

SIGNED BY 81 ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS OHIO

March 12, 2025

To Ohio State and Local Officials:

We are Ohioans who represent a diverse coalition of organizations, institutions, communities, and houses of faith who are witnessing the terror that anti-immigrant Trump policies are wreaking across our communities. We are asking our city and county elected officials to act on values that our cities and counties have long claimed to have.

We affirm that migration is a basic act of being human. People move — whether for freedom, safety, opportunity, or a mix of both — every day. And immigrants are beloved members of Ohio families and communities. Ohio is their home. Our state is made better, stronger and more vibrant by the countless contributions of immigrants and refugees.

We urge our city leaders to fearlessly lead during this time of crisis by enacting policies that protect vulnerable Ohio immigrants, refugees and their families. We demand that:

1. **State and local police should not become arms of the Border Patrol or ICE.** Their job is enforcing criminal law, not arresting and detaining immigrants under federal civil law.
2. **Immigration functions should not be outsourced to private companies.** No mercenaries charged with rounding up immigrants; no private prisons to incarcerate them.
3. **State and local agencies should stay focused on their missions,** whether that's public safety, licensing, social services, healthcare, housing, or education. Immigration enforcement is a federal function, not a state and local one. Our cities should not be using local dollars to do the work of the federal government.
4. **Schools, houses of worship, and other community connection points should be off-limits for immigration enforcement.**
5. **No one should be stopped and questioned about their immigration status** while driving, working, taking their kids to school, worshipping, volunteering, or participating in Ohio communities. Those matters should be left to the courts.
6. **Racial profiling is illegal.** Our public officials should loudly denounce racial profiling, hate crimes, and harassment. It doesn't matter if you are an individual or a government agency — no one should question, insult, or attack someone based on the way they look, dress, speak, or worship."
7. **Local governments should adopt policies that include immigrants, recognizing their inherent human dignity.** These include language access policies; programs to fund immigration legal representation; immigration enforcement rapid response networks to address humanitarian needs; establishing safe spaces in our communities; and policies that leave civil immigration enforcement to the federal government alone.

We respectfully ask that you take swift action as ICE is currently ripping families apart and unjustly detaining immigrants. We commit to work alongside city and county leaders to support these urgent measures in our communities. We stand ready to do our part in caring for the needs of immigrant Ohioans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Signed,
ACLU of Ohio Foundation
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality
Asian American Midwest Progressives
Beloved Community Church
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Ohio
Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio
Blue Ocean Faith Columbus
CAIN
Central Ohio Jews for Justice
Cincinnati Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League
Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship
Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, Board of Education
Cleveland Jewish Collective
Cleveland Jobs With Justice
Cleveland Palestine Advocacy Community
Cleveland VOTES
Collaborate Cleveland
Columbus DSA
Columbus Education Justice Coalition
Common Cause Ohio
Community Organizing Center
Crooked River Action
Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus
Dayton Anti-racist Network
Dayton United for Human Rights
Defense of Democracy
EAGER
Equality Ohio
Erase the Space
Faith Choice Ohio
Franklin County Young Democrats
Gem City Action
HEAL Ohio
Honesty for Ohio Education
Ignite Peace
Immigrant Worker Project - Centro San Jose
Inclusive Fairborn
Innovation Ohio
InterReligious Task Force on Central America
Jewish Voices for Peace Central Ohio

Kaleidoscope Youth Center
La Trenza
LatinOHs
Like Minded in Lake County
LULAC Ohio
Miami Valley Immigration Coalition
Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Moritz Immigration Law Society
Motherful
National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter
National Police Accountability Project
Northeast Ohio Worker Center
Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition
Oak & Willow Counseling
Ocotillo Herbals
OEA Hispanic Caucus
Ohio Education Association
Ohio Equal Rights
Ohio Families Unite for Political Action and Change
Ohio Immigrant Alliance
Ohio Women's Alliance
Ohio Working Families Party
Ohio Youth for Climate Justice
Our Helpers
OPAWL - Building AAPI Feminist Leadership in Ohio
Party for Socialism & Liberation, Southwest Ohio
People for Peace and Justice of Sandusky County
Pint Size Protestors
Planned Parenthood
Riverview International Center
Task Force on United Methodist Immigration Ministries of Ohio
The Columbus Education Association
The Freedom BLOC
The Ohio Council of Churches
ThirdSpace Action Lab
TransOhio, Inc.
Twisted By Teresa
Water for Ishmael
Young Latino Network
YUSRA
YWCA Columbus