

January 22, 2026

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To the Corporate Leadership of Target:

We write to you as faith leaders representing communities across North Dakota who deeply love our country. We have different faith traditions, but share a belief that all people have value, worth, and dignity in common regardless of where they live, come from, or what they look like.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, an ICE agent violated that commitment when he murdered a woman, Renee Nicole Macklin Good, while she bravely stood witness to their assault on her immigrant neighbors. We say her name, and honor her memory. Like so many of our neighboring Minnesotans, we grieve for her and her loved ones. And we know that this horrific incident is not an aberration. For weeks, ICE and other federal law enforcement entities have terrorized immigrant communities, childcare centers, small business owners, Muslim religious leaders, and children and parents trying to go to school in Minnesota.

On Thursday, Jan. 8, Customs and Border Patrol agents assaulted and arrested two Target workers at the Richfield, MN Target store. Both workers are US citizens. In recorded footage of the encounter, one of the men detained asks legal observers to call his mother. The footage is jarring. It is heartbreaking. And it is also not an aberration.

Nothing will bring back Renee, but now is the time for responsibility and accountability. And it is a moment that requires all of us to stand up and act. Target is a homegrown Minnesota corporation. It's one of the largest employers in the state. The Target logo adorns the stadiums of the teams Minnesotans cheer for. It is a symbol of Minnesota. And Minnesota is under attack right now. As faith leaders, we urge you to:

- Publicly call for an immediate end to the ICE “surge” into MN and for ICE to leave the state.
- Affirm Target stores as 4th amendment workplaces, publicly posting signage denying entrance to immigration agents without signed judicial warrants and training staff on how to respond if immigration agents enter illegally.
- Publicly call for Congress to stop funding ICE.

Minnesota communities are suffering. We have seen and felt this pain from our colleagues, family members, and friends, and as Wednesday showed, the current ICE surge directly threatens the lives of our neighboring Minnesotans. Families are afraid to leave their homes to go to the grocery store or take their children to school. Workers, regardless of citizenship status, are missing shifts because they don't know if they'll be grabbed standing outside Target to deliver a drive-up order, waiting at the bus stop, or just off the street simply because of how they look. Childcare centers are closing because they are receiving threats and harassment.

In times of crisis, our faith traditions and sacred texts call on us to act, not only in words but in deeds. They call on us to care for those at greatest risk, to stand up against injustice and work for the needs of our communities. Sadly, those in Minnesota, and especially in the Twin Cities, have lived through too many moments of crisis in the last six years. We know what injustice looks like, and we know it means to take action.

We write to you today urging you to recognize what is happening in Minnesota, and to lead not just with words but with action. Target is Minnesota's leading corporate citizen. Where Target goes, others follow. Use the power that you have to stand up for the people of Minnesota.

Signed,

Bishop Brian Thom, Episcopal Church of North Dakota

Michelle Lauckner, WND Women of the ELCA President

Angela Harmon, Rep. of Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist, Bismarck, ND

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Rev. Beth Walch, Bismarck, ND

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Rev. Sylvia Bull, Bismarck, ND

Rev. John Streccius, Bismarck, ND

Rev. Shandon Klein, Fairmount, ND

Rev. Sue Koesterman, West Fargo, ND

Deacon Beth Anderson, Bismarck, ND

Rev. James Moos, Streeter, ND

Chaplain Dan Sweeney, Bismarck, ND

Rev. Adam Barden, Mandan, ND

Rev. Derek Harkins, Bismarck, ND

Rev. Lisa Ahlness, Bismarck, ND

Rev. Giselle Loucks, Underwood, ND

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Rev. Jamie Parsley, St. Stephen's, Fargo, ND

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