

Interfaith Statement of Solidarity with Annunciation House

Faith leaders and organizations express their support for the crucial work of Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, and decry the criminalization of their services.

The undersigned 268 faith leaders and 165 faith-based organizations write to express our unwavering solidarity with Annunciation House, a Catholic organization that accompanies migrants in El Paso, Texas, and to decry Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's actions targeting it. We are deeply troubled by efforts that appear to target this kind of humanitarian work, which is a significant part of how many people live out their faith. AG Paxton's decision to target Annunciation House through legal actions - with the ultimate goal of shutting it down - is designed to intimidate other faith-based and secular organizations that provide essential humanitarian services to people seeking safety in Texas.

For more than 45 years, Annunciation House has provided hospitality to people seeking safety at the U.S.-Mexico border. AG Paxton's recent actions are an alarming attempt to deter and criminalize the sacred act of providing care for people in need. Annunciation House provides essential hospitality to hundreds of people each day, by sharing food, clothing, shelter, and moments of dignity on an inhumane journey. Most of Annunciation House's guests are fleeing violence and political repression in their home countries. Many are families with young children. Without Annunciation House's services, many of its guests would have nowhere else to go.

Our faith traditions call us to love and serve others, particularly the most marginalized people in society. Many verses in our sacred texts explicitly extend this obligation to immigrants and teach us to love and care for people from outside our home society. The Hebrew Bible says that "You shall love this person as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34). Annunciation House's work is rooted in Catholic social teaching, which tells believers that they must seek justice in solidarity with the marginalized, "feed the hungry and welcome the stranger" (Matthew 25:35). AG Paxton's actions are an affront, therefore, to our faith traditions and our religious call to serve our neighbors.

Tragically, these legal actions come amid a broader escalation of tactics and rhetoric that vilify migrants for seeking safety, even though the right to seek asylum is recognized in U.S. and international law. Our society has often failed to foster hospitality and a welcoming environment for immigrants. The ideology animating such hostility has led to violence against immigrant communities and their allies. We call on Attorney General Paxton to immediately halt his attack on faith groups serving immigrants. In an atmosphere of increasing criminalization of migration and border militarization in Texas and beyond, we must remain steadfast in our solidarity with our migrant siblings and the organizations that support them.

Annunciation House is a model of service and a beacon of hope for people of faith who put their values into action. Together in one voice, we will continue to loudly proclaim that every person is created in the image of the Divine and deserves safety and respect.

Signed,

Faith Organizations and Congregations:

Adorers of the Blood of Christ US Region JPIC Office
Albuquerque Mennonite Church
Benedictine Sisters, Boerne, Texas
Board of Rabbis of Southern California
Border Compassion
Border Servant Corps
Call To Action
CCVI Migrant, Immigrant and Refugee Network
Central Lutheran Church
Church of the Foothills
Church World Service
Clue
Congregation of Divine Providence
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Connecticut & Rhode Island FAN Justice Circle
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul USA
Davis Center for Social Justice at Temple Sinai DC
Disciples Peace Fellowship
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, Washington DC
ELCA Southeast Michigan Synod, Immigration and Refugee Task Force
Emmaus Community
Eugene Springfield Interfaith EarthKeepers
Faith Action Network
Faith Commons
Faith in Action
Faithful America
Farm Worker Ministry Northwest
FEA Foundation Ministries
First Coast Returned Peace Corps of Jacksonville, FL
First Congregational Church, UCC, Guilford, CT
First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, TX
Francis House Catholic Worker

Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Action Network Circle-Richmond, VA.
Franciscan Justice Circle-Mid Hudson Valley, NY
Franciscan Justice Circle-Virtual group
Franciscan Justice Circle-Cleveland, OH
Franciscan Justice Circle-New York, NY
Franciscan Peace Center, Clinton, Iowa
Franciscan Justice Circle, Cleveland, OH
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Refuge
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church AMMPARO
Harbor Christian Community Church
Hildegard House Catholic Worker
Hindus for Human Rights
Holy Cross Retreat Center
Holy Ground Catholic Community
Holy Name of Jesus St. Gregory JPIC
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Hope Border Institute
Ignatian Solidarity Network
Immigrant Hope Gainesville
Immigrant Justice Initiative of The Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist
Immigrant Justice Task Force, Wellington UCC
Interfaith Action for Human Rights
Interfaith Committee for Migrant Justice
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)
Interfaith Welcome Coalition of San Antonio, TX
JPIC at Holy Name-St Gregory NYC
JPIC Office - Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, TX
Justice Coordinating Council, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston, TX
Justice Ministry Council of UUAVI
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission (OSF)
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee Holy Name of Jesus- St. Gregory the Great
Parish, New York, NY.
Kansas City Welcome Alliance
LAOH National Catholic Social Justice Committee
Laudato Si El Paso TX and Las Cruces NM
Law Office of Margaret Boyce Furey
Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America
Long Island Immigration Clinic/Sisters of St. Joseph
Loretto Community Latin America/Caribbean Committee

