

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: A Multi-Faith Statement from the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice and Other Groups on Yesterday's Anti-Immigrant Supreme Court Rulings**

**Friday June 26th, 2026**

Yesterday, the Supreme Court authorized the United States to turn its backs on many of our most vulnerable neighbors. We are alarmed and outraged by the rulings in both *Mullin v. Al Otro Lado* and *Mullin v. Doe*. These decisions strike down the right to asylum for millions and strip Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for over 300,000 people who have found life-saving refuge in this country. Countless human beings will needlessly die and whole communities will be ripped apart because of these rulings.

These decisions are not only a shameful stain on our democracy, they are contrary to our deepest moral values and faith traditions.

In February, the Kairos Center, alongside thirty religious organizations and denominations representing every major faith tradition in the United States, filed an [amicus brief](#) vigorously defending the right to asylum. Those groups included the Alliance of Baptists, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Hindus for Human Rights, Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Latino Christian National Network, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Reconstructing Judaism, the Union for Reform Judaism, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, and the Church of the Brethren among others.

In our brief, we emphasized that a core value of our country's major faith traditions is to welcome and protect the stranger: this is one of Jesus' first and most powerful teachings, among the highest moral commands of the Torah, a well-recognized right within Islamic law and theology, a fundamental Hindu and Buddhist tenet, and part of Native American spiritual teachings. This moral commitment to the stranger has inspired centuries of religious and social asylum practice. Indeed, modern asylum laws were directly forged from the advocacy of faith-based groups operating from the shared moral understanding that society has an obligation to provide refuge to outsiders fleeing persecution.

Yesterday's decisions place millions of people in grave danger, while potentially paving the way for broader, legally-sanctioned attacks on other immigrant communities. They also signal a deeply worrying and growing willingness of the Supreme Court to greenlight the often cruel and illiberal policies of the current administration. Melissa Crow, Director of Litigation at the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (CGRS) and co-counsel in the *Al Otro Lado* case, warns: "The majority opinion in *Al Otro Lado* suggests the president may unilaterally override decades of established law and trample on people's legal rights if doing so suits his political agenda."

Justice Sotomayor concludes her dissent in that case by raising the alarm: "The consequences of today's decision are predictable. More people will die. More people will attempt to cross the border illegally, and some will make it while others will not. More people will be forced to walk along the U. S.-Mexico border in dangerous conditions, trying to find a port that will inspect them. More people will turn back and be subjected to violence because of something they cannot or should not have to change about themselves, such as their race, religion, nationality, or political opinion."

We lament these rulings and the precipitous decline in the integrity of our democratic institutions and systems of governance. We grieve the unnecessary pain and suffering they will wreak on our immigrant

neighbors and loved ones. And, alongside our faith partners and communities across the country, we remain resolute in our sacred commitment to welcome and protect the stranger, feed the hungry, heal the sick, and free the captive, recognizing that we are all deserving of divine grace. From this, there is no turning back.

\*\*\*

**Rev. Amy Reumann, Senior Director, Witness in Society, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:** “The ELCA supports fair and generous asylum laws, a commitment grounded in Scripture, in our church’s own immigrant history, and in our country’s best tradition of being a refuge for the persecuted. As we approach this country’s 250th anniversary, we might recall the words of George Washington, who wrote: ‘I had always hoped that this land might become a safe and agreeable asylum to the virtuous and persecuted part of mankind, to whatever nation they might belong.’ We urge protection and welcome for our neighbors from all nations.”

**Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism:** “We are deeply disappointed in the Supreme Court decisions allowing the Trump administration to turn back asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border and proceed with efforts to terminate Temporary Protected Status for hundreds of thousands of Haitian and Syrian nationals. As Jews, we understand the danger of being forced to return to unsafe places, and our history teaches us the devastating consequences when people fleeing persecution, violence, and instability are denied protection. We remain committed to pursuing policies that safeguard those seeking refuge and uphold the dignity of every person, including asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border; members of the Haitian and Syrian communities; and all those whose safety, stability, and future are threatened by these decisions.”

**Unitarian Universalist Association:** “The inherent dignity of every person is core to our Unitarian Universalist faith. Our principles and values as religious people call us to promote the flourishing of our radically interdependent human family, where we share deep responsibility for one another across borders and barriers. Since all immigrants, regardless of legal status, should be treated justly and humanely, we are called to work in solidarity with all those living in fear of violence or retribution.”

**Pax Christi USA** “recognizes the role that the US government and US-based corporations have played and continue to play in creating the conditions that millions of people around the world are forced to escape. The racist fear-mongering and “blaming the victims,” as well as the cruel policies to dismantle the asylum system are stains on our nation’s soul. As a community of conscience, we stand together and fully support the right of people to migrate and seek refuge, citizenship, and justice, as well as the right of people not to migrate and live in safe conditions in their communities of origin.”

**CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad:** “Temporary Protected Status was established to ensure that people are not forced to return to countries facing extraordinary and dangerous conditions. Ending these protections for hundreds of thousands of Haitians and thousands of Syrians will tear families apart, disrupt workplaces and communities, and place vulnerable individuals at risk. Many TPS holders have lived in our nation for years, raised American children, built businesses, contributed to our economy, and become integral members of their communities. Policies that target these families for deportation because of their race and ethnicity are contrary to our nation’s values. Congress should pursue legislative solutions to make clear that courts do indeed have the authority to review TPS termination decisions, to recognize the contributions of TPS recipients, and to protect families from unnecessary hardship and separation.”

**The Episcopal Diocese of New York:** “The Episcopal Diocese of New York has served and even helped to shape the City of New York, a city of immigrants and welcome, since the 17th century. Today’s Supreme Court decision, further limiting access to asylum for the most desperate among us, deeply injures our Diocese and strikes at the soul of who we are, as Christians, as New Yorkers, and as Americans. It would be impossible to separate our own story, and the story of our city, from that of the immigrant. Immigration is the through-line of our denomination. Our church has continually evolved, to a fully American Episcopal church that extends continual welcome and embrace of our ever-renewing citizenry: those fleeing slavery, the desperately hungry leaving behind famine, refugees from authoritarian repression. The years change but the hardships and hopes remain the same.”

\*\*\*

We offer thanks to the critical work of *Al Otro Lado* and the tireless advocacy of counsel at the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown Law, the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, the American Immigration Council, and the Center for Constitutional Rights for their work on *Mullin v. Al Otro Lado*. To learn more and join the Welcome With Dignity Campaign for asylum rights check out: [welcomewithdignity.org](http://welcomewithdignity.org).

\*\*\*

**Additionally signed by (check [here](#) for up to date list):**

*Alliance of Baptists*

*Friends Committee on National Legislation*

*North Carolina Council of Churches*

*Red Letter Christians*

