

Minnesota Sanctuary State Coalition Position Paper

Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN) - Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM)

Social Justice Committee of Lyndale United Church of Christ (SJC-LUCC)

Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ (MNC-UCC)

Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) - Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC)

Sanctuary and Resistance to Injustice (SARI)

Position Paper

Who we are

We are a united, interfaith and grassroots Coalition whose sole purpose is to advance progressive immigrant and refugee rights in Minnesota. We believe in treating all members of our community with dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe families are stronger together and diversity makes our communities healthier. We believe that all policies and practices that work with immigrants and refugees should represent these values.

Together, we represent approximately one million Minnesota residents. As an interfaith and grassroots Coalition we are motivated and joined together by our common values as citizens of Minnesota, of the United States, and the world:

- We will lead with love for our neighbor,
- We believe in the human dignity of all persons,
- We will fight for the protection of all immigrants and refugees, and
- We will fight for the dignified care of immigrants and refugees.

What we propose

Minnesota's government entities need to create policies and practices that are consistent with our stated values. To do this, the Minnesota State Legislature will pass a law making Minnesota a sanctuary state, and that such a law cover local jurisdictions. If the legislature fails to act, the Governor should issue an Executive Order, and that the Minnesota Attorney General support this Executive Order.

The Minnesota Sanctuary State law would include:

- Minnesota state government entities do not share information, collaborate with, or act in lieu of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE),
- The state legislature pass a law making driver's licenses available to undocumented immigrants,
- The state legislature pass laws that prevent partnership agreements with ICE, including 287g agreements, no private prisons, and closing all immigrant detention facilities in Minnesota,
- The state legislature or the Minnesota Attorney General's Office expand legal aid services, and
- The Minnesota Attorney General create a 'Bill of Rights' for suspects considering a guilty plea, and that the AG work to inform prosecutors, Public Defenders and private attorneys to inform all individuals facing criminal charges that they may face immigration consequences if they enter a guilty plea, and that they have the right to consult with the consulate of their country of nationality.
- Examples of bills in the 2019-2020 state legislature that we support include: SF 231 (Scope of Cooperation with Federal Immigration Efforts), HF 3060 (Prohibited Contracts), HF 2586 (U-visa certifications), HF 2374 (Municipal I.D. Private Data), HF 3067 (Private Prisons), HF 3975 (Post Conviction Relief).

For questions, additional information, or to join our coalition, please contact:

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