



The Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy and the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity in partnership

Walking Together With Immigrants in Our County

What Does Sanctuary Look Like Today?

A public, corporate commitment to walk alongside immigrants, mixed-status families, refugees and other targeted communities to uphold the dignity, due process and full acceptance and participation of all people in our society through protection, support and advocacy. Congregations can write their own statement of sanctuary to reflect what they specifically will do.

Here are **4 ways** Congregations are demonstrating their commitment to Sanctuary:

Accompaniment of Immigrant Families or Youth:

Individuals and congregations can immediately help accompany immigrants in urgent situations and need of accompaniment. This can include newly arrived migrant families, unaccompanied minors, people facing deportation crisis, those just released from detention centers. Trained volunteers can help to provide courtroom accompaniment, access to services, and concrete and emotional support and/or transitional housing to help those in a period of crisis.

Advocacy:

- Advocate at the Local, State and National level for policies which protect the due process of immigrants and promote their full dignity and integration into our local communities.
- Advocating for policies which help to prevent mass deportation and fear by creating clear separation between ICE and local law enforcement and civic institutions, for example strong sanctuary city and county policies.
- Engage in local public actions and activities to shift public discourse towards immigrants, Muslims, and refugees, and bring attention to our responsibility to address root causes.

Networks of Protection & Rapid Response:

- Join a Rapid Response Network to respond to ICE workplace raids, home raids or other enforcement activity.
- Connect with targeted communities to help develop relationship and networks of protection.

Physical Sanctuary for someone facing Final Deportation:

- Discern if your congregation would be willing to offer Sanctuary for a person facing final deportation orders in a humanitarian emergency. Most often, these are people who have been long term residents, already have children, family and community ties to the area and have exhausted all other legal options to remain with their family here in the United States.
- By offering Sanctuary, your congregation is willing to offer physical sanctuary on *religious property*, as a way to protect them from the reach of ICE. Your congregation would be supported by other congregations and community groups committing to be part of a local network of Sanctuary by assisting with hospitality, protection, and advocacy.

NATIONAL SANCTUARY PLEDGE

(can be adapted by individual faith communities – bit.ly/sanctuarypledge)

As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist the newly elected administration's policy proposals to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregations and communities as sanctuary spaces for those targeted by hate, and work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all peoples. Every human person is sacred across all borders.

Calling upon the ancient traditions of our faiths, which recognized houses of worship as a refuge for the runaway slave, the conscientious objector, and the Central American refugee fleeing the civil wars of the 1980s, sanctuary is once again growing among communities of faith that are standing in solidarity with immigrants and marginalized communities facing immoral and unjust deportation and discrimination policies.

We find ourselves entering a new phase of U.S. history wherein the politics of fear has stoked an atmosphere of racism and xenophobia across the country. The new Administration has pledged to criminalize, detain and deport undocumented people at new levels that will tear families and communities apart.

As people of faith and people of conscience, we will take civil initiative out of our moral obligation to embody principles of human rights and dignity, and resist any harmful and unjust policy proposals that further undermine due process and lead to racial profiling and discrimination.

We are dedicating ourselves to educate and activate our congregations, to amplify and respond to the voices of immigrant leaders, and to speak out against the discrimination of any and all marginalized people. We are ready to open the doors of our sacred spaces and accompany those facing deportation and discrimination.

We support those answering the call to provide sanctuary at schools, hospitals, college campuses, community centers and family homes. We will work with partner organizations to create sacred space of sanctuary wherever it is needed.

RESOURCES

For more information about The Sanctuary Coalition in Alameda County or Contra Costa County:

The Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity – www.im4humanintegrity.org, (510) 343-5767 or SANCTUARY@im4humanintegrity.org;

For Alameda County or West Contra Costa County – Deborah Lee: dlee@im4humanintegrity.org

The Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy – **For East or Central Contra Costa County:** David Brazil:

david@workingeastbay.org, or (510) 893-7106 x 315, or Bob Lane: boblane01@aol.com, or (925) 895-2345

National Sanctuary Resources & Toolkit: www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org

Sanctuary Film: <https://vimeo.com/189690725>; also on IMHI website at im4humanintegrity.org/sanctuary

Sanctuary Map of the Bay Area and List of Bay Area Sanctuary Congregations – im4humanintegrity.org/sanctuary

Sanctuary City Policies: https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/sanctuary_report_final_1-min.pdf

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, lots of nuts and bolts information: From Raids to Deportation, <https://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/PDFs/community/com-resource-kit-eng.pdf>

Sign up for the Bay Area Resistance Rapid Response Action Network: bayresistance.org
Text RESIST to 41411 for action alerts