

**The BYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee
brings the following minute
to Interim Meeting on October 20, 2018**

Friends believe there is that of God in every person. This leads us to advocate for a humane immigration policy that is welcoming to those facing adversity. We call for immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship for those who have been in the U.S. for a substantial time.

We recognize that war, civil conflict, economic inequality and climate change are primary factors driving more than *65 million people from their homes. These displaced people are the faces of international injustice.

Friends helped to found the Sanctuary movement which provided a safe place for refugees fleeing the wars in Central America in the 1980's. The "New Sanctuary Movement" calls on people of Faith to "provide support and solidarity to neighbors, friends and families who fear being detained, deported and/or profiled."

We call on Congress to:

- Reject increased funding on immigration detention centers whose practices are harmful to migrant parents, women and children and tear families apart.
- Freeze funding for ICE/Immigration and Customs Enforcement (which operates inside the country) and CBP/Customs and Border Protection (which patrols the border) and replace them with a humane oversight system.
- Pass a CLEAN Dream Act and reverse the administration's proposal to eliminate TPS/Temporary Protection Status.
- Maintain a refugee admissions goal of at least 75,000 annually.

We, the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, agree to work for the just treatment of immigrants, migrants and asylum seekers. We call on Friends to become active in local immigrant rights networks and help implement the Sanctuary Everywhere movement as proposed by the American Friends Service Committee. Together, we affirm our commitment to protect targeted communities from state violence and discrimination.

**The latest figures from the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, show that at least 65.6 million people—1 of every 113 members of the human family—have been forcibly displaced within their own countries or across borders. www.unhcr.org*