

June 7, 2018

## FAITH LEADER STATEMENT ON FAMILY SEPARATION

Recently, the Administration announced that it will begin separating families and criminally prosecuting all people who enter the U.S. without previous authorization. As religious leaders representing diverse faith perspectives, united in our concern for the wellbeing of vulnerable migrants who cross our borders fleeing from danger and threats to their lives, we are deeply disappointed and pained to hear this news.

We affirm the family as a foundational societal structure to support human community and understand the household as an estate blessed by God. The security of the family provides critical mental, physical and emotional support to the development and wellbeing of children. Our congregations and agencies serve many migrant families that have recently arrived in the United States. Leaving their communities is often the only option they have to provide safety for their children and protect them from harm. Tearing children away from parents who have made a dangerous journey to provide a safe and sufficient life for them is unnecessarily cruel and detrimental to the well-being of parents and children.

As we continue to serve and love our neighbor, we pray for the children and families that will suffer due to this policy and urge the Administration to stop their policy of separating families.

His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian  
Diocesan Legate and Director of the Ecumenical Office  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Mr. Azhar Azeez  
President  
Islamic Society of North America

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera  
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Chair, Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

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Presiding Prelate, Piedmont Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Bishop H. Kenneth Carter, Jr.  
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The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry  
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The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister & President  
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The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
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The Rev. David Guthrie  
President, Provincial Elders' Conference  
Moravian Church Southern Province

Mr. Glen Guyton  
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The Rev. Teresa Hord Owens  
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Rabbi Rick Jacobs  
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Mr. Anwar Khan  
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The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller  
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The Rev. Don Poest  
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The Rev. Phil Tom  
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Senior Bishop McKinley Young  
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