

CUNY-Wide Conference In Defense of Immigrants

Saturday March 3, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

CUNY Grad Center (365 Fifth Ave. at 34th St.), Rm 5414

Escalating attacks on immigrant rights led faculty/staff union members and student activists from many City University of New York campuses to come together in a university-wide CUNY Sanctuary Committee, which has been meeting at the PSC union hall since early last year. The current assault against DACA and TPS have heightened the urgency – all the more so with a CUNY “Dreamer,” Aboubacar Dembele from Bronx Community College, being detained by ICE on February 8, prompting a walkout by 100 unionized public defenders in the Bronx.

For several months the committee has been working to build a CUNY-wide conference where immigrant-rights activists and organizers – students, faculty and staff – can connect, exchanging information, ideas and proposals. This means building on, and helping to bring together, efforts that are being carried out on many different CUNY campuses, and beyond. We are glad to announce that **the CUNY-Wide Conference in Defense of Immigrants will be held on Saturday, March 3, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m., at the CUNY Grad Center, Room 5414.**

The CUNY-Wide Conference in Defense of Immigrants will be an opportunity for campus committees, groups and activists to organize together on topics like building rapid response networks, keeping I.C.E. off our campuses, helping defend family and community members against anti-immigrant threats, eliminating policies that block undocumented people from funding and other opportunities at CUNY, and other issues. An important topic is planning for a large-scale demonstration in defense of immigrants for late in the Spring semester.

A considerable part of the conference will be devoted to workshops:

- ***DACA and TPS: Where Do We Go From Here?*** Thousands of undocumented students attend CUNY schools. What can students, faculty, workers and immigrant rights advocates do to defend all CUNY students? Topics will include organizing for change in policies nationwide as well as institutional changes at CUNY.
- ***Opposing Islamophobia and the “Muslim Ban.”*** The Trump administration’s “Muslim Ban” already led to at least one CUNY student being temporarily banned from returning to the United States. This workshop will also discuss how to stand up against and work to prevent racist attacks against Muslim students, faculty, staff and community members.
- ***Immigrant Workers Organizing: Lessons For and At CUNY.*** In New York City there have been numerous workers’ struggles led by immigrants, from the Stella d’Oro strike to Hot and Crusty Bakery and B&H Photo. Connecting with and learning from these struggles is important for CUNY activists.
- ***Building a CUNY-Wide Network.*** To help defend people who study or work at CUNY, together with their families and community members, against threats of deportation or anti-immigrant violence, activists should build a network on and between campuses to share information and take action when needed.

Help Build the CUNY-Wide Conference in Defense of Immigrants!

We need to spread the word as widely as possible in the days and weeks leading up to the March 3 conference. What you can do: pass out and post fliers; spread the word on social media; make class announcements; arrange to bring classmates and colleagues to the conference.