

## **Let Our Children Go!** **A pilgrimage of witness and change**

### **WHAT?**

A multi-faith pilgrimage to the Mexico/Texas border at the teen tent prison in Tornillo, Texas as a movement of witness and demand for immigration justice and change.

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The welfare of children is more important than immigration status. Children must never be used as bait to entice undocumented migrants to reveal themselves. We, as people of faith, stand for the reunification of children with parents or guardians regardless of immigration status. We will meet in El Paso, offering prophetic witness on the bridge between Mexico and Texas, contribute to the shelters housing asylum seekers and caravan by foot to the Tornillo camp as a sign of protest and witness.

We must stand up for the sake of these children, for our children, and for our country. There must be public oversight of this and other similar facilities. The increased militarization of our borders and zero-tolerance policies have led us to a detention center for undocumented children. When we are asked decades from now what we did to stop the suffering in our country, we must be able to answer that we tried.

### **TIMING:**

Beginning November 13, we will travel from city to city, building our momentum of protest. At each target stop city, there will be an power action with media release. Culminating in El Paso, Texas on November 15 in a multifaith action of witness and protest.

### **GOALS:**

- Build visibility around teen prison and unjust holding of detained children and teens
- Engage in a national media campaign that shines light on child imprisonment
- Unite people of faith on a national level to bear witness and lift our voices for change
- Mobilize faith communities (particularly Jewish faith communities) around the issue of immigrant justice and human rights
- Call for change with specific asks to our government

### **Travel Details for participants: November 13-15**

- Join us in your city, or closest city on the route
- If your city or route number has a bus, you are welcome to ride the bus with your cohort or caravan with us in your own car
- If your city or route does not have a bus, you will caravan. You can provide your own transportation, ride with a group or offer space in your car for others to join.
- Housing is on your own, some routes will be able to organize homestays in some cities and/or book rooms at local hotels.
- Lunches will be provided by host cities. Some routes may also have other meals provided.
- We will be blocking off hotel rooms in El Paso for November 14 and 15, these rooms are limited and we highly encourage roommates.

We will also coordinate some shared shuttle rides to and from the airport for those

- we will also coordinate some shared shuttle rides to and from the airport for those flying to El Paso.
- Financial subsidies may be available as donations come in. We do not want finances to be in the way of participating.

### **Current Routes and Caravans:**

Cohort 1 : Ann Arbor, Michigan – Tornillo, Texas

Day 1: Ann Arbor -- Indianapolis -- St. Louis

Day 2: St. Louis --

Cohort 2 : Cincinnati, Ohio – Tornillo, Texas

Cohort 3 : Sacramento – Tornillo, Texas

### **Asks of participants:**

*People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to be part of this movement*

- Join us in your city (or the closest city on our route) and ride with us all the way down (and back) to Texas, calling for change along the way.
- Join us in El Paso on November 15 for our large scale action
- Contribute funding for those who wish to go
- Organize your community to join our route
- Organize a community action if you are in a host city
- Organize a support event (make signs, collect items for the children, rally/protest during the week of witness as an act of solidarity, ect...)

### **Asks of communities/host cities:**

Organize an event in your community for when we get into town.

Event should be no longer than 1 hour and ideally includes a meal and does not involve too much sitting. The event should be “newsworthy” coordinating local media in your community to cover the event.

Event could be:

- Protest at a local ICE or Detention center
- Visiting someone in Sanctuary
- Meeting with local government representatives
- Vigil or rally
- Or another great idea that builds momentum

### ***Want to go the extra mile?***

- Encourage your community to jump on the bus/caravan with us and continue with us (even if it's just to the next city/rally)
- Host us in your homes or building overnight
- Coordinate housing and meals for the caravan if they are staying the night
- Contribute financially to the pilgrimage so that it is financially viable for all
- Provide meals for the caravan, or snacks for along the way
- Collect items (list of needs will be provided) for shelters housing Refugees and Asylum seekers on the border

### **CONTACT US!**

To hear more contact our Co-Chairs:

Rabbi Josh Whinston : [rabbijwhinston@templebethemeth.org](mailto:rabbijwhinston@templebethemeth.org)

Rabbi Miriam Terlincham: [rabbi@templeholom.net](mailto:rabbi@templeholom.net)

### **READY TO ENGAGE?**

Fill out [this form](#) and we will get back to you as soon as possible

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### **CURRENT PARTNERS:**

#### **SYNAGOGUES:**

Temple Beth Emeth  
Temple Shalom

Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Cincinnati, Ohio

#### **ORGANIZATIONS):**

\*ACLU-TEXAS  
\*Auburn Seminary  
CCAR  
Faith In Action  
\*HIAS  
RAC

\* Pending written consent to partnership

#### **INDIVIDUALS:**