



A Call for a Sensible and Humane Immigration System

From MARCC and her Judicatory Leaders

November 17, 2025

To all people of goodwill,

As faith leaders who actively work for a more just society through the “common path” of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC), we are compelled to express our profound concern about recent immigration enforcement operations across our country and within our greater Cincinnati area. Considering the teachings of all our faiths, we cannot ignore the palpable and overwhelming cries of fear and anxiety that emerge from our communities as enforcement operations target immigrant populations indiscriminately, inflicting systematic harm on all, even those without criminal histories.

First and foremost, we wish to convey our solidarity to our local migrant brothers and sisters in these most desperate of times, especially those who are currently being held in detention. As faith leaders, we are committed to serving all who are forced to live at the margins. Please know that we are here to support you, stand with you, and speak out on your behalf with unified, moral clarity.

Our commitment to the marginalized among us leads us to condemn recent federal immigration enforcement actions against people with no criminal history but who lack citizenship documentation. While law enforcement that ensures community safety is vital for the common good, enforcement actions that rely on mass arrest and removal of entire groups of people due to their immigration status without legal process reflects a profound social crisis. Our country is founded on the rich and diverse gifts that immigrants have brought and continue to weave into our social fabric. The massive, indiscriminate detention and deportation of our immigrant brothers and sisters will have a detrimental impact on our vibrant economy and eclectic culture. We must recommit to the openness that has made our country what it is, and to continue allowing newcomers to pursue the American dream.

To that end, we advocate for thorough, targeted, bi-partisan policy frameworks to address the complex issue of immigration. Across multiple decades and Congresses, our country has failed to construct a sensible and humane immigration system that would allow immigrants to seek opportunity and security in the U.S. in a lawful way. Now more than ever, we need

comprehensive immigration reform that balances human dignity with social order so that we can thrive together across our diversity, in peace, harmony, and justice.

Furthermore, we are gravely concerned by federal policy changes that make it even more difficult for people to come to the U.S. for humanitarian reasons. Long-standing refugee resettlement programs have been defunded and shuttered. Standards and fees for asylum applications have increased exponentially and arbitrarily.

In our home state of Ohio, we call on our legislators to avoid passage of additional policies that would make the situation even more difficult for immigrant residents, and would interfere with local police-community relations that have fostered trust and greater safety for everyone.

We thus commit to continuing to speak in a unified moral voice, to let the wisdom from across our faiths guide us toward even deeper, more committed work for a society where all are treated with the dignity they deserve. It is incumbent upon us all to speak out, advocate, and demand more sensible and humane immigration and enforcement practices.

Once again, to all those affected by enforcement actions that tear apart our communities: we stand in solidarity with you. As your clergy and servants, we make your pain our own. We make your struggle our own. We shall forge a common path together toward the just society that our faiths illuminate.

Sincerely,

MARCC and her Judicatory leaders