

May 14, 2025

Dear Massachusetts
Congressional Delegation:

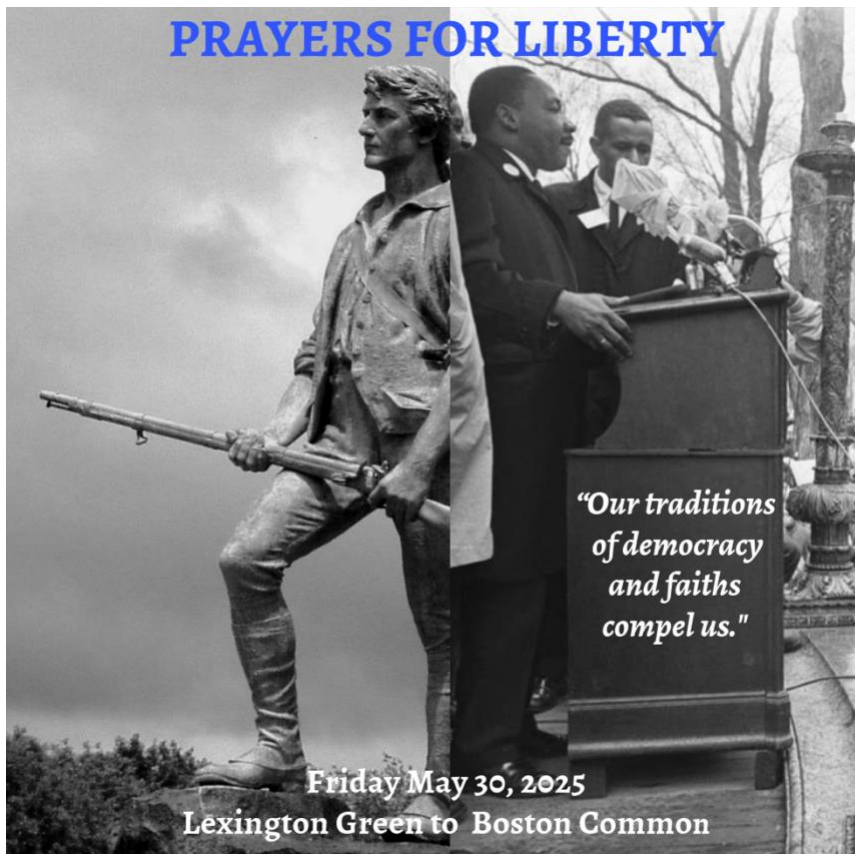
We, the undersigned
religious leaders, are
compelled to speak out at
this time. Our democratic
traditions and the
foundational sacred texts
and values of our faiths
compel us.

Our religious traditions
speak of the moral
imperative to create just
societies in which all people
are treated fairly as God's
creatures. Our accounts of
creation insist that all
people are created in the
image of God, B'tzelem
Elohim, and we must treat
every human being with

utmost care and respect. (Genesis 1:27) Our sacred legal foundations call us to love of neighbor as self, to unswerving commitment to justice, and to thorough legal process and investigations before any punitive or corrective action is taken. (Leviticus 19:18, Exodus 23:6, Deuteronomy 19:16-18) Our theologies call humans to rise above our fears and hate and to seek to imitate divine justice, mercy, and impartiality. And our prophets call us to justice and to generosity toward all people, regardless of their status or origin. (Isaiah 1:17; Quran, 16:90, 2:177, Matthew 25:3-46)

While we are a pluralistic, secular society, we believe that we are our healthiest, best, and most just society when these timeless, sacred, self-evident values are honored within our democratic processes and traditions. Our founders agreed.

As residents of Massachusetts, we just commemorated the 250th anniversary of the start of our American Revolution on April 19, 1775. Our predecessors fought here for freedom, documenting their call to democratic rather than tyrannical rule in the Declaration of Independence. Our Constitution endeavors to protect human rights and dignity through its commitment to due process of law for all persons within our borders, as enshrined in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.



