

Statement by
Mary Supley Foxworth
Coordinator, Immigration Issues Committee of Herndon-Reston Indivisible
Given at Fairfax For All Press Conference, October 24, 2017

I represent the Immigration Issues Committee of Herndon-Reston Indivisible. We are a group of ordinary residents of Fairfax County who welcome and support our immigrant neighbors and seek just immigration policies at the federal, state, and local levels of government.

We stand up against hate, fear, and discrimination, in favor of truth, compassion, and justice.

As residents of Fairfax County, we know we share so much with our immigrant neighbors: the urgency of meeting our families' needs and living in safety; the desire to live a good life for ourselves and for our children and grandchildren; a willingness to contribute and give back to our neighbors, our community, and country; family, love, hopes, dreams – our humanity.

At this time of heightened uncertainty, due to changes in immigration policy and enforcement sought by the federal government – such as the cancellation of DACA, the looming expiration dates for Temporary Protected Status, and expanded detention and deportation that are terrorizing communities and ripping apart families – we call on our local officials here in Fairfax County to do what we elected them to do: lead. We need the Supervisors, the Sheriff, the School Board, and county employees such as the Police Chief and the Superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Center, to lead the way in protecting the rights guaranteed to us all by the Constitution, to protect the safety of our community.

Current policies – including practices of the Sheriff, Police, and county, and the intergovernmental service agreement between Fairfax County and U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement – are eroding the trust of the community. When our neighbors are scared to call the police when they are victims of or witnesses to crimes, it makes all of us less safe. This fear and mistrust undermine the county's community policing model. None of us are safe unless all of us are safe.

We do not want our county government to participate in the criminalization, dehumanization, and voluntary and unconstitutional detention of our friends and neighbors. We are here in solidarity to call on our Fairfax County officials to, instead, ensure equal justice and equal safety for all residents of the county. We want to live in a Fairfax For All.