

A Resolution for Due Process For All DRAFT

Submitted by:

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THE RESOLUTION

Resolved, that the 240th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts affirm the inherent dignity and rights of all people, including immigrants and asylum seekers, as created in the image of God; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention call upon the United States government to ensure due process protections for all immigrants, regardless of status, and to cease the use of arrest and deportation quotas that undermine the integrity of the legal system and perpetuate fear in immigrant communities and beyond; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention denounce all rhetoric, policies, and practices that malign immigrants or ascribe malice to entire groups of people based on nationality, ethnicity, or legal status; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention reject fearmongering as a tool of public policy and affirm that scapegoating vulnerable populations is anathema to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who calls us to love our neighbor and seek justice for the oppressed; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention urge all Episcopalians, parishes, and ministries within the Diocese of Massachusetts to advocate for immigration policies and local practices that uphold the rule of law, protect family unity, and reflect the biblical imperative to welcome the stranger; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Massachusetts submit this resolution to the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church for consideration, urging the wider Church to adopt a consistent, faith-rooted opposition to unjust deportation practices and to call for legislative and administrative reforms invested in a fair and equitable system of immigration, customs and enforcement.

EXPLANATION

Scripture commands us to “love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19) and to see Christ in the face of those who are hungry, sick, imprisoned, or a stranger (Matthew 25:35–40). As followers of Jesus, we are called to advocate for justice and mercy in the face of fear-based, discriminatory policies.

Deportation quotas, whether formal or informal, incentivize immigration enforcement that prioritizes numbers over justice, frequently resulting in racial profiling, wrongful detentions, and the tearing apart of families. Such practices violate both the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of due process and our Christian commitment to human dignity.

Equally harmful is the use of rhetoric that casts immigrants as threats or burdens, sowing fear and division for political gain. Such language contradicts our baptismal vow to respect the dignity of every human being and undermines the Gospel witness of inclusion, hospitality, and solidarity with the marginalized.

Across our parishes, worshipping communities and ministries, Episcopalians walk alongside immigrant neighbors and witness firsthand the trauma caused by arbitrary enforcement and hostile public discourse. The Church must not be silent. We call on our Diocese, and our wider Episcopal Church, to use our prophetic voice to ensure that U.S. immigration policy upholds legal fairness, compassion, and respect for human rights.

STATEMENT AGAINST

Please add as is most helpful.

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

The only budgetary considerations would be if the Diocese were to invest in the ministries underway at ECM, BIJAN or other front line organizations.

There are no financial implications inherent in this resolution.