Current circumstances call us to stand with the ancestors in our faiths and the founders of our country and stand for the protection of human rights, due process, generosity, and justice in the enforcement of law.

The current Federal administration's assaults on human dignity, due process, and justice are too many to cite. However, they include the following:

- Numerous executive orders have been blocked by the courts, including one to end birthright citizenship in violation of the clear language of the 14th Amendment. Yet unconstitutional actions, abuses of power and neglect of due process persist.
- A resident of Maryland, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, was detained and deported to El Salvador, though he had been granted “withholding of removal” by an immigration judge. After acknowledging his deportation was due to administrative error, the administration has refused to facilitate his return.
- United States born citizen children have been deported with their foreign-born mothers, without sufficient due process.
- Boston-area graduate student Rümeysa Öztürk had her student visa revoked without notice, was detained, and is threatened with deportation for no reason other than exercising her right to free speech.
- In an act of judicial intimidation, a Wisconsin State judge was handcuffed, shackled, and arrested in her own courtroom, a severe violation of judicial independence and the separation of powers, which is a hallmark of our constitutional system.
- Executive orders are attempting to forbid law firms from entering federal buildings, reducing access to representation, and eroding due process unless the law firms pledge fealty to the administration.
- Breaking with precedent, the Department of Homeland Security has rescinded its sensitive areas policy, violating the sacred space of religious institutions and jeopardizing the safety and public health of our communities by encouraging some American residents to avoid areas such as courts, public schools, houses of worship, and health care centers.
- In a widely aired public interview, the President has stated that he does not know if American citizens should receive due process and that he does not know if he needs to uphold the Constitution.

As federal judges have concluded, these actions show contempt for due process, freedom, and Constitutional rights. They also undermine sacred values that guide our faiths and uphold our communities. History shows us that governments that violate law, custom, and morality will continue to do so, with greater and greater damage done to our lives and our democracy.

In the name of God and in the name of justice, we call upon our Congressional delegation to act boldly and consistently in your duties to provide oversight and accountability to this administration. We also specifically call upon you to co-sponsor and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (HR 5166 and S455), which would

respect the separation of church and state and the freedom of religious assembly by limiting immigration enforcement activity in and around sensitive locations.

We also call upon religious leaders around the country, and all our fellow Americans, to join us in calling for our President to obey the law and to respect the decisions of our courts and the rights of all American residents.

In our faith traditions and our American tradition, the President is not a dictator or tyrant. Instead, “the Law is King, and no person is above the law.” (Thomas Paine, Common Sense)

Initial signatories on May 14, 2025:

1. Rabbi David Lerner, Temple Emunah, Lexington, MA
2. Reverend Steven Watson, Reservoir Church, Cambridge, MA
3. Reverend Willie Bodrick II, Senior Pastor, Historic Twelfth Baptist Church, Boston, MA
4. Rev. Dr. Barbara Callaghan, Senior Minister, Hancock United Church of Christ, Lexington, MA
5. Reverend John Edgerton, Senior Minister, Old South Church, Boston, MA
6. Reverend Laura Everett, Executive Director, Massachusetts Council of Churches, Boston, MA
7. Imam Abdulqadir Farah, Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, Boston, MA
8. Rabbi Ron Fish, President, Massachusetts Board of Rabbis
9. Reverend Art J. Gordon, Senior Pastor, Peoples Baptist Church, Boston, MA
10. Reverend Greg Groover, President, Black Minister Alliance Ten Point of Greater Boston & Pastor, of Historic Charles A.M.E Church, Roxbury, MA
11. Reverend Anne Mason, First Parish, Lexington, MA
12. Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Dorshei Tzedek, Newton, MA
13. Reverend Burns Stanfield, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Boston, MA
14. Reverend Liz Walker, Boston, MA
15. Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, New Roots Church, Boston, MA

Additional signatories, as of Tuesday May 27, 2025:

