

El Paso Interfaith and Community Witness to Dignity & Solidarity

The El Paso borderlands are home to a vibrant and culturally diverse people who everyday demonstrate the virtues of hard work, sacrifice, cooperation, charity and mutual respect.

Our border community bears witness to historic migrations of people from every direction and every race who have enriched our community with new gifts, hope, and inspiring commitment to our democratic traditions.

Our residents and community organizations continue to welcome selflessly those yearning for freedom and seeking refuge from poverty, violence, hunger and death.

The unity of the people of El Paso and Juarez in shared dreams, faith, customs, family, food and celebration stands as a testament to the power of unity and harmony.

We recognize that a healthy community is one in which our shared inheritance as Americans, the principles of civility, economy, tolerance, dialogue and understanding, thrives.

We, religious and civic leaders of a community and democracy built by immigrants, thus affirm that:

Communities must resist the tendency to allow fear to justify the creation of walls and divisions, xenophobia, the degrading of women, the marginalization of those struggling with poverty, the scapegoating of minorities, the demeaning of those with disabilities, the mistreatment of the LGBTQ community, and intolerance towards our Muslim brothers and sisters; and that

These attitudes and actions, subtle or explicit, hidden or vainly displayed by those with power and privilege, rob our nation of its soul and mock our American values; and that

Standing in solidarity with all those who pursue justice and work for reconciliation, we recommit ourselves to work through encounter and dialogue to advance racial equality, economic inclusion, the protection of the migrant, the rights and dignity of women, fairness in our criminal justice system, the protection of our sacred earth, and compassion for the most vulnerable among us.

The Mayor and City Council jointly declared January 10, 2017 as the El Paso Day of Dignity and Solidarity with this proclamation.

Signed by civic and faith leaders at the Cathedral Church of Saint Patrick, El Paso, January 12, 2017.

Signed by community members at Congressman O'Rourke's DREAMers Community Meeting, January 15, 2017