

**AMM 2014.8.3**  
**Minute on Humane Treatment of Migrants Along the U.S. Border with Mexico**  
**Albuquerque Friends Meeting**

Albuquerque Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) joins with faith communities and immigrant support organizations throughout the Southwest in calling on Federal, State and local elected officials and government officers to act with all humanity and compassion in addressing the presence of migrants and refugees along the U.S. border with Mexico, especially those who have fled from the violence, dislocation and fear in Central American nations, including Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Nearly 60,000 children from Central America have been detained at the U.S.-Mexico border after crossing the frontier without their parents in the ten months leading up to July 31, 2014. Many others have been detained with their mothers and separated from their fathers at the border. These children and parents in many cases flee gang and community violence which has its origins in the destabilization of their countries over the last several decades of the 20th century, in which United States policy, actors and weapons were often complicit.

We call on President Obama, the U.S. Congress, the appropriate agencies and officers of the federal government, including the Department of Homeland Security and its Immigration and Customs Enforcement Division (ICE), the Department of Health and Human Services and state and local officials and agencies

- a. to protect and secure the welfare of migrants and refugees, especially children, at our border and within our country,
- b. to respect the rights of migrant and refugee children and families under international and domestic law,
- c. to afford them all the legal due process to which they are entitled,
- d. to guarantee their effective access to legal counsel
- e. to assure that their care is provided through humane practices that nurture their wellbeing rather than detention that threatens their development,
- f. to take all necessary actions to keep families together and to reunify families that have been separated,
- g. to work with members of faith communities, immigrant support organizations and community service entities, under appropriate procedures in order to improve the access of children to education and play, and to insure for all migrants access to communication in their own language, health care, shelter, adequate food, clothing and the other incidents of humane treatment , and
- h. to cease "fast track" deportation procedures that deprive migrants of their ability to demonstrate whether they satisfy the requirements of laws regarding refugee status and immigration.

We pledge within our strength and Light to work with people of good will, including immigrant organizations, faith communities, human rights and civil liberties organizations to assure that the humanity of every migrant to our borders is honored and that all are treated with compassion and dignity, regardless of what their legal status may ultimately be determined to be.

"Let us then try what love can do....Force may subdue, but Love gains..."  
William Penn (1644-1718)