16. Reverend Gregory Mortise, Pastor, The Plymouth Church in Framingham
17. Jill Gaulding, Greater Boston Zen Center, Cambridge
18. Reverend Pamela Werntz, Rector, Emmanuel Church in the City of Boston
19. Reverend Won-Jae Hur, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brookline
20. Reverend Lydia Shiu, Director of Social Justice and Action, Reservoir Church, Cambridge
21. Reverend Martha Schick, Associate Minister, Trinitarian Congregational Church

22. Reverend Katie Cole, Interim Pastor, Hartford Street Presbyterian Church
23. Reverend Kate Layzer, Minister for Street Outreach, First Church in Cambridge, Congregational UCC
24. Reverend Cristina Rathbone, Congregational Coordinator, The Massachusetts Council of Churches
25. Reverend Noah Brewer-Wallin, Old South Church. Boston
26. Reverend Eva Ortez, Priest in charge
27. Rabbi Rebecca Zimmerman Hornstein, Executive Director, Boston Workers Circle
28. Reverend Paul Langston-Daley, Minister of Social Action
29. Reverend Shelly Davis, Co-Pastor, United Congregational Church, Milton
30. Reverend Stephanie May, First Church Boston UU
31. Reverend R. Ward Holder, Interim Pastor, Roxbury Presbyterian Church
32. Reverend Rebecca Binns, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Natick
33. Rabbi Michael Shire, Rabbi, Central Reform Temple, Boston
34. Rabbi Karen Thomashow, Temple Isaiah, Lexington
35. Rabbi Sam Blumberg, Temple Beth Am
36. Reverend Kayla Hurst, UCC Medfield
37. Reverend Rob Mark, Lead Pastor, Church of the Covenant, Boston
38. Reverend Dr. Charlene Zuill, Reverend, Union United Methodist, Boston
39. Reverend John Gibbons, Minister Emeritus, First Parish in Bedford, MA
40. Rabbi Van Lanckton, Rabbi, Temple Emanuel – Newton
41. Reverend Claire Feingold Thoryn, Lead Minister, Follen Church (Unitarian Universalist)
42. Rabbi Darby Leigh, Kerem Shalom, Concord MA
43. Rabbi David Jaffe, Executive Director, Co-President, Brockton Interfaith Community
44. Rabbi Daniel Judson, Hebrew College
45. Rabbi Laura Bellows
46. Rabbi Randy Kafka, Temple Kol Tikvah, Sharon MA
47. Reverend Daniel Smith, Community Minister
48. Reverend Dr. George Clifford, Christ Church Cambridge
49. Rabbi Susan Abramson, Temple Shalom Emeth, Burlington, MA
50. Rabbi Sara Meirowitz
51. Rabbi Alison Adler, Vice President, Massachusetts Board of Rabbis
52. Rabbi Karen Landy
53. Joanna Lubkin, Minister for Lifespan Learning, Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn
54. Rabbi Neil Kominsky, Retired

