

# Declaration of the Residents of Fairfax County and Civil Rights, Grassroots, and Immigrant Defense Institutions

We, the residents of Fairfax County, look on with grave concern as the Trump administration has begun attacking our immigrant communities. For the past few decades, both our immigration system and our immigration laws have been obsolete. The greatest example of this is the fact that the majority of immigrant workers do not have any legal way to enter this country and they are forced to live a clandestine life. Instead of updating this system and these laws to conform with the state of the world and humanity, the Trump administration has directed all the power of the State toward enforcing these obsolete laws, criminalizing and persecuting immigrants, all of which destroys our families and communities.

The federal government and the Trump administration utilize state authorities, and cities and counties, because they are unable to carry out their destructive agenda without the participation, or even the voluntary support, of the states and their local authorities.

Our local Fairfax County authorities, including the Board of Supervisors, the School Board, the Juvenile Detention Center, the Police Department, and the Sheriff, among others, **should not cooperate** with these actions against our immigrant communities.

During the past few months, in various forums, events, and activities we have been told that our County respects and even celebrates our diversity. In response to the concerns of our immigrant communities, County officials have assured us that they will not collaborate nor enforce immigration laws. **Recent actions put the lie to these assertions.** For example, the Fairfax County Police Department patrols and searches for immigrants alongside ICE. Additionally, the Fairfax County Police Department responds to the verifications, alerts, and orders of ICE to detain and turn over immigrants sought by the federal government. Worst of all, Fairfax County, through its Sheriff's Office, maintains a contract with ICE to hold immigrants within the Adult Detention Center as if they were under federal custody. This means that our government is making money off the suffering of our immigrant communities.

This cooperation with ICE sows fear in our community and deteriorates the relationship and trust of the community with the Police, the Sheriff, and other local authorities.

These transgressions against our families must stop immediately.

With this declaration, we demand that all authorities in Fairfax County end their agreements and their voluntary and unnecessary collaboration with ICE. In place of your ineffective statements of support, we need **policies** that guarantee non-cooperation with ICE.

Among other things, we demand:

1. That the County immediately move to terminate its Intergovernmental Service Agreement with ICE.
2. That the Police Department update its General Orders so that these protect our community rather than attack it.
3. That the Police Department's public safety and traffic policing no longer lead to the detention and deportation of members of our immigrant community.
4. That the Sheriff's Department commits to no longer honoring ICE requests to unconstitutionally detain immigrants or to share information about when detained immigrants will be released from custody.
5. That the Juvenile Detention Facility and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court commit to no longer honoring ICE requests to unconstitutionally detain immigrants or to share information about when detained immigrants will be released from custody.
6. That County officials guarantee that school facilities, courts, and other County buildings will continue to be safe spaces and prohibit entry to ICE officers. Local authorities (in the schools, courts, social service agencies, etc.) must not offer any support or information to federal immigration authorities about students, clients, witnesses, litigants, or any other County residents.