

**Statement by New Mexico Jewish Communal Organizations and Clergy
in Support of Refugees and Immigrants**

March 29, 2017

We, the undersigned Jewish communal organizations and community leaders from across the State of New Mexico, now join national Jewish organizations and communities throughout the United States in expressing our support for refugees and immigrants.

New Mexico was home to pioneering Jews fleeing discrimination, persecution and hardship. New Mexico was the destination of Jewish scientists and other refugees escaping the Nazis. As we give thanks for our lives in the place that was a refuge for our ancestors, we also recall Jews who were barred from immigrating to the United States during the Holocaust and perished.

Today, thousands of refugees and families who survived war and other violence, and were approved for resettlement in the United States after years of vetting and review, are being turned away. We cannot be silent as victims of war and terror are again denied entry. The United States can protect its residents from threats without closing its doors to legitimate refugees and barring immigrants based solely on where they come from.

Welcoming refugees and immigrants is vital to who we are as Americans and as Jews. The Torah commands us in at least 36 places not to wrong someone who is a stranger, because we were strangers in Egypt. These ancient commandments require us to defend those who are oppressed and persecuted today. We therefore repudiate policies that demonize the stranger and unnecessarily bar refugees and other vulnerable immigrants. The United States is a nation built by immigrants and oppressed peoples, and America's greatness, prosperity and creativity have sprung from our individual and collective triumphs over adversity.

We are also concerned by recent efforts to involve local law enforcement in federal immigration action. We believe this would put the safety of all our communities at risk, making it less likely that immigrants will seek assistance from law enforcement when they are victims of crime, or work with law enforcement when crimes have been committed. We are deeply concerned by the impact of deportations on vulnerable communities and families.

We are New Mexican Jews, living in a state with a 48% Hispanic population and 23 Native American pueblos, tribes and nations, and we are proud of New Mexico's rich heritage and diversity.

Therefore, as Jewish communal organizations and Jewish clergy of New Mexico, we affirm our commitment to:

Advocate for a fair and humane immigration policy, and refugee resettlement policies that protect the United States while offering a home to families and individuals most in need.

Speak out against attempts to divide our communities based on fear and demonization.

Defend and be allied with friends, neighbors, co-workers, students, children and family members in immigrant communities who are living in fear and anxiety because they are targeted by anti-immigrant or anti-Muslim speech, incidents and crimes.

Call on our elected officials to speak out against all forms of bigotry and hate.

We remember our past, and therefore as Jews we make these pledges today, to welcome and defend the stranger and to affirm our respect for the diverse communities and heritage of New Mexico.

Anti-Defamation League, New Mexico Region
Albuquerque, NM

Congregation Albert
Albuquerque, NM

Congregation B'nai Israel
Albuquerque, NM

Congregation Nahalat Shalom
Albuquerque, NM

Hadassah Greater Albuquerque
Albuquerque, NM

Hadassah Los Alamos
Los Alamos, NM

Hadassah Santa Fe
Santa Fe, NM

HaMakom
Santa Fe, NM

Holocaust and Intolerance Museum
of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Jewish Community Foundation of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Jewish Federation of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Las Vegas Jewish Community, Inc.
Las Vegas, NM

Los Alamos Jewish Center
Los Alamos, NM

New Mexico Jewish Historical Society
Albuquerque, NM

Montefiore Cemetery Association
Las Vegas, NM

Rabbinical and Cantorial Association
of Albuquerque
Albuquerque, NM

Taos Jewish Center
Taos, NM

Temple Beth El Carlsbad
Carlsbad, NM

Temple Beth Shalom
Santa Fe, NM

University of New Mexico Hillel
Albuquerque, NM

Clergy

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Temple Beth Shalom, Santa Fe, NM

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Congregation B'nai Israel, Albuquerque, NM

Rabbi Deborah J. Brin
Albuquerque

Rabbi Chavah Carp
Makor Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM

Rabbi Paul J. Citrin
Taos Jewish Center, Taos, NM

Rabbi John Feldman
Albuquerque, NM

Rabbi Arthur Flicker
Jewish Care Program, Albuquerque, NM

Cantor Barbara Finn
Congregation Albert, Albuquerque, NM

Cantor Cindy Freedman
HaMakom, Santa Fe, NM

Rabbi Shefa Gold
CDEEP, Jemez Springs, NM

Rabbi Min Kantrowitz
Albuquerque, NM

Rabbi Larry Karol
Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, NM

Rabbi Stephen Landau
Santa Fe, NM

Rabbi Harry Rosenfeld
Congregation Albert, Albuquerque, NM

Hazzan Jo Ann Rice
Congregation Nahalat Shalom, Albuquerque,
NM

Rabbi Jack Shlachter
HaMakom, Santa Fe, NM

Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev
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