RESOLUTION # 2026-04

Immigration Policies Affecting Women, Children, and Other Vulnerable Migrants

Resolved, That the 60th Diocesan Convention acknowledge the specific vulnerabilities and needs of immigrant women, parents, and children in the current immigration crisis, both in the United States and globally; and be it further

Resolved, That the 60th Diocesan Convention acknowledge that the intensification and implementation of punitive immigration policies and practices, such as the detention and separation of children from parents and the practice of housing children in military bases and immigrant prison complexes, is inhumane and unjust, and only serves to traumatize the vulnerable, especially women and children; and decry and call for a halt to the implementation and intensification of such policies and practices, including:

- the detaining and separating of children from parents;
- the ignoring of the reproductive health needs of women and girls in detention centers; and
- the converting of military bases, closed prisons, county jails, and warehouses, together with the construction of new facilities, to hold many thousands of people in immigration detention, including children; and be it further

Resolved, That the 60th Diocesan Convention urge the congregations and members of the Diocese of Wyoming to advocate for our governments to address the specific needs of women and children migrants and others with special vulnerabilities, by:

- Keeping babies and children together with their parents and other responsible family members, and releasing families from immigration detention as a priority policy;
- Providing access to physical and mental health care to all in immigration detention, including the full range of reproductive health care and sanitary products for women and girls;
- Ensuring the safety of all immigrants from sexual harassment, exploitation, and sex and labor trafficking, including women, children, youth, and elders; people with disabilities; and lesbian, gay, transgender and gender non-conforming persons;

- Deprioritizing immigration enforcement when deportation would mean parental separation from children and loss of needed family income, with exceptions for those with violent felony convictions;

- Preventing the release of immigration information from local law enforcement to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, except in cases of violent crime, so that people, including women, are not afraid to call local police to report domestic violence and other criminal activity, for fear of themselves or other family members being deported;

and be it further

Resolved, That the 60th Diocesan Convention urge the congregations, members, and Churchrelated organizations of the Diocese of Wyoming to support ministries that provide vulnerable migrants with basic needs, legal support, and advocacy.

Explanation

This resolution asks the Diocese of Wyoming to adopt, in its own voice, the position The Episcopal Church took in Resolution 2018-A178, "Denounce Inhumane Immigration Policies and Advocate on Behalf of Migrants," adopted by the 79th General Convention meeting in Austin in 2018. The resolve clauses above keep the substance and the spirit of that resolution, updated to name the kinds of facilities now being used and built to hold immigrants, which did not exist in their present form in 2018.

The conditions 2018-A178 described have not improved. The practice it named specifically — the housing of immigration detainees on military bases — is again in use, most prominently at Fort Bliss in Texas, and the detention of families and the separation of children from parents have continued to draw the attention of the Church. The 80th General Convention returned to the subject in Resolution 2022-D031, and the 81st General Convention in Resolution 2024-C031, "Migration with Dignity." The position stated here is one the Church has held and restated for eight years.

What has been built since 2018 is on another scale entirely. Congress has appropriated $45 billion for immigration detention through Fiscal Year 2029. The American Immigration Council reports that detention now runs from small county jails to previously closed state prisons holding more than 2,000 people to newly built tent facilities on military bases holding as many as 5,000, and that during 2026 the government has been buying warehouses to convert.

Of the 65,765 people in immigration detention on July 11, 2026, 46,436 — 70.6 percent — had no criminal conviction of any kind, and the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, which compiles this data from federal records, notes that many of those who did have a conviction had been convicted only of minor offenses, including traffic violations

(tracreports.org/immigration/quickfacts). The women, parents, and children this resolution concerns are, in the main, not people who have been convicted of crimes.

Fiscal impact: none. This resolution requires no budget allocation.

This resolution was submitted by the Rev. Mary Erickson, St. John's Jackson.

Approved as to Form:

Elizabeth B. Lance
Chancellor

03/10/26
Date

Signature: Beth Lance (Oct 3, 2026 14:59:16 MDT)

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