55. Reverend Barbara Lemmel, Co-Pastor, Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church
56. Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman
57. Reverend Ashley Popperson, Associate Minister, Old South Church – Boston
58. Rabbi Becky Silverstein
59. Rabbi David Winship
60. Rabbi Dr. Raysh Weiss, Natick Interfaith Caring Coalition
61. Rabbi Marcia Plumb, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
62. Rabbi Shani Rosenbaum, Faculty, Hebrew College
63. Rabbi Elaine Pollack, Rabbi-Educator, Congregation Dorshei Tzedek – Newton
64. Rabbi Beth Naditch
65. Reverend Jamie Hinson-Rieger, Senior Minister, The First Parish in Bedford
66. Reverend R.G. Wilson-Lyons, Reverend, United Congregational church in Milton
67. Reverend Megan Lynes, Minister, Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church
68. Rabbi Andrew Vogel, Senior Rabbi, Temple Sinai, Brookline
69. Pastor Ivy Anthony, Pastor of Community Life, Reservoir Church, Cambridge
70. Rabbi Eliana Willis, Temple Emunah Social Justice Community, Temple Emunah
71. Reverend Mary Martha Thiel, First Church in Cambridge Congregational UCC
72. Reverend Jennifer Johnson, Lead Minister, First Parish in Concord, MA
73. Reverend Lara Hoke, Minister, First Church Unitarian, Littleton
74. Reverend Nate Klug, Reverend, First Parish in Lincoln
75. Rabbi Josh Breindel, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley
76. Cantor Vera Broekhuysen, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley
77. Reverend Bob Greiner
78. Reverend Johannah Murphy
79. Rabbi Talia Stein, Rabbi, Temple Sinai, Brookline
80. Reverend Maeve Hammond, Minister of Word and Sacrament
81. Reverend Richard Burden, All Saints Parish
82. Rabbi Joseph Meszler
83. Ms. Jane Hodgetts
84. Rabbi Braham David, Congregation Beth Elohim, Acton, MA
85. Rabbi Lori Shaller
86. Reverend Lisa Perry-Wood, Minister, First Parish in Wayland
87. Reverend Liz Georgakopoulos, Pastor, Grace Church Federated, UCC and Episcopal
88. Reverend Judith Brain, Pastor, First Church in Wenham
89. Abdul Wahab, Outreach Community and Reform Center

90. Reverend Nathan Ives, Rector, St. Peter's-San Pedro Episcopal Church, Salem, MA
91. Reverend Lara Hoke, Minister, First Church Unitarian, Littleton
92. Reverend Alix Klingenberg, Unitarian Universalist
93. Reverend Marc Fredette, Grant AME Church - Boston, Unitarian Universalist retired minister
94. Reverend Ken Reeves, Clinical Director, Center for Career Development and Ministry
95. Reverend Emily Bruce, Reverend, First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist - Kingston MA
96. Reverend Martha Durkee-Neuman, Minister for Religious Education, First Church in Belmont UU
97. Reverend Laura Solomon, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading
98. Gary Smith, Minister Emeritus, First Parish, Concord Mass
99. Reverend Hank Peirce, First Church Boston UU
100. Carie Johnsen, Minister, University Lutheran Association of Greater Boston,
101. Reverend Robert Davidson, Priest, Parish of the Epiphany (Episcopal)
102. Reverend Amy McCreath, Dean, Cathedral Church of St. Paul
103. Reverend Corey O'Brien, UCC
104. Reverend Rebecca Sheble-Hall, Rev, UUAC in Sherborn MA
105. Rabbi Suzie Jacobson, Rabbi, Temple Israel – Boston
106. Rabbi Jeff Foust, Temple Beth Zion – Brookline
107. Rabbi Kenneth Carr, Rabbi, Temple Chayai Shalom, Easton
108. Rabbi Shoshana Perry, Rabbi, Congregation Shalom, Chelmsford, MA
109. Rabbi Aaron Abelmani
110. Rabbi Suzanne Offit
111. Valentin Frank, Intern Minister, First Parish Cambridge UU
112. Rabbi Neal Gold, A Tree with Roots
113. Rabbi Van Lanckton, Rabbi, Temple Emanuel – Newton
114. Reverend Emily Conger, Minister, Nourish: Unitarian Universalist Dinner Church Consultant\
115. David Finkelstein
116. Reverend Lilia Cuervo, Retired Minister, First Parish Cambridge UU, First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, MA
117. Rabbi Thomas Alpert, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Etz Chaim, Franklin, MA
118. Rabbi Andrew Oberstein, Rabbi, Temple Israel – Boston
119. Reverend Dr. Cynthia Landrum, Minister, First Parish Church of Stow and Acton, Unitarian Universalist
120. Reverend Dr. Deborah Clark, Edwards church in Framingham

