



FAN Statement on New Executive Orders on Immigration

The Faith Action Network of Washington State strongly opposes the Trump Administration's executive orders to drastically restrict refugee admissions to the United States, especially from war-torn nations like Syria; build a barrier wall at the southern border of the United States; and aggressively pursue and deport unauthorized immigrants. We join with millions of Americans of all faiths, leaders of local and state government, and other community leaders to say we will step up our own efforts to provide direct support to immigrants and refugees who are threatened by these new policies, and organize our faith communities to challenge these policies through nonviolent means.

We believe these new executive orders violate our cherished religious values and what it means to be an American. As people of faith, we are called to love and serve our neighbors from near and far, particularly those most vulnerable to violence and persecution. We honor the God who commands that "the stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers..." As Americans we know the great contributions that immigrants and refugees make to our nation's culture, history and economy, enriching our life together. Welcoming the stranger is at the heart of the American story.

Therefore, we call upon President Trump to uphold our shared American values and rescind his new executive orders. We call upon the members of our own faith communities to speak out and act in support of refugees and the neighbors among us who may face deportation. We offer our support to elected leaders and local law enforcement agencies that refuse to be part of implementing aggressive deportation policies on behalf of the federal government.

As leaders of diverse faith traditions, we have come to know that our differences are a blessing and that love can cast out fear. We must act boldly for the vision of an America, where the most vulnerable are protected and welcomed.

The Faith Action Network of Washington State is a statewide organization that includes a network of 117 faith communities and thousands of individuals from a variety of religious traditions - including Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Quaker, and Unitarian - who advocate together for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world.