

## Santa Monica Monthly Meeting's Minute on Immigration Policy and Enforcement

As Quakers, we are moved by our faith to speak on behalf of our neighbors and communities currently experiencing hardship, mistreatment, fear, and trauma through the actions of immigration enforcement.

We find the current administration's policies and practices to be deeply troubling and in conflict with our values of compassion and human dignity for all.

Though public outcry has slowed the large-scale raids on American cities, thousands of long-time residents continue to be arrested despite having no criminal records.

Parents of American citizen children, pregnant women, those undergoing medical treatment, Green Card holders, DACA youth are daily taken away by masked men in unmarked vehicles. Denied bond hearings, they are thrown into the inhumane and unhealthful conditions of privately owned, for-profit detention centers where they may languish for months before being deported to dangerous conditions in an unfamiliar country.

The callous disregard for the human toll of these enforcement policies and practices is disturbing. The disregard for Constitutional due process protections, which for over a century have been applied to all in our country, is alarming.

Our nation has long been a refuge for those seeking safety and a better life for themselves and their children. Here in Southern California, immigrants are our neighbors, our friends, and our fellow worshipers. We recognize and cherish the immense social, economic, and cultural contributions they bring to our society.

Our faith that a Divine spark resides in us all cries out for ethical and empathetic enforcement policies and practices. We stand in firm opposition to policies rooted in fear or hostility. We remain committed to a community defined by mutual respect and justice under law. And we advocate for a clear and accessible path to legal standing for all who call this country home.