

April 10, 2019

Dear Members of Congress,

As 209 religious leaders and 92 faith-based organizations across faith traditions, we write to express our strong support for the *National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (NO BAN Act)*, led by Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) and Representative Judy Chu (D-CA). The NO BAN Act would end the harmful refugee, Muslim, and asylum bans put in place by this administration and establish vital protections against future discriminatory bans.

We are called by our sacred texts and faith principles to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the sojourner. Our congregations, synagogues, and mosques have historically played key roles in assisting refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and other newcomers with housing, language, jobs, and social supports necessary to integrate and thrive. Yet, over the last two years, the administration has undertaken a series of attacks against our refugee, asylum seeking, and Muslim neighbors. Together, the Muslim ban on travel from several Muslim-majority countries, asylum ban that wrongfully and illegally blocks people who cross between ports of entry from applying for asylum, and refugee ban that seeks to dismantle the resettlement program deny vulnerable families their fundamental right to safety, condemn them to return to unfathomable danger, and prolong family separation. To restrict thousands of people based on discrimination forsakes our nation's ideals of compassion, hospitality, and welcome.

We cannot condone excluding people based on their nationality or religious background, but instead must work toward inclusivity and justice for all. Religious faith or national origin should never be an obstacle to whether we extend a hand of welcome to the refugee or the immigrant. To close the door to those who are Muslim or of other faiths, is not a faithful expression of the principle that all are created equal. This manner of exclusion weakens what has made our country strong – a commitment to stand with the vulnerable, the oppressed, the suffering, regardless of their religious faith or where they come from.

Since the inception of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in 1980, the U.S. has been an international model providing refugees protection through our historically bipartisan public-private resettlement program. Refugee resettlement is an option for those who cannot return to their home country due to ongoing violence or for reasons of personal safety, and who cannot stay in the country into which they have fled. As a pillar of our national foreign policy, our nation's resettlement program represents a standard of excellence that other countries around the world look to as a touchstone for their own policies.

Family unity is a cornerstone of U.S. migration and refugee resettlement, given the importance of family values in our country and the crucial role that a united family plays in refugee protection and integration, and it is unacceptable to see families being separated due to U.S. policies. People of faith are especially concerned by the implications of the historically low refugee admissions goal and the incredibly low refugee arrivals for particular populations of concern such as families seeking to reunite, religious minorities, and children. This low level of arrivals signifies an abdication of our nation's leadership in humanitarian protection through resettlement. Similarly, we express our deep concern for the impact of low arrivals on religious minorities, including Christians, Muslims, and others who find themselves persecuted because of their religious affiliation and are thus left without options to safely practice their faith.

We are guided by our faith to love God and love our neighbors, whoever they may be. We cannot separate the two, and seek to be welcoming of all people because loving God means loving our fellow human being. We pray that our country reflects principles of both welcome and of religious freedom, and that we remember the value of diversity. At no other time has our moral responsibility to uphold these principles been greater.

The *NO BAN Act* upholds principles of religious freedom and our moral obligation to welcome. It would ensure that no one is banned from our country based on religious or nationality-based discrimination. The bill seeks important changes to the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) by outlawing discrimination in the entry of immigrants or nonimmigrants based on religion, in addition to the protections against discrimination based on race, sex, nationality, place of birth, and place of residence already in place. The *NO BAN Act* also amends the provision of the INA that has granted presidents the authority to suspend or restrict the entry of non-citizens by limiting this authority to align with responsible uses of the power by prior Democratic and Republican administrations, and by putting in place key congressional notification and reporting requirements as important safeguards against any future abuses of this authority.

We urge you to cosponsor the *NO BAN Act* and be bold in choosing moral, just policies that welcome, regardless of faith or national origin, and provide refuge for vulnerable individuals seeking protection in accordance with our nation's highest ideals.

Sincerely,

**Faith-based Organizations**

African American Ministers In Action  
Alliance of Baptists  
American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN)  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Bethany United Church of Christ  
Billings Sanctuary Rising  
Blessed Sacrament Church  
BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz  
Bridgeport United Church of Christ  
Buffalo Immigrant Leadership Team (BILT)  
Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Church World Service  
Churches United To Save & Heal {CUSH}  
Columbus Sanctuary Collective - Colectivo Santuario de Columbus  
Congregational Sanctuary Working Group of Western NC  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
DC - MD Justice For Our Neighbors  
Diocese of Atlanta  
Disciples Center for Public Witness (Disciples of Christ)  
Disciples Justice Action Network  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Engage Action  
Episcopal Faith Based Organization  
Equal Partners in Faith  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Ezher Bloom Mosque  
Faith in Public Life  
Faiths for Safe Water  
First United Methodist Church, Missoula  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Franciscans for Justice  
Friends Committee on National Legislation

