P.O. Box 693
Kennett Square, PA 19348
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Kennett Friends Meetinghouse
125 W. Sickle Street
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Minute regarding the current executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the United States government

As members of Western Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), we are guided by the Light within, seeking to live in accordance with our testimonies of peace, integrity, equality, simplicity, community, and stewardship. Our faith leads us to uphold the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to act with compassion, justice, and nonviolence in all areas of life regardless of race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or immigration status. We are moved to speak plainly at this time, as we witness policies and rhetoric from the current federal government administration that contradict our most deeply held religious beliefs. When a government disregards constitutional norms and the rule of law, attacks the legitimacy of elections, or acts with impunity; it breaks the sacred trust between citizen and state. We are called by the Spirit to witness against such abuse with steadfast love. We affirm that:

• Peace is not compatible with the glorification of military force, the erosion of diplomacy and cooperation, or the targeting of marginalized communities through rhetoric or action whether through foreign policy or within our own borders.

• Integrity cannot flourish in an environment where falsehoods are routinely disseminated, public trust in democratic institutions is undermined, and accountability is disregarded.

• Equality is denied when policies promote the discrimination of people of color, intolerance of religious diversity, restrict immigration and asylum, and marginalize LGBTQIA+ individuals, women, and the poor.

• Simplicity is intentionally replaced with chaos and confusion when officials use inflammatory rhetoric, barrage us with contradictory statements, engage in outright lies, and rely on social media and executive fiat to willfully bypass the deliberative processes that are the cornerstone of our democracy.

• Community is broken when leaders sow division by implicitly and explicitly bullying and threatening those with whom they disagree, scapegoat vulnerable groups, and reject collective responsibility for public health, climate stewardship, and the common good.

• Stewardship is abandoned when we fail to nurture all that has been entrusted to us — not for personal gain, but for the well-being of all, including generations yet to come. The failure to uphold this responsibility reflects not care, but consumption. Not service, but self-interest.

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We recognize that no political administration perfectly reflects our values. However, we find the words and actions of the current executive, legislative, and, too often, the judicial branches of our government cruel at their core and in their disregard for truth, embrace of violence, and the dehumanization of others purposefully, egregiously, and harmful.

We speak from a place of profound religious conscience, not from partisanship. We call on all people of faith and goodwill to examine the spiritual cost of complicity and silence.

We seek to live out our testimonies not only in worship, but in public witness, advocacy, and loving resistance. We reaffirm our commitment to justice, compassion, and nonviolence, and we invite others to join us in building a more just and peaceful world.

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Our Call to End and Reform Unjust Immigration Enforcement Practices and Laws

As people of faith who believe that the Divine dwells within every human being, we bear witness to the devastating injustices perpetrated by current immigration enforcement practices in the United States. These oppressive actions and the legal regime that supports them profoundly betray our most sacred spiritual truth: that every person is inherently endowed with dignity and worth.

Under the guise of lawful authority, our government is damaging communities, separating children from their parents, tearing the sacred bonds of family, and leaving wounds that scar the soul and psyche. Current immigration enforcement unjustly singles out communities for oppressive and traumatic action based on race, creed and national origin, stripping away basic rights and privileges without due process. Vulnerable souls are thus condemned to persecution, oppression, poverty and even death within and beyond their home countries, sometimes using foreign prisons that practice torture.

Such cruel enforcement practices intentionally sow fear and spread terror in our communities — a violation of both human dignity and fundamental rights. Moreover, these actions blatantly breach our nation's binding commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Against Torture, and the Refugee Convention and its Protocol, all of which affirm our sacred duty to protect human dignity and uphold the right to asylum.

Illuminated by the divine Inner Light, our consciences declare that human laws draw their legitimacy only from higher, divine truths. When human statutes defy these eternal truths—when they spread wanton suffering, division and despair—they cease to command obedience. This foundational principle resonates deeply with the core ideals upon which our nation was founded: Certain rights, inalienable and sacred, flow directly from our Creator and are entrusted forever to the people, beyond the whims of government to grant or withhold.

History reveals that spiritually awakened communities possess the clear moral vision to challenge, defy and transform unjust laws and customs. From the abolition of slavery to the dismantling of segregation and apartheid, from the advancement of universal suffrage to ongoing struggles for racial, gender, LGBTQ+, reproductive and religious freedoms, and freedom of expression, courageous souls have stood firm, willingly enduring unjust earthly penalties to uphold divine justice. Our faith communities embrace this legacy of bold advocacy, remaining steadfastly committed to nonviolent resistance and reform in the service of divine truth.

Compelled by our commitment to radical hospitality and by our sacred calling to "welcome the stranger" and to love our neighbors as ourselves, we urge all spiritually guided communities and individuals to rise courageously alongside immigrants facing persecution. We demand swift legal reform and an immediate cessation of oppressive, unjust enforcement. Together, let us build a genuine beloved community where the human and civil rights of immigrants are fully honored, protected and upheld. In this endeavor, we affirm the divine presence within each person and embrace the eternal spiritual truth upon which our faith—and our shared humanity—depend.

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With radical hope,

Individuals:
Br. Francisco J. Burgos, Pendle Hill
David Castro
Rabbi Aviva Marchioni, Congregation Beth Israel of Media
Rabbi Nathan Martin, Congregation Beth Israel of Media
Rev. Edward J. Hallinan, Pastor, St. John Chrysostom Catholic Church
Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel, Rector, Saint John's Episcopal Church, Concord, Glen Mills
Dr. Sam Lemon, Providence Friends Meeting
Rabbi Kelilah Miller, Congregation Ohev Shlom
Rev. Andrew Jacob, Executive Director, Chester Eastside, Inc.
Rev. Jennifer Casey, Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Wallingford
Sister Theresa Marie Firenze OSF – Congregational Minister, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
William J. Oberfield, Md, Providence Friends Meeting
Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee

Organizations
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Providence Friends Meeting
Radnor Friends Meeting
Kennett Friends Meeting
Western Quarterly Meeting

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MINUTE FROM LONDON GROVE MONTHLY MEETING,
APPROVED BY WESTERN QUARTERLY MEETING
Regarding The United States of America's Immigration Enforcement Practices

With gratitude to Providence Friends Meeting, Hockessin Friends Meeting, and Abington Friends Meeting Minutes, we have derived the following minute.

As members of London Grove Monthly Meeting and Western Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) from Pennsylvania, we are guided by the Light within every human being. We are witnessing policies, rhetoric, and practices that contradict our most deeply held religious beliefs. We cannot stand aside.

Our faith leads us to uphold the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to act with compassion, justice, and nonviolence in all areas of life regardless of race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or immigration status.

Current policies and practices are damaging communities, separating children from their parents, and tearing the bonds of family. Present immigration enforcement unjustly singles out communities for oppressive and traumatic action based on race, creed, and national origin. Basic rights and privileges are being stripped away without due process. Immigrants who have the right to hearings regarding their asylum status are being illegally deported.

We demand swift legal reform and an immediate cessation of oppressive, unjust enforcement. We do so from a place of profound religious conscience, not from partisanship, and call on all people of faith and goodwill to examine the spiritual cost of complicity and silence. We seek to live out our testimonies not only in worship, but in public witness, advocacy, and loving resistance. We affirm our commitment to justice, compassion, and nonviolence as we join others in seeking to build a more just and peaceful world.