

Providence Meeting Young Friends Host Vigil for Immigration Rights October 18th, 2020



Our middle school Young Friends led a highly successful vigil for immigrant rights at the Delaware Co. courthouse this past First Day! The event was to focus attention on the treatment of immigrants on the U.S. border and a call for action to address this issue. Supporting our middle school Friends were a large contingent from the Movement of Immigrant Leaders of Pennsylvania ([MILPA](#)) and local elected officials. A good crowd numbering around **110 people** listened to speeches on the courthouse steps, then about **50**

persons marched through Media to Providence Meeting



After introductions by **Teacher Jay, Sofia** spoke (in English and Spanish) on detention centers and the needs of immigrants; **Jamila** followed with remarks (also in English and Spanish) on the health care needs of immigrants. **Charlotte** stepped up to the microphone to remind everyone that migrant families come from Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, and that it is when they get to the U.S. border that they are detained, mistreated, and separated from each other. **Cormac and Joseph** created the bold signs that were evident

throughout the vigil and walk through Media. Young Friend **William**, from West Chester Meeting, also joined PMM's Young Friends. Sofia and Jamila then introduced **Desi Burnette**, state coordinator for MILPA, who addressed the crowd. Rounding out the program were U.S. Representative **Mary Gay Scanlon**, State Senator **Tim Kearney**, and **Brian P. Zidek**, chair of the Delaware Co. Council



Following the program, the crowd then marched through the streets of Media from the courthouse to Providence Meeting, chanting slogans calling for humane treatment of immigrants at the U.S. border. At Providence, Friend **Laura Boyce**, Associate General Secretary for U.S. Programs at the American Friends Service Committee ([AFSC](#)), addressed the group and encouraged them to continue to fight for immigrant rights.