## Global Partners

Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition  
Illinois Conference United Church of Christ  
Inter-Church Ministries of Nebraska  
Interfaith Action for Human Rights  
Interfaith Action of SW Michigan  
Interfaith Alliance  
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration MN  
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity  
Interfaith Worker Justice  
Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Priests of the Sacred Heart, US Province  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Maine Council of Churches  
Missionary Srs. of the Immaculate Conception  
Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice  
Muslim Community Center of Indianapolis  
Muslim Public Affairs Council  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Justice for Our Neighbors  
National Religious Campaign Against Torture  
Neighbors In Faith  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
NHCUCC Immigrant and Refugee Support Group  
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)  
Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors  
NYS Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform  
Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America  
Pax Christi Metro New York  
Pax Christi USA  
Peace Catalyst International  
Peace with Justice Ministries, Great Plains Conference, The United Methodist Church  
Poligon Education Fund  
Presbyterian Church USA  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Religious Sisters of Charity  
Shoulder to Shoulder  
Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community  
Sisters of Salaam Shalom  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God  
Sojourners  
St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
The Church of the Good Shepherd  
The Episcopal Church  
The Hat Project  
The Revolutionary Love Project  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ)  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
University Unitarian Church  
Wellspring United Church of Christ

WHEATON FRANCISCAN SISTERS Justice and Peace Office  
WI United Methodist Committee on Immigrant & Refugee Ministries  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

### **Faith Leaders**

#### **Alabama**

Rev. John Mobley, Christian Church in AL-NW FL  
Rev. Majadi Baruti, Udja Temple Ministries

#### **Arizona**

USA Frank Bergen, Episcopal Church of St. Matthew

#### **Arkansas**

Pastor Mary Beth Kovanen, ELCA

#### **California**

Pastor Elaine Schoepf, Seaside Community Church UCC  
Ms. Maureen Shannon-Chapple, InsightLA  
Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman, First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, UCC  
N/A Tahil Sharma, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles  
Rev. Keith Inouye, Wesley United Methodist Church  
Rev. Dr. L Barrett, UCC  
Rev. Melissa Campbell-Langdell, All Saints Episcopal Church  
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Leslie, St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Rev. Heidi Worthen Gamble, Presbytery of the Pacific  
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Alloway, Presbyterian Church of the Roses  
Rev. Mary Kay Will, United Methodist Church  
Rev. Akiko Miyake-Stoner, United Japanese Christian Church  
Rev. Sandie Richards, First UMC of San Fernando  
Rev. Dr. Sally Howard, All Saints Church, Pasadena  
Rev. Dr. Diana Gibson, Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice  
Bro. Mark Schroeder, O.F.M., Franciscans for Justice  
Rev. Shinshu Roberts, Ocean Gate Zen Center  
The Reverend Frances Hall Kieschnick, Episcopal Church  
Rev. Dan Harper, Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto  
Rev. Elizabeth Griswold, Parkside Community Church, UCC

#### **Colorado**

Rev. Wayne A. Laws, Mountain View United Church  
Rabbi Deborah Bronstein, Congregation Har HaShem

#### **Connecticut**

Father Ronald Kolanowski, St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Rev. Kristina Hansen, Mary Taylor Memorial UMC  
Rev. Persida Rivera-Mendez, Ministerio Nueva Creacion  
Rev. Carla Dietz, First Congregational Church of Greenwich  
Rev. Deacon Thomas Mariconda, Regional Deacon-Naugatuck Valley

## **Florida**

Rev. Fred L Hammond, Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

## **Georgia**

Rev. Dr. H. Julian Gordy, ELCA Southeastern Synod  
Rev. Linda Jones, Barnesville First UMC

## **Hawai'i**

Sister Eva Mesina, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

## **Idaho**

Pastor Laura Armstrong, Cole Community Church

## **Illinois**

Deacon Myrna Andersen, First Lutheran Church  
Rev. Dr Douglas Wingeier, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary  
Rev. Dr. Linda Eastwood, McCormick Theological Seminary  
Rev. Kimberlee W. Vasko, St. John's UCC - Lyons  
Mr. Tom Cordaro, St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church  
Rev. Dr. Vilius Rudra Dundzila, Wellington Ave UCC  
Rev. Sara Wohlleb, UCC  
Rev. Cynthia Stahler, United Church of Christ

## **Indiana**

Rev. Dr. James Higginbotham, Earlham School of Religion  
David Carlson, Franklin College  
Rev. Paul Tch e, Council on Christian Unity

## **Iowa**

Sister Teri Hadro, BVM, Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Rev. (ret.) Jim Dale, First United Methodist Church  
Sister Joy Peterson, Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA

