



MORE INFORMATION

We are a growing, statewide movement of people of faith who are tired of the mean-spirited rhetoric used to talk about our immigrant sisters and brothers.

For more information and to sign on to the statement, visit:

welcometheimmigrant.org

At our website, you'll find:

- Tools for engaging congregations
- List of statement signers
- News articles
- Links to more information
- Interactive guestbook
- Theological reflections
- Denominational statements
- And much more

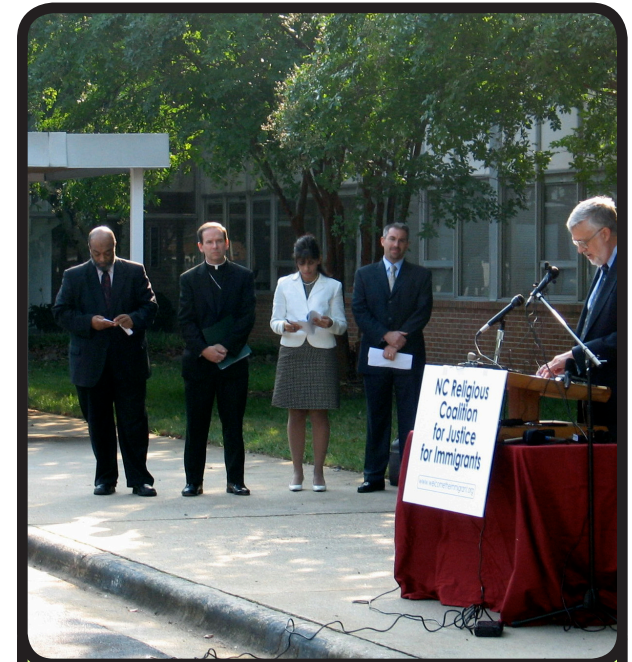
Over 1300 people (including 350+ clergy) from more than 20 religious traditions have already signed onto our statement supporting hospitality over hostility.

Join us today!



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NC Religious Coalition for Justice for Immigrants



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OUR VISION

The N.C. Religious Coalition for Justice for Immigrants was formed in response to rising anti-immigrant rhetoric and sentiment in North Carolina.

We have one purpose: to remind people of faith that all of us are created in the image of God. In our various faith traditions, it is unacceptable to use -- or let others use -- dehumanizing language in describing fellow human beings.

Our religious calling is to love our neighbors and to treat others the way that we ourselves would like to be treated -- whoever they may be, whatever their status. We are called, in other words, to offer hospitality, not hostility.

This coalition acknowledges that finding a solution to immigration policy is a complex matter and that people can and do disagree about policy specifics.

But our longstanding faith traditions compel us to recognize the full dignity and humanity in all people. The farmworker who provides our daily bread, the construction worker who puts a roof over our head, the library worker who greets us with a smile -- each is a child of God.

The darkest chapters in our past are ones where we have obscured the humanity of others. As people of faith, we will not be silent when it happens again.

OUR STATEMENT

As people of faith and conscience from across North Carolina, we believe that our calling is to welcome immigrants, offering them hospitality and justice. While we recognize that immigration policy is a complex issue that divides people of goodwill, our faiths compel us to stand with immigrants in their struggle for justice. We confess that, all too often, we have remained silent.

We remember the words of Moses when he said, "Do not mistreat foreigners living in your land, but treat them just as you treat your own citizens. Love foreigners as you love yourselves, because you were foreigners one time in Egypt" (Leviticus 19:33-34).

We remember the words of Jesus when he said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).

We remember the words of the Qur'an when it says, "Do good unto your parents, and near of kin, and unto orphans, and the needy, and the neighbor from among your own people, and the neighbor who is a stranger, and the friend by your side, and the wayfarer..." (An-Nisa 4:36).

As people of faith, we stand today in a long tradition of those who have been faithful in providing hospitality for those in need and in seeking justice for the oppressed.

It is crucial that people of faith respond to the immigration crisis by offering advocacy and welcome in the face of rising anti-immigrant sentiment. Religious communities find in our scriptures traditions which call us to welcome

the stranger, promote hospitality, and seek justice. People of faith should call for legislative reforms which are fair, humane, and address the root causes of why people migrate.

Since nearly all citizens in the United States today are descended from people from other nations, we are called to offer support to newer immigrants who contribute to our economy and culture but who suffer discrimination, abuse, and hardship as a result of their status as immigrants.

We deplore any governmental action which unduly emphasizes enforcement as the primary response to immigrants entering this country or which criminalizes persons providing humanitarian assistance to migrants. We encourage the state and local governments of North Carolina to provide for fair treatment and protection of our state's immigrant population, including access to education and mobility. In addition, we are troubled and grieved by the separation of families and other forms of suffering that continue to take place as a result of immigration raids.

We recognize that immigration policy is complex and multi-faceted, but we agree that all immigrants are made in God's image and that our religious traditions demand that we care especially for the stranger. We call on all people of faith to stand with immigrants as a matter of religious responsibility, to advocate for their well-being and protection, and to educate our local communities about issues affecting immigrant peoples.