

The Interfaith Council of Southwestern CT and Stamford Clergy

August 31, 2026

As faith leaders, we the Stamford Clergy, unequivocally condemn the brutality of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shown to our immigrant neighbors.

Our position is not about politics. It is not about legal reform. It is not about partisan debate. It is about our humanity.

During this past week, as our children prepared to start back to school, ICE officers targeted our children's school bus stops, local small businesses, the courthouses, and our own diverse neighborhoods, seeking to harass, kidnap, and scare local residents. Recent New York Times research showed that throughout our country, ICE is continuing to target those with no criminal background.

Terrorized as they were, immigrant families took their children to bus stops when school opened this week. Then they went to work. They tried to return home but some never made it. It is estimated that 50-65 of our neighbors were abducted in Connecticut alone the week of August 24, 2026.

Our faith traditions may vary, but they are all the same when it comes to our common humanity. We urge all of our neighbors to be just that: neighbors.

Our faiths teach us that our neighbors are not just those living next door. They are neighbors in the Good Samaritan sense. Our neighbors are anyone in need, regardless of race, culture, or beliefs. Understanding neighbors in

that sense means showing active mercy, love, respect, and compassion to all people. It is only what we would ask of ourselves and of our faith.

To our immigrant neighbors, we stand in solidarity with you — on the streets, at the courthouses and in our congregations. You are not alone.

With faith and love,

The Interfaith Council of Southwestern CT and Stamford Clergy

Rev. Jean-Luc Charles

Rev. Shelley Donaldson

Rev. Dr. Néstor Gómez

Rev. Winton M. Hill III

Rev. Michael Hyman

Rabbi Dr. Michael Rose Knopf

Pastor Martha McCreight

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Major Kimberly Smith

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