

Affirm and Defend Bangor's Community Values

There are times when it's important to declare who are and what we stand for. When our community values of diversity and inclusion are threatened, and when various groups among us feel vulnerable and at risk, our words matter and give us all heart.

We urge all members of the Bangor community -- whether you live, work or spend time in Bangor -- to sign the statement below. Doing so will urge our City Council to add its official voice to our own.

*Margaret Baillie, Power in Community Alliance
Omar Conteh, Director, Islamic Center of Maine
Rev Dr. Susan E. Davies
Rev Dr. Mark Doty
Rev. Elaine Hewes
Rabbi Darah Lerner
Rev. Rebecca Liberty
Rev. Andrew Moeller
Fr. Augustine Nellary*

Bangor, Maine aspires to be an open, welcoming and safe community for all its residents. We wish to value and honor our racial, ethnic and religious diversity. It makes us stronger and better.

The current political climate has become frightening for millions of immigrants and their families. In addition, we recognize that our Islamic friends and neighbors feel threatened by the seeds of anti-Muslim sentiment being sown throughout our country.

In light of these concerns, we call on the Bangor City Council to declare that here in our city, we are committed to uphold the rights, ensure the safety, and affirm the worth of each of our residents.

We strongly support the Bangor police department's policy to not routinely inquire into the immigration status of any person(s) encountered in the course of normal law enforcement activity. Our public security, including effective community policing, requires that no one feel intimidated or apprehensive in coming forward with information that aids our officers in keeping us all safe.

We are proud that our public officials strive to treat all of our residents with respect, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, documentation status, sexual or gender identity. We know that when any sector of our populace feels vulnerable, the integrity of our entire community is in jeopardy. We celebrate our diversity, our openness to one another, and our commitment to dignity and equal justice for all.