121. Reverend Emelia Attridge, Pastor, First Congregational Church of Reading, UCC
122. Reverend Dr. Sheldon W. Bennett, Minister Emeritus, United First Parish Church UU in Quincy, First Church Boston UU
123. Sophia Doescher, Assistant Minister, First Parish Cambridge UU
124. Reverend Matthew Stewart, Rector, St. James's Episcopal Church Cambridge
125. Reverend Michele Torres, Hospital Chaplain and Associate Priest, St. James's Episcopal Church – Cambridge
126. Reverend Laura Randall, Community minister, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
127. Reverend Dr. Robert K Massie, St. James's Episcopal Church - Cambridge,
128. Matia Angelou, Rabbinic Pastor, Makom Hazon
129. Rabbi Henry Zoob, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Beth David, Westwood, MA
130. Rabbi Sharon Anisfeld, President, Hebrew College
131. Reverend Ross Allen, Designated Term Senior Pastor, Christ Church United of Lowell, UCC
132. Reverend Cindy Worthington-Berry, Pastor, First Congregational Church of Natick
133. Reverend Fred Small, Minister for Climate Justice, Arlington Street Church, Unitarian Universalist
134. Reverend Laurel Gray, Assistant Minister
135. Reverend Catherine Senghas, Retired UU minister and hospice chaplain
136. Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade, Pastor, Sanctuaryucc.org
137. Reverend Dr. Michelle Walsh, Lead Minister, First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton, A Neponset River UU Community
138. Tracey Wright, Temple Emunah Social Justice Community
139. Reverend Nada Sellers, Pastor, SNECUCC
140. Rabbi Eric Gurvis
141. Rabbi Cari Bricklin-Small, Temple Shir Tikvah – Winchester
142. Reverend Gail Seavey, Retired, Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church
143. Rabbi Caryn Broitman, Rabbi, Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center
144. Pastor Darrell Hamilton, The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain
145. Reverend Reebee Kavich Girash, Pastor, Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, Lexington
146. Reverend Willie Barnett, Lead Pastor, Great Road Church
147. Rabbi Claudia Kreiman, Senior Rabbi, Temple Beth Zion – Brookline
148. Reverend Dr Gary Strichartz, Chaplain, Unitarian Universalist Area Church, Sherborn MA
149. Reverend Erica Richmond, Reverend, First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, MA

150. Reverend Megan Berkowitz, Senior Pastor, Union Church of Waban
151. Reverend Dr. James Egan Weiss, Boston College Professor and Priest, St. James's Episcopal Church – Cambridge
152. Rabbi Emily Mathis, Rabbi, B'nai Torah MetroWest
153. Rabbi Jim Morgan, Rabbi, Worship and Study Minyan at Harvard Hillel
154. Rabbi Mimi Micner
155. Rabbi Sam Pollak, Director of Youth and Family Education, Temple Isaiah – Lexington
156. Reverend Amy Norton-Benfield, Associate Pastor, United Parish Brookline
157. Reverend Kyle Walden, Discipleship Pastor, Union United Methodist – Boston
158. Reverend Jane Lawrence, Minister of Congregational Care, Union United Methodist – Boston
159. Reverend Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney, Priest-in-Charge, Episcopal Parish of St. Paul, Newton Highlands
160. Reverend Nikki Renée, Union United Methodist – Boston
161. Pastor Juan Josue Martinez, Union United Methodist - Boston
Reverend.
162. Dr. Clyde Grubbs, Affiliate Community Minister, First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton
163. Jolie Olivetti, Minister, Unitarian Church of Sharon
164. Reverend Cheryl Kerr, Senior Pastor, United Parish of Auburndale
165. Rabbi Jeremy Fineberg
166. Reverend Jane Rzpeka, Minister Emerita, Church of the Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist, Church of the Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist
167. Rabbi Victor Reinstein, Founding Rabbi, Nehar Shalom Community Synagogue, Nehar Shalom, Washington Square Minyan
168. Cantor Louise Treitman, Cantor Emerita, Temple Beth David, Westwood
169. Rada Ruggles, Pastoral Intern, Brighton Allston Congregational Church
170. Reverend Kari Jo Verhulst, Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Newtons
171. Pastor Larry Kim, Senior Pastor, Central Square Church
172. Reverend John O'Connor, Arlington Street Church, Unitarian Universalist
173. Reverend Sarah Stewart, Minister, First Unitarian Church of Worcester
174. Reverend Dr. J Michael Solberg, Interim Sr. Minister, First Church in Cambridge Congregational UCC,
175. Reverend Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance, First Church in Cambridge Congregational UCC,
176. Rabbi Daniel Klein, Hebrew College
177. Reverend Arrington Chambliss, Executive Director, Episcopal City Mission

