

Texas Governor Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
Clemency Section
8610 Shoal Creek Boulevard
Austin, TX 78757

Dear Governor Abbott, Chairman Gutiérrez, and Members of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles,

We, the undersigned faith leaders who represent the rich diversity of faith traditions observed in this great state, stand united in asking you to grant clemency to Melissa Lucio. We are profoundly troubled that Melissa—who was convicted of causing the death of her daughter, Mariah—faces execution by the State of Texas on April 27, 2022.

As faith leaders, we believe our justice system should be directed towards the improvement of life, not its destruction. The inherent dignity in every human being compels us to promote a culture that values the life of every person. Our faith traditions also compel us to stand with those who have been silenced and to care for the most vulnerable people in our society—people like Melissa Lucio and her family.

There are numerous legal and practical reasons why the State of Texas should not carry out this unjust—and unjustified—execution. First and foremost, there is ample forensic and eyewitness evidence that Mariah’s death was an accident that resulted from a head injury she suffered in a fall—not a homicide.

The sudden death of a young child is a tragedy that rips apart families, and the raw emotions that surround such a heartbreaking loss often can lead to a rush to judgment. In the aftermath of Mariah’s death, law enforcement officers quickly blamed Melissa, even though she had no record of violence towards any of her twelve children.

Melissa herself was a victim of abuse, however, and her entire life was marked by poverty, addiction, and domestic violence. Yet the jury never heard how her history of trauma and abuse shaped her reactions immediately following her daughter’s death.

Any of the above-mentioned factors alone warrant clemency for Melissa Lucio. Ultimately, though, our appeal to you is based on a moral imperative to uphold the dignity of all human life and our belief in the extension of mercy.

In this case, you have an extraordinary opportunity to show compassion for a woman and a family that has already suffered greatly, first from the tragic death of Mariah and then by the

incarceration of Melissa. Through the clemency process, you alone can compensate for the rigidities of the judicial system, which has been unable to correct this injustice despite support from numerous federal judges.

Allowing Melissa's execution to proceed despite the overwhelming doubts that shroud her conviction would be an appalling travesty of justice that serves no purpose whatsoever. It is not in the best interest of our State, our justice system, or the safety of our people. In accordance with the shared values of our diverse religious and faith traditions and in the name of mercy, we respectfully urge you to commute her death sentence.

In faith,

Pastor Robert Baldwin
Associate Pastor, Baptist
Austin, Texas

Pastor Michael Copeland
First Baptist Church of China Spring
China Spring, Texas

P. Joseph Brake
Trinity Baptist Church
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Robert Creech, PhD.
Professor of Pastoral Leadership, Truett
Seminary, Baylor University
San Antonio, Texas

Pastor Ricardo Brambila
Primera Iglesia Bautista Dallas
Dallas, Texas

Octavio Cruz
Calvary Baptist Church
McAllen, Texas

Pastor Wayne Brown
Campus Pastor - West Side Campus,
Ecclesia Houston
Houston, Texas

Rev. Dr. Russell Dalton
Brite Divinity School
Fort Worth, Texas

Rev. Dr. Burt Burluson
Chaplain, Baylor University
Waco, Texas

Mrs. Denisse Delgado-Ibarra
Calvary Baptist Church-McAllen
Edinburg, Texas

Pastor Joshua Carney
University Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Pastor Aaron Glenn
University Baptist Church
Houston, Texas

Brianna Childs
Pastoral Resident, Wilshire Baptist Church
Dallas, Texas

Rev. Milo Grant
University Baptist Church
Austin, Texas

Rev. Erin Conaway
Seventh & James Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Rev. Tiffani Harris
DaySpring Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

**Congregations listed for identification purposes only.*

Mallory Herridge
Calvary Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Pastor Josh Hilburn
Gather Houston
Houston, Texas

Dr. Dennis Horton
First Baptist Church, Lorena
Lorena, Texas

Rev. Eric Howell
DaySpring Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Minister Eder Ibarra
Director, Rio Grande Valley Baptist
Association
Edinburg, Texas

