

April 10, 2019

Dear Members of Congress,

As 209 religious leaders and 90 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
Glocal 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
Polygon Education Fund
Presbyterian Church USA
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Religious Sisters of Charity
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community
Sisters of Salaam Shalom
Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God
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 Judiciary - 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
Ghandour Tarek

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
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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 Aid, 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