## **Kansas**

Rev. Kenneth K. Grenz, Valley View UMC

## **Kentucky**

Rev. Dr. Donna T. Morton, Fourth Ave. United Methodist

## **Maine**

Rev. Rev. Richard Killmer, Retired Presbyterian minister  
Rev. Jane Field, Faith Lutheran Church  
United States Stephanie Richmond, Peace Catalyst International

## **Maryland**

The Rev. Dave Simpson, Christ (ELCA) Millersville, MD  
Rev. Sandra Carlson Alexis, First English Lutheran  
Rev. Patricia Hollinger, Church of the Brethren/Quaker  
Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo, Unitarian Universalist Community Minister  
Rabbi Julie Gordon, Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation

## **Maryland (and Virginia)**

Rabbi Charles Feinberg, Tifereth Israel

## **Massachusetts**

Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church  
Rev. Allan Anderson, Crawford Memorial UMC  
Dr. Abdul Cader Asmal, Islamic Council of New England  
Rev. Dawn Adams, First Congregational Church of Brimfield, UCC  
Interfaith Committee Chair Naim Assil, Islamic Council of N.E.  
Reverend Judith Hanlon, Hadwen Park Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. Cheryl Kerr, Allin Congregational Church, UCC  
Sister Betty Cawley, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

## **Michigan**

Ms. Julia Colingsworth, Holland First United Methodist  
Rev. David Huseltine, Franklin Community Church  
Rev. Susan Greenwood, First Congregational UCC, Coloma, MI  
Dianne Morrison, Justice For Our Neighbors

## **Minnesota**

Rev. Dr. Paula Nordhem, United Church of Christ  
Ms. Mary Kozmik, St Paul's Monastery

## **Missouri**

Sister Carol Boschert, Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, MO  
Rev. Dr. Jane Fislser-Hoffman, United Church of Christ, Southwood UCC  
Sister Danielle Bonetti, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet  
Sister Carol Boschert, Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, MO  
Rev. Charles Bahn, Brentwood Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Rev. Tyler Connoley, United Church of Christ

## **Montana**

Rev. Michael Mulberry, Billings First Congregational UCC  
Sister Mary Dostal, Catholic  
Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum, University Congregational Church of Missoula  
Dharmacharya Greg Grallo, Open Way Sangha  
Rev. Jean Larson, retired, ELCA  
Nicole Dunn, Order of Interbeing Member, Be Here Now Sangha  
Rev. John Daniels, First United Methodist Church

Rev. Daniel Disch, Atonement Lutheran Church  
Rev. Molly Sasser-Goehner Molly Sasser-Goehner, Immanuel Lutheran Church-ELCA  
Anne Johnston, Open Way Sangha

### **Nebraska**

Rev. Debra McKnight, Urban Abbey

### **New Hampshire**

Rev. Dale Hemen, Retired

### **New York**

Brother Jerry Rivers, Church of Christ  
Deacon Jacquelyn Mize-Baker, Saint Peter's  
Rev. John Long, First Presbyterian Church, Buffalo  
Rev. Dr. Scott Stearman, Scott Stearman  
Sister Doreen Glynn, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet  
Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Lewis, Middle Collegiate Church  
Brother Jerry Rivers, Church of Christ  
Elder Maria Studer, United Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Merle Showers, University Uited Methodist Church  
Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition  
Rev. George Tulloch, Retired United Methodist pastor  
Sister Rosalie Carven, Sisters of Saint Joseph, Brentwood, NY  
Rev. John Long, First Presbyterian Church, Buffalo  
Rev. Kay Woike, Church of the Nativity UCC  
Mazeda A. Uddin, South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST), Gregory Meeks  
/Alexandria O-casio  
Rev. George Tulloch, Retired United Methodist clergy  
Sister Margaret Kimmins, OSF, Franciscan Sisters of Allegany  
Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition  
Dr. James Fairbanks, Saving Justice Newsletter  
Rev. Micah Bucey, Judson Memorial Church  
Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena Zayas, Park Avenue Christian Church (DoC)/UCC  
Father John P. Duffell, .Blessed Sacrament Church

### **North Carolina**

Rev. Dr. Anne Gilson, St Philip's Episcopal  
Rev. Susan Steinbery, PCUSA

### **North Dakota**

Rev. Donna Olsen, Hope 4 All Interfaith Community

### **Ohio**

Rev. Patricia Jefferis, Middleburg Hts Community Church, United Church of Christ  
Rev. Kate Shaner, First Community Church  
Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen, United Methodist  
Rev. Dr. David Clary, West Cincinnati Presbyterian  
Rev. James Brazell, (HR) PCUSA

Rev. Dr. Erwin Goedicke, North Presbyterian Church  
Reverend Patricia Clary, West Cincinnati PC  
Rev. Kathy Angi, Winton Hills Presbyterian Church  
Sister Sheilamarie Tobbe, Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland  
Shannon Schrein Sisters of St. Francis  
Sister Ann Marie Chmielewski, Sisters of St. Francis  
Sister Kateri Theriault, Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, OH

