

JOINT STATEMENT CONDEMNING ATTACKS TARGETING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

We, the undersigned organizations, unequivocally denounce President Trump's unfounded and vindictive memorandum, "Preventing Abuses of the Legal System and the Federal Court," as well as the Executive Orders targeting specific law firms that engaged in litigation against government abuse and misconduct in prior administrations. These directives targeting lawyers and legal institutions that regularly challenge abusive state power are a grave attack on one of the fundamental pillars of our democracy: the ability to seek justice through an independent legal system. Like the many actions the Trump administration has taken in the last two months, the memo seeks to silence dissent and erode the infrastructure of support for the most underserved and targeted communities, including immigrants and human rights defenders.

As a movement, we know that neither lawyers nor the legal system can on their own create the fundamental transformation needed to achieve justice. But lawyers who help people navigate the legal system can provide a backstop against the worst harms by educating people about their rights, representing them in proceedings that are stacked against impacted communities, and taking up more systematic challenges in federal court to unlawful policies and practices. Even with these protections, rights violations are rampant. Law firms, lawyers, and immigration organizations play a key role in providing critical legal services to our communities.

The transparent purpose of the March 22 memorandum and the missives naming specific firms is to create a chilling effect on attorneys who zealously advocate for their clients, and to introduce an element of fear and uncertainty for litigators who use the legal system our country depends on to vindicate their clients' rights. The ramifications of targeting attorneys doing their jobs would be dire, depriving the most vulnerable individuals of their right to counsel and disrupting our collective ability to challenge government overreach. Democracy cannot exist when access to justice is curtailed.

Immigrant communities are already uniquely at risk because of this administration's efforts to intimidate the attorneys and advocates who are accountable to them. From false and racist declarations of "invasion" to the enforced disappearance of immigrant activists for Palestine and removal of asylum seekers in third countries, we know the administration's disdain for the rule of law is profound. Since day one, this administration has been on a retaliatory campaign against anyone who stands up to their cruel and inhumane policies - whether domestically or internationally. The attacks on attorneys, legal infrastructure and the law itself is a hallmark of fascism that attempts to eliminate a key tool to disrupt and challenge executive power.

As legal advocacy groups, civil and human rights organizations, and advocates for justice, we stand united in our opposition to this attack on the right to counsel. We will continue to use every tool at our disposal to protect the rights of our movements and communities and to promote a world where human rights, dignity, and flourishing are protected. We will come to each others' defense when needed, and we will continue to provide our movement and our communities with the zealous representation they need and deserve.

Endorsed By:

18 Million Rising
About Face Veterans Against War
ACT 4 SA (Accountability Compassion & Transparency for San Antonio)
Adalah Justice Project
Afghans For A Better Tomorrow
African Human Rights Coalition
African Immigration Initiative
Al Otro Lado
Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice
American Constitution Society
American Friends Service Committee
American Gateways
American Oversight
Anethum Global
Arab Resource and Organizing Center
Asbury United Methodist Church, DC
Asian American Federation
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta
Asian Law Caucus
Association of Legal Advocates and Attorneys - UAW Local 2325
Asylum Program of Arizona
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Borderlands for Equity
Boston University School of Law Immigrants' Rights and Human Trafficking Clinic
Brazilian Women's Group
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice
Carolina Migrant Network
Casa de Esperanza
Catalyst Project
Center for Constitutional Rights
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Safety & Change
Center for Security, Race and Rights
Centro Legal de la Raza
Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice at MD Carey Law
Chicago Jobs with Justice
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
Climate Defense Project
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coalition on Human Needs

Colectiva Legal del Pueblo
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Community Catalyst
Community Justice Project
Congregation Action Network
Cornell Law School Asylum and Convention Against Torture Appellate Clinic
DAWN
Defending Rights & Dissent
Dignidad/The Right to Immigration Institute
Dreamer Fund
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving
Earthworks
El Vinculo Hispano
Employee Rights Center (ERC)
Equality California
Estrella del Paso
Fair and Just Prosecution
FaithAction International
Families For Freedom
Family Focus
FarmSTAND
Fe y Justicia
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Freedman Institute for the Study of Legal Ethics
Freedom for Immigrants
Freedom Network USA
Global Justice Center
GoodKidsMadCity
Grassroots Asians Rising
Greenpeace USA
Haitian Bridge Alliance
Hartford Deportation Defense
Hindus for Human Rights
Home is Here NOLA
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
Human Rights First
Iglesia Metodista San Pablo
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Migrant Council
Immigrant Children Advocates' Relief Effort (ICARE)
Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef)
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Justice Committee, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis
Immigrant Justice Network

Immigrant Justice Solutions
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Hub
Immigration Law & Justice New York
Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA)
Indiana AID
Indivisible East Bay
Innovation Law Lab
Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti
International Refugee Assistance Project
Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice
Just Detention International
Just Future Project
Just Futures Law
Just Neighbors
Justice Policy Institute
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
LAANE
Latin America Working Group
League of Conservation Voters
Legal Action Center
Long Island Immigration Clinic/Sisters of St. Joseph
Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention
LULAC-IL Council #5296
Make the Road CT
Make The Road New Jersey
Make the Road NV
Make the Road NY
Make the Road Pennsylvania
Make the Road States
Mariposa Legal
Maryland Communities United
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Midwest Immigration Bond Fund
Minnesota Freedom Fund
Minnesota Interfaith Coalition on Immigration
Mission Action
MK Law, LLC
MLFA
Movement Generation
Movement Generation: Justice and Ecology
Movement Law Lab
MPower Change Action Fund
Muslim Advocates

Muslim Counterpublics Lab
Muslims for Just Futures
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Maryland Affiliate
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project
National Iranian American Council
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Lawyers Guild
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for New Americans
National Police Accountability Project
National Women's Law Center
NC FIELD, Inc.
NDN Collective
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Jersey Appleseed Public Interest Law Center
New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Children
New York Immigration Coalition
North Carolina Justice Center
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Oasis Legal Services
Ohio Immigration Alliance
Orale: Organizing Rooted in Abolition, Liberation, and Empowerment
Palestine Legal
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans - PANA
Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition
Presente.org
Prisoners' Legal Services of New York
Project Hajra
Project On Government Oversight
Public Counsel
Refugee Council USA
Refugee Support Network
Resistencia en Accion NJ
Resource Generation Chicago
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
Safety Net Project - Urban Justice Center
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)

Social Justice Legal Foundation
Social Workers for Immigration Justice
Somali Community of Louisville Inc
South Asian Network
South End Strategies
Southeast Dignity not Detention Coalition
Spanish Community Center
Sur Legal Collaborative
TakeRoot Justice, Immigrant Rights Team
Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition
The Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at NYU School of Law (***The Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law does not represent the views of New York University School of Law or New York University***)
The Chamberlain Network
The Legal Clinic
The Porchlight Collective SAP
The Sikh Coalition
The Workers Circle
Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Coalition
Transformations CDC
Transgender Law Center
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
USC Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic
Vera Institute of Justice
Vermont Asylum Assistance Project
Warehouse Workers for Justice
We Are All America
Western Illinois Dreamers
Western States Center
Witness at the Border
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights