

Protected by Faith sign-on letter

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

June 13, 2018

To Attorney General Jeff Sessions:

We write as faith leaders who are deeply concerned by the actions of our government on the U.S. southern border. We condemn the inhumane practice of separating children from their families and the cynical policy that treats such separations as a potential deterrent to the flow of migrants to the United States.

This nation's origins as one that is built by immigrants reflects the ethos, shared in common by our diverse faith communities, of welcoming the foreigner and stranger. We affirm that infinite dignity and value is bestowed on each and every human being by our common Creator. How we treat the most vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers, can and should reflect this core value. By extension, the American value of respect and fair treatment for all human beings, upholding the rule of law with compassion, must be congruent with our policies and actions.

The families seeking asylum in the United States are fleeing political oppression, abuse, poverty and violence. They have made the wrenching decision to leave everything they know to seek a better life for themselves and their children. They are doubly vulnerable because they are unmoored and unfamiliar with US customs and judicial system.

Separating children from their parents adds immeasurably to the suffering of these families and is shocking to the conscience of men and women of goodwill from every political background and of every religious tradition. We are concerned too about the lasting psychological trauma inflicted on both children and their parents as a result of this cruel separation.

We urge, with every ounce of our being, that the government stop separating children from their loving families and adopt a humane approach to families seeking asylum in the United States. Keeping families together must be the top priority for our country, whether citizen or asylum seeker or undocumented migrant.

*In response to the executive order signed on June 20<sup>th</sup>:*

*While we are hopeful that families will no longer be separated, we call for families currently separated to be reunited, for the end to the inhumane practice of jailing children and families for weeks or months, multiplying their trauma. There are alternatives to detention that allow families to remain in*

*communities while their court proceedings take place. Asylum seekers are fleeing political oppression, abuse, poverty and violence and should not be tried or detained as criminals.*

Signed,

\*Name of congregation for identification purposes only

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Won Buddhism

Pastor SoYoung Kim  
FUMC of Bensenville

Jay Kim, Elder  
Hebron presby church

Soon Ja Kim, Deacon  
Presbyterian Church in Chicago

Pastor Theddeus Kim  
Salem Korean United Methodist Church

Minister Heewon Kim  
First United methodist of the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church

Pastor GaHyung Kim  
Grace united Methodist Church

Eun Young Ko, Clergy  
Glenbrook Korean UMC

Mark Koenig, Advocate for Justice Ministries  
Presbytery of New York City

Rabbi Elliot B. Gertel  
Rodfei Zedek, Chicago

Rabbi Rabbi David M. Rosenberg  
Jewish Child & Family Services, Chicago

Assistant Pastor Paul Kwon  
Passion Bread of Life Christian Church

Jae Lee, Elder  
Sae Kwang True Way Church

Pastor Paul Lee

United Methodist Church

Pastor Seo Young Lee  
Christian

Rabbi Julie Adler  
Congregation Am Echod

Pastor Young Lee  
Zion Korean Presbyterian Church

Co- Pastor Jun Yeon Lee  
Tree of Life Community Church

Heeyoung Lee, Church Music Director  
Tree of Life community church

Jin Lim, Deacon  
First korean Presbyterian church

Pastor Kwang Sung Lim  
United Methodist Church

Dr. John Martone  
Secular Franciscans/ Franciscan Action Network

Fr. Stan Drongowski, O.P.

Pastor Hyo Sun Oh  
The United Methodist Church

CheonEui Oh, Manager of Korean/Asian Leader Communication  
United Methodist Church  
Fr. Robert J Keller

Pastor Sam Park  
Bethany of Fox Valley UMC

Pastor Woongchul Ra  
Columbia Korean United Methodist Church

Chun Song, Elder  
Hebron Presbyterian church



Pastor Henry Whang  
Norther Ill Con UMC  
Fr. Gerald McPeak

Pastor Daegyu Yim  
Leland United Methodist Church

Sister Martha Marie Kirbach, O.P.

Sister Peggy Ryan, OP  
Dominican University

Rabbi Peter S. Knobel  
Beth Emet The Free Synagouge, Rabbi Emeritus

Rabbi Amitai Adler

Sister Judy McDonnell,OP

Sister Patricia Horan

Fr. Rene  
Pastor, St. Gall

Rev. Linda S. Slabon  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Katherine C Spelman, Rector  
Episcopal Church

Pastor Amy Dolan  
Sunday Supper Church

David S. Ginsburg, MD Chairman, Social Action Committee  
Chicago Sinai Congregation

Rev. Jenna Pulkowski  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rabbi Adir Glick  
West Suburban Temple Har Zion

Brother Edward van Merrienboer, O.P.

