



EVERY NATION SOUTH AFRICA STATEMENT ON IMMIGRATION

26th June 2026

Every Nation Churches in South Africa call for peace, wisdom, and respect for the rule of law in the midst of ongoing public concern and protests regarding immigration.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we affirm that every person is created in the image of God and therefore possesses inherent dignity, worth, and value, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or immigration status. Our response to this issue must be guided by both truth and love, justice and compassion.

We recognise that South Africa faces significant challenges, including high levels of unemployment, crime, corruption, and pressure on public resources. We understand the frustrations and concerns expressed by many South Africans regarding these realities. At the same time, we caution against attributing these challenges to foreign nationals as a group. Complex social and economic problems require thoughtful solutions and should never result in the scapegoating or dehumanisation of any people.

We affirm the importance of lawful immigration processes and recognise the right and responsibility of every nation to manage its borders effectively, fairly, and justly. We also acknowledge that many migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers come to South Africa fleeing conflict, persecution, political instability, economic hardship, and other desperate circumstances. Many are seeking safety, opportunity, and a better future for their families.

We further recognise that weaknesses within our immigration and asylum systems, including corruption, administrative inefficiency, and lengthy processing delays, contribute significantly to the challenges currently faced by both South Africans and foreign nationals. Addressing these systemic issues are essential for building a society that is both secure and compassionate.

As a church, we reject all forms of xenophobia, prejudice, discrimination, hatred, intimidation, and violence directed toward foreign nationals. We believe that every person should be treated with dignity and respect, and that disagreements or concerns regarding immigration should be addressed through lawful, peaceful, and constructive means.

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Every Nation is a worldwide family of churches and ministries that exists to honour God by establishing Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, socially responsible churches and campus ministries in every nation.

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Therefore:

We call on South Africa's leaders to act swiftly and decisively against corruption, strengthen border management, improve public safety, and ensure that immigration and asylum systems are efficient, fair, transparent, and humane.

We call on all migrants and foreign nationals to respect the laws of South Africa and pursue lawful pathways to regularise their status and participation within our society.

We call on South African citizens to reject violence, vigilantism, xenophobia, and all forms of hatred, and to engage in peaceful and lawful expressions of concern.

We call on our churches to be places of prayer, hospitality, truth, reconciliation, and practical support for both South Africans and foreign nationals, reflecting the love of Christ to all people.

We acknowledge and celebrate the positive contributions that many migrants and foreign nationals make to our communities, economy, workplaces, and churches.

As believers, we are reminded that God's heart extends to the stranger, the refugee, and the vulnerable. Scripture calls us to uphold justice while extending compassion, and to love our neighbour regardless of their background or nationality.

"The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 19:34 ESV

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26th June 2026

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