



episcopal
MIGRATION MINISTRIES

Statement in response to today's action in Texas

Through the history of the United States, refugees have enriched our communities as creators, business owners, students, and friends. Our nation, and indeed our Church, has been enhanced by contributions from refugees that have sought safety and opportunity in this land. We know this to be true from decades of ministry walking with refugees and migrants.

I am deeply saddened by the violent acts in New Jersey, New York, and Minnesota. I am saddened that entire communities of refugees are being blamed for the actions of a few misguided individuals - for as Americans, as Episcopalians, and as Christians, we are called to a higher moral ground than this. And, I am also disappointed that the governor of the state of Texas has announced this day that he soon will be ending his state's administration of the federal government's refugee resettlement program. Fortunately, refugee service providers will work closely with local communities to ensure that a transition to another administrative service does not put refugee families at risk.

Episcopal Migration Ministries, the refugee resettlement service of The Episcopal Church, along with partners with 30 local communities across the country, serves refugees and migrants with the deep understanding that we are all children of God. This ministry is rooted in Christ's teaching of love, compassion, and dignity for all people. We are committed to continue this work so that the God-given potential of every human being may thrive.

"The foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the foreigner as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt." Leviticus 19:34

The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson
Director, Episcopal Migration Ministries

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