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania
Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy New Jersey
Ma'yan Tikvah
Madison Christian Community Sanctuary Team
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement
Michigan Refugee Hope
Midvale Community Lutheran Church
Midway Hills Christian Church
Most Holy Trinity Parish Tucson AZ
National Action Network Los Angeles
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Churches
National Farm Worker Ministry
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Never Again Action
New York Catholic Worker
Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition
Obra Hispana- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity/Sisters of Charity of Saint
Elizabeth OLS Care of Creation Team
Or Hamidbar, Palm Springs
Orange County Catholic Worker
Order of Lutheran Franciscans
Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice
Original Blessing
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
Pathways UU Church
Pax Christi
Pax Christi Florida
Pax Christi Little Rock
Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore
Pax Christi Michigan
Pax Christi New Jersey
Pax Christi USA
Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth, MN
Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Red Jesuita con Migrantes (RJM-LAC)
Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
Refugee Support Network

Religious Sisters of Charity
Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Sacred Heart Church - Jesuits of El Paso
San Antonio Mennonite Church
San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment
Shepherd of the Hills United Church of Christ, Phoenix, AZ
Sisters of Charity of New York
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio
Sisters of Providence Peace Community, Seattle, WA
Sisters of Saint Joseph Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St Francis
Sisters of St Joseph
Sisters of St, Joseph of Carondelet Albany
Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana
Sisters of St. Joseph
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet-LA
Sisters of the Divine Savior North American Province
Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary
Social Action Council, First UU Church of Austin
Sojourners
Sisters of Charity of Incarnate Word
St. Aloysius Catholic Church
St. Columban Mission for Justice, Peace and Ecology
St. Francis de Sales Social Justice Ministry
Strangers No Longer-Michigan
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
The Episcopal Church
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett
Unitarian Universalist FaithAction, NJ
Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina
Unitarian Universalist of New Braunfels
Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hidalgo County Texas
United Church of Christ
University Presbyterian Church-San Antonio, TX
Urban Abbey United Methodist Church
UU Mass Action
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Washington State Catholic Conference
We ARE In Christ
Wellspring United Church of Christ
WIN - Winona Immigration Network

Faith Leaders:

The Rev. Lisa Ahuja, St. Thomas' Parish, DC
Rabbi Katy Z. Allen, Ma'yan Tikvah
Cantor Sheri Allen, Makom Shelanu Congregation
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The Very Reverend Canon Doctor Frank M. Alton, Episcopal Church
Rev. Jack Amick, United Methodist Committee on Relief
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Mr. David Atkinson, AMMPARO
The Rev. Hannah Atkins-Romero, Trinity Episcopal Church, Houston
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Pat Barnett, Congregation Chair, San Antonio Mennonite Church
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Max Davis, Rabbinical Student
Sister Jo'Ann De Quattro, Sisters of the Holy Names
Rev. John Dear, The Beatitudes Center
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Marie Dennis, Senior Director, Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, Pax Christi International
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Pastor David Dierksen
Reverend Hannah DiPasquale, Peace Lutheran Church-Las Cruces, NM
Rev. Melinda Dodge, Being the Church, Long Beach (United Methodist)
Sister Peggy Doyle, C.N.D., Congregation of Notre Dame
Rabbi Matt Dreffin, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
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Sister Alberta Wilkes
Sister Claire Williams, Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet
Rabbi Amelia Wolf
Rabbi Joseph Wolf
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Brother Robert Wotypka, OFM Cap
Rev. Dr. John Wurster, St Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston
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Rev. Dr. Christopher Zacharias
Rabbi Cat Zavis, Beyt Tikkun: A Synagogue without Walls
Bill Zellman, Coffee Ministry - St. Ben's Parish, Milwaukee, WI
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Ms. Janicer Zitelman
Cantor Michael Zoosman
Pastor Henry Zorn
Br. Anthony Zuba, Capuchin Franciscans