Rev. Charles Johnson
Bread Fellowship
Fort Worth, Texas

Pastor Weylin Lee
Pastor of Formation, Vox Veniae
Austin, Texas

Pastor Joe Lopez
Hispana Baptist Church
Lubbock, Texas

Rev. Dr. George Mason
Wilshire Baptist Church
Dallas, Texas

Rev. Jake Maxwell
Second Baptist Church
Lubbock, Texas

Rev. Rick McClatchy
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas
San Antonio, Texas

Pastor Jameson McGregor
Worship & Arts Pastor, University Baptist
Church
Waco, Texas

Rev. Katelyn McWilliams
First Baptist Church Lufkin
Lufkin, Texas

Pastor Michael Mills
Agape Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

Rev. David Morgan
Seventh & James Baptist Church
Harker Heights, Texas

Dr. Richard Moseman
First Baptist Church, Woodway
Waco, Texas

Carolyn Moseman
Highland Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Natalie Ortiz-Lovince
Associate Minister to Children, DaySpring
Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Pastor Lynn Parks
Eastwood Baptist Church
Gatesville, Texas

Rev. Aurelia Pratt
Peace of Christ Church
Round Rock, Texas

Rev. Ryon Price
Broadway Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

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Brittany Ramirez
Minister to Youth and Children, Lake Shore
Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Pastor Paul Randall
Associate Pastor, Ecclesia Houston
Houston, Texas

Dr. Ryan Richardson
University Baptist Church
Abilene, Texas

Pastor Jesse Rincones
Alliance Church
Lubbock, Texas

Pastor Demetrio Salazar
Primera Iglesia Bautista de Belton
Belton, Texas

Dr. Ed Seay
Magnolia's First Baptist Church
Magnolia, Texas

Dean Jon Singletary
Calvary Baptist
Waco, Texas

Rev. Nataly Sorenson
Iglesia Bautista Getsemani
Edinburg, Texas

Pastor Scotty Swingler
Sugar Land Baptist Church
Sugar Land, Texas

Rev. Garrett Vickrey
Woodland Baptist Church
San Antonio, Texas

Pastor Kenneth Wade
New Transfiguration Community Church
Prairie View, Texas

Rev. Natalie Webb
University Baptist Church
Austin, Texas

Rev. Dr. Steve Wells
South Main Baptist Church
Houston, Texas

Pastor Toph Whisnant
Community Pastor, University Baptist
Church
Waco, Texas

Pastor Mike Yager
Community Pastor, Ecclesia Houston
Houston, Texas

Rev. Terry Cortes Vega
Plum Blossom Sangha
Austin, Texas

Rev. Karen Fry
Center for Spiritual Living Dallas
Dallas, Texas

Venerable Tashi Nyima
Universal Compassion Buddhist
Congregation
Dallas, Texas

Sister Francisca Aleman
Blessed Sacrement
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Sharon Altendorf
Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, US Province
San Antonio, Texas

Reverend Father Felix Archibong
St. Ann Catholic Church
Sonora, Texas

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Sister Miriam Bannon
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Mary Bright
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Dympna Clarke
Sisters of the Holy Sprit and Mary
Immaculate
San Benito, Texas

Sister Elizabeth Close
Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed
Sacrament
Corpus Christi, Texas

Deacon Dwight Coles
St. Theresa Catholic Church
Houston, Texas

Sister Heloise Cruzat
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Houston, Texas

Sister Mary T. Cullen
Brigidine Sisters
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Genevieve Cunningham
Sisters of the Holy Sprit and Mary
Immaculate
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Mary Hope Doudard
Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Dolores Espinoza
Society of St. Teresa of Jesus
Uvalde, Texas

Sister Joretta Eveler
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Michael Ezeoke
Catholic Priest
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Joseph F. Geleney Jr.
Saint Mary Church of the Assumption
Waco, Texas

Sister Catherine Harold
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Deenan Hubbard
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
Houston, Texas

Sister Betty Keegan
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
El Paso, Texas

Sister Martha Ann Kirk
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Geraldine Klein
Sisters of the Holy Sprit and Mary
Immaculate
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Kevin Lenius
St. Stephen's Catholic Church
Midland, Texas