### **Oklahoma**

Rev. Dr. Scott Taylor, Disciples Christian Church

### **Oregon**

Rev. Tara Wilkins, Bridgeport United Church of Christ

### **Pennsylvania**

Rev. Linda Theophilus, Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Eastmont  
Rev. Dr. Bruce Bouchard, St. Jacob's (Stone) United Church of Christ  
Deacon Holly Hoffman, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Nancy Miller, WE Care Initiative, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Rev. Ruth Sheets, U.C.C  
Steward Minister Barbara Woods, St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Mukaram Syed, Islamic Community Center of Lancaster  
Rev Bill Bloom, United Christian Church, Levittown PA

### **Regional Judicatory - Mid-Atlantic Region**

Acting Associate Conference Minister Alexander Vishio, Central Atlantic Conference - United Church of Christ

### **Rhode Island**

Rev. Michael Coburn, Church of the Ascension  
Rev. Kurt Walker, Chapel Street Congregational Church, UCC

### **Texas**

Rev Allison Lanza, Ridglea Christian Church  
The Reverend Tom Plumbley, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Mrs Cindy Wu, Access ECC  
Immanuel Solomon, North Side Baptist  
Rev. Dr. Paul Ziese, First Lutheran of Edinburg  
Sister Cecile Roeger, Dominican Sisters of Houston  
Rev. Dr. Clay Brantley, Grace Presbytery  
Sister JT Dwyer, Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
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### **Vermont**

The Venerable Catherine Cooke, Cathedral Church of St. Paul  
Rev. Dr. Mellen Kennedy, Springfield UU Meetinghouse, Vermont  
Rev. Dr. Mellen Kennedy, Interfaith Bridge

## **Virginia**

Rev. Dr. John Copenhaver, Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Rev. Jay Campbell, Mount Vernon UMC  
Dr. Margaret A. Johnson, President of the Board Margaret Johnson, Ezher Bloom Mosque  
Rev Henry Brinton, Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Rev. Dr. Larry Buxton, Virginia United Methodist Conference  
Rev. Jarrett McLaughlin, Burke Presbyterian Church

## **Washington**

Rev. Mark Lancaster, Generous Heart Sangha  
Pastor Anne Hall, Lutheran Church in the San Juans  
Rev. Dr. David Schoen, United Church of Christ  
Reverend Wendy Taylor, The United Churches of Olympia  
Bishop Kirby Unti, NWWS  
Deacon Dennis Duffell, Pax Christi Northwest  
Rev. Tamalyn Kralman, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Sr. Aneelah Afzali, Muslim Association of Puget Sound  
Rev. Thomas Quigley, Edmonds United Methodist Church

## **Washington, DC**

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson, Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, D.C.  
Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, Adas Israel Congregation  
Rabbi Mark Novak, Kesem

## **Wisconsin**

The Rev. Rebecca Ninke, Brooklyn Lutheran  
Rabbi Renee Bauer, Jewish Social Services of Madison  
Rev. Glenn Danz, St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice  
Rev. Sonja Ingebritsen, Community of Hope UCC  
Rev. Dr. Janet Wolfe, First Presbyterian, Marshfield, WI (retired)  
Rev. Kelly Nieman Anderson, Christ the King Lutheran Port Washington & Living Hope Lutheran Saukville (WI)  
Bishop Gerald Mansholt, ELCA East Central Synod of Wisconsin  
Mary Weyker, Sisters of St Dominic Racine, WI  
Sister Barbara Fisher, Racine Dominican

## **National**

Rabbi Jack Moline, Interfaith Alliance  
Sandy Sorensen, Director, Washington Office, United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Washington Office  
Rabbi Professor Burton Visotzky, Jewish Theological Seminary  
Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC  
Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski, BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz  
Rabbi Salem Pearce, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker Langston, Disciples Center for Public Witness  
Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, Moravian Church Northern Province  
Dr. Sayyid Syeed, Islamic Society of North America

Sister Dominica Lo Bianco, OSF, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Sister Eileen Gannon, Dominican Sisters of Sparkill  
Sister Maria Orlandini, Catholic  
Dianne Aid, TSSF Dianne Aud, The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice  
Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie, Pacific University Center for Peace and Spirituality  
Maha Elgenaidi, Islamic Networks Group (ING)  
Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Sister Sara Dwyer, ASC, Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region  
Mr. James Winkler, National Council of Churches  
Sister Dominica Lo Bianco, OSF, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Valarie Kaur, The Revolutionary Love Project  
Marcia Jolin, Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception  
Rev. Reginald Smith Melissa Stek, Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America

**Other**

Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer, DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network  
Lay Person John Cheung, Northbrook United Methodist Church