

**Interfaith Statement of Opposition to the Death Penalty**  
The Religious Community Calls for Passage of HB 576—Abolish the Death Penalty

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Dear Governor Richardson,

As faith leaders throughout New Mexico, we stand united against the continued use of capital punishment in our state. And we do not stand alone. The majority of religious communities nationwide oppose the death penalty as a violation of human rights and a perpetuation of violence in our society.

The following national religious groups have made statements in opposition to the death penalty:

American Baptist Church in the U.S.A.	The Moravian Church in America
The American Jewish Committee	National Council of Churches of Christ
The Bruderhoff Communities	Orthodox Church in America
Central Conference of American Rabbis	Presbyterian Church U.S.A
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	The Rabbinical Assembly
Church of the Brethren	Reformed Church in America
Church Women United	Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ
The Episcopal Church	of Latter Day Saints
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America	Union for Reform Judaism
Fellowship of Reconciliation	Unitarian Universalist Association
Friends United Meeting	United Church of Christ
The General Association of American Baptists	The United Methodist Church
General Conference Mennonite Church	U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

As people of faith, we support a justice system that is both humane and restorative. We uphold the victims of violent crime and their family members in their grief and suffering and promote measures that will facilitate their healing.

Therefore, we ask you to support efforts to replace New Mexico's death penalty with life without the possibility of parole by signing HB 576 Abolish the Death Penalty. We also ask that you redirect state resources to more adequately fund programs for murder victims' families as dictated in HB 577 and enact employment protections for victims of crime to participate in court proceedings as provided in HB 356.

We are greatly disturbed by the presence of violence in our communities. As ministers to many of our greatest societal problems, we ask you to consider solutions to violent crime that address our communities' need for healing not vengeance. Please respond to the will of the majority of New Mexicans and the nation in providing non-violent and restorative alternatives to the death penalty.

In the name of justice, mercy, and peace, **repeal the death penalty.**

Sincerely,

Rev. Barbara Dua  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Conference of Churches

*\*Signatures continue on the following pages.*