

F.R.A.N.C.I.S. COMMITMENT TO CIVILITY IN DISCOURSE

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND:	<p>Currently in our national conversations on policy we are experiencing a great degree of inflammatory language. It is language which exaggerates differences and hardens positions and language which is provocative in nature and uses violent imagery at times. For this reason Franciscan Action Network offers some principles for public conversation based on the life of Francis and our Franciscan traditions. Our purpose in proposing these principles is to be mindful of a Franciscan way to promote policy reform and to demonstrate peace in an ongoing process of transformation.</p> <p>Join our efforts and make the F.R.A.N.C.I.S. Commitment to Civility in Discourse and contact your candidates for federal office and invite them to partake in our commitment to change the tone of discourse in the upcoming elections. Make the commitment and help us transform our conversations in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare.</p>
ACTION:	<p>I commit to:</p> <p>FACILITATE a forum for difficult discourse and acknowledge that all dialogue can lead to new insight and mutual understanding. RESPECT the dignity of all people, especially the dignity of those who hold an opposing view. AUDIT myself and utilize terms or a vocabulary of faith to unite or reconcile rather than divide conflicting positions. NEUTRALIZE inflamed conversations by presuming that those with whom we differ are acting in good faith. COLLABORATE with others and recognize that all human engagement is an opportunity to promote peace. IDENTIFY common ground such as similar values or concerns and utilize this as a foundation to build upon. SUPPORT efforts to clean up the provocative language by calling policymakers to their sense of personal integrity.</p>

Date	First Name	Last Name	Email	Zip Code	Signature