Rabbi David Brusin  
Congregation Shir Hadash, Milwaukee [emeritus]

Rabbi Deborah Goldmann  
CCAR, Reform Judaism

Sr. Honora Nolty

Dr. Zulema Moret

Imam Abdul-Malik Ryan  
Muslim Chaplain, DePaul University

Rabbi Scott Gellman  
Temple Sholom of Chicago

Pastor Stephanie Anthony  
Fox Valley Presbyterian Church

Bishop Christopher Glancy, CSV  
Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)

Julie Sevig, Living Lutheran

Kelly Dolan, Communications  
Sunday Super Church

Sister Mary McFarland

Senior Rabbi Morley Feinstein  
University Synagogue

Sister Beryl Herdt

Rev Emily Heitzman  
Ebenezer, Unity, and Immanuel Lutheran Churches

Rabbi Gary S. Gerson, Rabbi Emeritus  
Oak Park Temple B'nai Abraham Zion

Sister Cecile Roeger

Sister Kathleen Schneider

Rev John Risley

Rabbi Ariel Naveh

Illini Hillel Cohen Center for Jewish Life at the University of Illinois

Rev Andrea Denney

PC USA

Rabbi James Maisels

Or HaLev

Elyse Winick, Senior Director, Learning and Engagement  
Combined Jewish Philanthropies

Pastor Chef Brian Wolters

Christian

Fr. Michael Champlin

Sister Jane Marron

Rabbi Elli Cohn

Conservative Judaism

Bonnie Deroski, Director of Child and Family Life

Grace Christian Church

Sister Judith Desmarais, SP

Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province

Rev. Drew Rindfleisch

Elca-Lutheran

Rabbi Scott Segal

Jewish

Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin

Israel Center of Conservative Judaism

Rabbi Wendi Geffen

Reform Movement

Sister Agnes Johnson,

Sister Kathy Slesar

Rabbi Todd Zinn  
Chicago Sinai Congregation

Rabbi Ari Averbach  
Congregation Beth Shalom

Rabbi Edwin Goldberg  
Jewish

Rabbi Frisch Klein  
Congregation Kneseth Israel

Fr. Brian Guadalupe Walker, OP

Rabbi Stephen Hart  
Reform

Sister Mary Ann Collins

Rabbi David Klatzer  
Congregation Beth Judea

Sister Alice Kirk

Leannette Pokuwaah  
Inclusive Collective

Fr. R. Douglas Greer, OP

Rabbi Michael Friedland  
Conservative

Sister Margaret Palliser

Rev. Richard Mosley, Jr.  
Northern Illinois Conference

Rabbi Sidney M. Helbraun  
Temple Beth-El

Rabbi-Cantor Nancy Landsman  
Congregation Ahavat Olam

Rabbi Marc Belgrad  
B'Chavana Congregation

Rabbi Michael Sommer  
Har-Shalom Synagogue

Rabbi Scott Aaron

Rabbi Ruven Barkan

Rabbi Annie Tucker  
Rabbi Rebecca R Kamil  
Congregation Etz Chaim

Rabbi Aaron Braun  
Northbrook Community Synagogue

Rabbi Michael Schwab

Rabbi Michelle Dardashti  
Hillel, Brown University

Rabbi Monica Gomery  
SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva

Rev. Dr. Katherine Paisley  
Ebenezer, Unity, and Immanuel Lutheran Churches

Rev. Seán Charles Martin, S.T.D.  
Aquinas Institute of Theology

Rev. Rosa Lee  
The United Methodist Church

Rev. Scott Steinkerchner OP  
Order of Preachers

Rev. Eric Doolittle  
North Central College Chaplain  
The United Methodist Church

DePorres Durham, OP  
Dominican Province of Saint Albert the Great

The Rev. Dr. Erin Bouman  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Irving Park Lutheran Church

Br. Joseph Kilikevice, OP  
Director, Shem Center for Interfaith Spirituality

Rev. Dennis Bushkofsky  
United Lutheran Church

Sr. Mary Jude Chamberlain

Sr. Irene Ellis

Sr. Joellen Sbrissa, CSJ

Rev. Jason S. Glombicki  
Wicker Park Lutheran Church

Rev. Br. Brent Bowen, O.P.  
Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great

Sr. Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP  
Dominican Sisters

Rev. CJ Hawking  
Euclid Ave. United Methodist Church

Rachel Weiss  
Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation

Sr. Kathlyn Mulcahy, OP  
Dominican Sister of Springfield

Jean Verber, OP, Justice Outreach Coordinator  
Racine Dominicans

Agnes Johnson, Vice President  
Racine Dominicans

Sharon Casey, President  
Roman Catholic

Rev. Jennie Barrington  
Interim Minister, Second Unitarian Church of Chicago  
Unitarian Universalist Association

Rev. Michael Winkels  
Fenwick High School

Kathleen Cour, OP  
Dominican Leadership Team

/Sister Dorothy Dempsey, OP  
Adrian Dominican Sisters

Sister Kathryn Cliatt, O.P.  
Adrian Dominican Sisters  
Sister Teresa Estrada, O.P.  
Sister Patricia Rogers, OP