

Federal Law Enforcement Keep Off Our Property

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For Immediate Release:

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The Fellowship of Reconciliation-USA-DMV, Faith Strategies, and Clergy Concerned with Protecting DC Home-Rule and Our Immigrant Neighbors from racial profiling and disappearing off of the streets of DC call on Houses of Worship to resist allowing federal law enforcement to use its parking lots and property as staging areas for their operations.

It has been observed and reported that various federal law enforcement entities like ICE and other federal entities have been using the parking lots and property of Houses of Worship as staging areas for operations in the neighborhoods and communities of Washington, DC. We want to remind those federal entities that the property of houses of worship is private and therefore should not be used without expressed permission from those worshipping entities. We recognize that as these law enforcement entities use the properties of Houses of Worship, they are implicating those worshipping communities in the erosion of Home-Rule, making it look like those communities of faith agree with a federal takeover, and in accord with the racial profiling and disappearance of our neighbors, family members, and friends.

We want to remind ourselves and the larger community that our faith traditions demand that we stand with the most vulnerable of our communities, which includes immigrants and our youth who are being harassed and racially profiled because of this federal law enforcement intrusion on Home-Rule which overlooks our diversity as a community and our cultural nuances.

We therefore call on federal law enforcement and all of its entities to not use the property of Houses of Worship as staging areas for their operations. We call on Houses of Worship not to allow federal law enforcement and any of its entities from using its property for any means as long as Home-Rule is not respected and linked with policing tactics that are designed to harass, terrorize, and racially profile.

Signed:

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