

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TEMPLE SINAI  
JOINING IN THE “DECLARATION OF A STATE OF MORAL EMERGENCY”  
DECLARED BY BEND THE ARC JEWISH ACTION

**WHEREAS** Temple Sinai’s Board of Directors has previously passed a resolution stating our solidarity with undocumented immigrants and standing with them “in opposing policy proposals that lead to the subversion of due process” and stating that “the Torah teaches us that we cannot subvert the rights of the non-citizens among us because we ourselves know the pain and fear of being outsiders;”

**AND WHEREAS** subsequent to that resolution the Government of the United States has adopted a policy of separating children of undocumented immigrants from their families, resulting in the separation of over 2,000 children from their families to date;

**AND WHEREAS** we regard such actions as inhumane and inconsistent with fundamental Jewish values;

**AND WHEREAS** drawing inspiration from Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who, in 1963, sent a telegram to President Kennedy about the crisis of civil rights in this country, proposing he declare a “state of moral emergency... the hour calls for high moral grandeur and spiritual audacity.”

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Temple Sinai joins in the following “Declaration of a State of Moral Emergency” issued by Bend the Arc: Jewish Action and joined by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, IKAR, T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, HIAS, and the Anti-Defamation League:

“To this country, in whose promise we still believe, to the millions of people who are outraged and horrified, and especially to the thousands of children who have been separated from their families, we declare our nation to be in a state of moral emergency. This Administration has established border policies unprecedented in their scope and cruelty, that are inflicting physical, mental, and emotional harm on immigrants and punishing those seeking refuge at our borders.

We are anguished by the stories and images of desperate parents torn from their babies and detention facilities packed with children. We shudder with the knowledge that these inhumane policies are committed in our name, and we lift our voices in protest. The Jewish community, like too many others, knows all too well what it looks like for a government to criminalize the most vulnerable, to lie and obfuscate to justify grossly immoral practices under the banner of “the law,” to interpret holy scripture as a cover for human cruelty, to normalize what can never be made normal. We have seen this before. When crying children are taken from their parents’ arms, the American Jewish community must not remain silent.

To those who are targeted by these cruel policies, know that the Jewish community hears your cries. We will take risks to support you, and we will demand that our nation’s leaders take action. We will not abide the claim that people didn’t know or understand the extent of your suffering; we will not allow your torment to be in vain. Our government can persist in this inhumane behavior only if good people remain silent. And so we declare a state of moral emergency, and we rise to meet this moment. Even as our democratic institutions are under duress, we raise our voices and take decisive

action. United by the wisdom of our tradition, we stand with immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, with the children, and with their parents. We declare: Not here. Not now. Not in our name.”

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Congregation, or her designee, is authorized to add Temple Sinai to the list of signatories to this Declaration.