

**Minute on Defending the Rights and Religious Freedoms of Migrant Communities and All
People of Faith by Preserving Sensitive Locations**

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As members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) we stand firmly in support of the safety, rights, and religious freedoms of everyone, including the immigrant communities we know, belong to, and love. We must respond to the particular insult of allowing enforcement officials to enter critical, sacred, and public places of refuge. The presence of armed law enforcement officials, particularly in the spirit of force, in our places of worship is antithetical to the Quaker peace testimony and to our belief that “there is that of God” in everyone.

Sensitive locations—places of worship, schools, health care facilities, places where children gather, and social services centers—are locations where immigration enforcement activities have been prohibited in most instances. In sensitive locations Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers are not allowed to conduct enforcement actions including arrests, civil apprehensions, searches, interviews, and surveillance.

ICE leadership initially established protected areas in 2011. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Mayorkas issued a memorandum in 2021 strengthening the protected areas guidance. Tragically, on January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration rescinded the protected areas policy, replacing it with an unreleased directive that gives ICE agents unbridled power to take enforcement actions in any of these locations.

We affirm the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) document *The World We Seek* which states that while “[w]e acknowledge the role of well-trained law enforcement to protect community safety”), we also take great concern with the overextension of any authority and the abandonment of community-minded discretion.”

Approved in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on February 4, 2025.

Kathryn F. Adams, Presiding Clerk