



## **SCIC STATEMENT ON SANCTUARY**

As an organization representing and supporting believers of all faiths, the South Coast Interfaith Council encourages any efforts to protect segments of the United States population that may be subject to unfair or discriminatory action or legislation. We affirm that it is our responsibility as a council of believers to protect the “least among us” from prejudice, violence, and unwarranted prosecution and deportation.

We also affirm our commitment to work with agencies, movements, churches, synagogues, mosques and other organizations that provide or support sanctuary for threatened persons based on their race, religion, sexual orientation, or citizenship. We continue the centuries-old concept of Sanctuary, which provides safety, care and protection within houses of worship.

SCIC is committed to coordinating legal, financial, and spiritual support on behalf of religious communities and individuals threatened with deportation, prosecution, violence or persecution of any kind. The Council also seeks to influence local, state and federal lawmakers to establish laws and protections for threatened residents and commit to work with all governments to create policies that provide hope and opportunities for those, sometimes referred to as “Dreamers,” who grew up in the United States from a young age and for whom this country is their home. These individuals have demonstrated a capacity to serve and contribute positively in our society, and we believe they should be granted the opportunity to continue to do so.

As has been the tradition in many faiths, we recognize houses of worship to have always been a refuge for the runaway slave, the conscientious objector, and the Central American refugee fleeing the civil wars of the 1980s. And as the need for Sanctuary is growing, we stand in solidarity with Central American immigrants, AMEMSA (Arab/Middle Eastern/Muslim/South Asian) and other communities facing immoral and unjust deportation and discrimination policies.

We pledge to support civil initiatives undertaken by SCIC member organizations out of their sense of moral obligation to embody principles of human rights and dignity, and to oppose any harmful, unjust policies that undermine due process and injure communities.

We support those willing to provide sanctuary not only in houses of worship, but also at schools, hospitals, college campuses, community centers and family homes. We will work with partner organizations to create sanctuary wherever it is needed.

We affirm that the concept of Sanctuary requires action. Sanctuary is a deliberate undertaking, of people acting on behalf of others and communities.