

We hold these truths to be self-evident that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Immigration Minute

The Religious Society of Friends is rooted in faith that we can and must solve problems and resolve conflict without violence. Human history can be written as a story of violent conflicts accompanying migration—including this country's violence toward the people who lived here before us. Human migration is as ancient as our species origin. Starting in Africa. We migrated to this hemisphere, this continent and this country in successive waves starting about 40,000 years ago with the first peoples moving into the western hemisphere.

Reports of violence and human suffering taking place at the U.S.-Mexico border require us to respond with compassion and a recognition of human rights:

1. We ask that the children and mothers crossing the U.S.—Mexico Border from Central America be recognized as refugees: For the legal definition of refugee, see section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
2. We ask that these refugees be given access to resources and protection in accordance with the human trafficking law and its subsequent revisions (Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, et seq).
3. We call upon the President and Congress to address the unique issues associated with these refugees including funding of legal representation and providing humane treatment open to impartial inspection.
4. We call upon our President and Congress to pass humane and just immigration reform that provides a path to citizenship for current and future immigrants in order to ensure the protection

of social, political and labor rights for all people residing in the United States.

5. We believe that undocumented residents living and working in our country deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
6. And, we ask for an immediate review of our current Immigration Policy so that there is a viable path to citizenship for members of bi-national families that straddle our borders, without costly, ineffective and inhumane policies that have heavily militarized the U.S. – Mexico border region and that undermine the quality of life of border communities.