178. Reverend Betsy Sowers, Minister for Earth Justice, Old Cambridge Baptist Church
179. Rabbi Elaine Zecher, Rabbi, Temple Israel, Boston,
180. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, Associate Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Lynn, MA
181. Reverend Sarah Lusche, Senior Minister, Old Cambridge Baptist Church
182. Reverend Meghan DeJong, Executive Pastor, Highrock Covenant Church
183. Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor, Park Avenue Congregational Church, UCC, Arlington
184. Rabbi Dan Slipakoff, Rabbi, Temple Israel – Boston
185. Reverend Alexandra Steinert-Evoy, First Church in Cambridge Congregational UCC
186. Reverend Mitchell Hay, Co-Pastor, Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church
187. Reverend Stacey Keane Blagg
188. Reverend Rosemary Lloyd, Retired, First Parish in Lincoln
189. Pastor Joshua Wilson, The Garden Church
190. Reverend Dr Susan Cartmell, Pastor, South Church, Amherst
191. Reverend Peggy O'Connor, South Church Amherst
192. Reverend Janelle Hiroshige, Assistant Priest
193. Rabbi Ben Einsidler, Rabbi, Temple Beth Sholom, Framingham
194. Reverend Patricia Kepler, Pastor Emerita Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church
195. Reverend Roderick MacDonald, Pastor Emeritus, Presbyterian Church in Burlington MA
196. Reverend Meredith Allen, United Church of Christ, retired
197. Friend Callid Keefe-Perry, Friend, Three Rivers Meeting (Quaker)
198. Reverend Catherine MacDonald, Stated Clerk Emerita, Presbytery of Boston, Presbytery of Boston
199. Kristina Keefe-Perry, Released Friend, Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting (Quaker)
200. Reverend Dr. Kenneth J. Barnes
201. Reverend Tim Hughes Williams, Reverend, Fourth Presbyterian Church - South Boston
202. Reverend Hall Kirkham, Rector, St. Michael's Church, Milton
203. Rabbi Jordana Battis, Rabbi, Temple Isaiah, Lexington
204. Reverend Parisa Parsa, Transitional Senior Minister, Arlington Street Church Reverend.
205. Trina Portillo, Pastor, Presbyterian Church in Burlington
206. Reverend John Gage, Senior Minister, Congregational Church of Needham, UCC
207. Rabbi Michael McCloskey, Cantor, Temple Emeth
208. Reverend Dr. Regina Walton, Denominational Counselor and Lecturer, Harvard Divinity School

- 209. Rev. Dr. James Yansen, Pastor, Hyde Park Seventh-Day Adventist
- 210. Reverend Oscar Pratt, Pastor, St. Katharine Drexel Parish – Roxbury
- 211. Reverend Cynthia Good, Pastor, Calvary Church, UMC
- 212. Reverend Lisa Ward, Minister, First Parish in Milton
- 213. Rabbi Marcia Plumb, Rabbi, Temple Beth Elohim – Wellesley
- 214. Reverend Corey Sanderson, Reverend, Second Church in Newton, UCC
- 215. Reverend Sandra Hutchinson, Oratory Chaplain
- 216. Reverend Jean Southard, The Presbytery of Boston
- 217. Reverend Will Burhans, Lead Pastor
- 218. Cantor Shoshana Brown, Cantor, Temple Beth El, Fall River
- 219. Cantor Elise Barber