

Minute of Support for Immigrants and Refugees

**Approved by the Harrisburg Monthly Meeting of Friends
October 14, 2018**

Throughout our nation's history, immigrants, refugees and those brought here against their will have contributed diverse perspectives and resources resulting in a cultural and economic wealth that has enriched all of our lives. To counter the rising tide of intolerance toward immigrants and refugees, the Harrisburg Monthly Meeting of Friends felt moved to offer this minute of support.

All non-indigenous Americans in this country are either immigrants, descendants of immigrants or descendants of those forcibly brought to this country. As did many of our ancestors, today's immigrants and refugees are fleeing persecution, extreme poverty and/or violence in their home countries. As Friends, we believe in the equality, dignity and worth of every person regardless of place of birth, religion, race, sexual orientation or socio-economic status. We oppose discrimination in all forms and recognize a collective responsibility to support refugees and immigrants who relocate in our community.

We encourage local, state, and national governments to develop immigration policies which are fair, just, and respectful. Any reform of our immigration system must also seek to address the root causes of persecution and economic inequality that lead to the often desperate measure of fleeing one's homeland in search of a better life.