



The Episcopal Diocese of  
**NEW YORK**

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## **Bishop of Newark and Bishop of New York Call for Delaney Hall to Close**

*Episcopal bishops issue joint statement calling for the closure of immigration detention facility and the release of those held inside, citing violations of human dignity and basic rights*

The Rt. Rev. Carlye Hughes, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, and the Rt. Rev. Matthew Heyd, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, have issued a joint statement calling for the immediate closure of Delaney Hall, a federal immigration detention facility, and for the release of all persons held there.

The statement draws on the foundational Christian conviction that every person is made in the image and likeness of God. “None are forgotten or excluded from being wonderfully made,” the bishops write. “It is God’s image and likeness in each person that allows us to see human dignity, goodness, and potential.”

Delaney Hall is a privately-run federal immigration detention facility in Newark, NJ. It contains 1,000 beds. More than 300 people detained at Delaney Hall have been on a hunger strike to call for those held in the facility to be released to continue their immigration process from home and to have humane living conditions at the facility.

There has been violence by ICE both against hunger strikers and against faith and community leaders standing vigil outside.

Both Bishop Hughes and Bishop Heyd have visited Delaney Hall in the last week to pray with protesters and to join the hunger-strikers’ call for release. “We’re moved by the perseverance and courage of those held and by the passion of those who are standing witness,” they write. “This is what loving our neighbor looks like.”

The statement situates the call within the approach of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, invoking the nation’s founding ideals of dignity and equality. “Now is the time to continue the struggle towards the ideals of dignity and equality that founded our country,” the bishops write. “It’s time to close Delaney Hall and free the people who have been held there.”

**About the Episcopal Diocese of Newark**

The Episcopal Diocese of Newark encompasses northern New Jersey and is led by the Rt. Rev. Carlye Hughes. The diocese includes congregations committed to justice, service, and the proclamation of the Gospel across the region.

**About the Episcopal Diocese of New York**

The Episcopal Diocese of New York encompasses Manhattan, the Bronx, Staten Island, and seven counties of the Hudson Valley, comprising 172 congregations. It is led by the Rt. Rev. Matthew Heyd.

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