Rev. Phillip Ley
OFM Conv
San Antonio, Texas

Deacon Ralph Lira
St. Peter's Catholic Church (Lindsay)
Valley View, Texas

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Sister Mary Mahowald
Diocese of El Paso
El Paso, Texas

Sister Gabriela Martinez
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur
Fort Worth, Texas

Deacon Michael Mocek
Holy Family Catholic Church
Fort Worth, Texas

Sister Elizabeth Murtagh
Sisters for Christian Community
Texas City, Texas

Chaplain Bill Neel
St. Matthew Catholic Church
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Barbara Netek
Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed
Sacrament
Corpus Christi, Texas

Rev. Bruce Nieli
Catholic Priest
Austin, Texas

Sister Mary O'Brien
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
Houston, Texas

Sister Martha O'Gara
Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed
Sacrament
Corpus Christi, Texas

Sister Gemma Pepera
Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth
Grand Prairie, Texas

Sister Norma Pimentel
Missionaries of Jesus
San Juan, Texas

Seminarian Julian Plascencia
San Bernardino
San Antonio, Texas

Alison Pope
Associate Director of Evangelization and
Catechesis
San Angelo, Texas

Sister Kathleen Reynolds
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas

Regional Superior Patricia Ridgley
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur
Fort Worth, Texas

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of
San Antonio
Victoria, Texas

Sister Marylou Rodriguez
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of
San Antonio
Alamo Heights, Texas

Sister Ceil Roeger
Promoter of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of
Creation, Dominican Sisters of Houston
Houston, Texas

Sister Charles Serafino
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur
Fort Worth, Texas

Sister Louise Smith
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur
Fort Worth, Texas

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Sister Cynthia Stacy
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Anna Stanley
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Teresa Stanley
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Marian Sturm
Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed
Sacrament
Victoria, Texas

Deacon Barry Sweeden
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
(Denton)
Ponder, Texas

Fr. Joseph Uecker
Retired Catholic Priest
Odessa, Texas

Deacon Jose Villagrana
Holy Trinity Catholic Parish
Big Spring, Texas

Sister Virginia Vissing
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur
Wichita Falls, Texas

Bishop Michael Rinehart
Gulf Coast Synod, Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
Houston, Texas

Rev. Dr. Edward Kern
Trinity Lutheran Church
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Dr. Paul Ziese
Christ Lutheran Church
San Antonio, Texas

The Rev. Tracey Carroll
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church
Longview, Texas

The Rev. Mary Glover
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Abilene, Texas

The Rev. Jason Ingalls
Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
Waco, Texas

The Rev. Rebecca Tankersley
Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration
Dallas, Texas

Rector Aaron Zimmerman
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Waco, Texas

Rabbi Samuel Stahl
Emeritus, Temple Beth-El, San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Lee Ann Bryce
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Fort Worth, Texas

Rev. Charley Garrison
Central Texas Metropolitan Community
Church
Waco, Texas

Rev. Kamilah Hall Sharp
The Gathering, A Womanist Church
Dallas, Texas

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Rev. John Will
Retired, First Congregational Church, Fort
Worth
Burleson, Texas

Bishop Michael McKee
North Texas Conference, The United
Methodist Church
Dallas, Texas

Rev. Holly Bandel
First United Methodist Church, Dallas
Dallas, Texas

Rev. Dr. Tim Bruster
First United Methodist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

Rev. Dr. Thomas Hudspeth
Walnut Hill Church, a Ministry of Lovers
Lane United Methodist Church
Dallas, Texas

Rev. Todd Jones
First United Methodist Church, Harlingen
Harlingen, Texas

Rev. Andy Lewis
Clergy Assistant to the Bishop, North Texas
Conference, The United Methodist Church
Plano, Texas

Rev. Preston Morgan
Clear Lake United Methodist Church
Houston, Texas

Rev. Ruby Nelson
Retired United Methodist clergy
Beaumont, Texas

Rev. Ramsey Patton
Associate Pastor, Highland Park United
Methodist Church
Dallas, Texas

Pastor Quinn Peters
Sweeny First United Methodist Church
Sweeny, Texas

Rev. Jennifer Veres-Schrecengost
Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
Houston, Texas

Bishop Joe Wilson
Retired, First United Methodist
Georgetown, Texas

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