judaism

*Mr. Anwar Khan*  
President  
Islamic Relief USA

*The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller*  
President, Provincial Elders' Conference  
Moravian Church Northern Province

*The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II*  
Stated Clerk  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

*Rabbi Jonah Pesner*  
Director  
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

*The Rev. Don Poest*  
Interim General Secretary

*The Rev. Eddy Alemán*  
Candidate for General Secretary  
Reformed Church in America

*Senior Bishop Lawrence Reddick III*  
Presiding Bishop, The 8th Episcopal District  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

*The Rev. Phil Tom*  
Executive Director  
International Council of Community Churches

*Senior Bishop McKinley Young*  
Presiding Prelate, Third Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Church