



AFT-Wisconsin Statement on Refugees, Immigration, and the Trump Agenda

Merely days into his presidency, President Donald Trump has already begun to attack our members and our communities. A series of Executive Orders targeting refugees and immigrants have banned travelers from Muslim-majority countries seeking refuge in the U.S., pledged anew to build a wall with Mexico, and threatened to defund cities that have declared themselves sanctuaries for immigrant students and their families. AFT-Wisconsin unequivocally opposes these and all other xenophobic, racist attacks on our coworkers, families, and communities.

At the national level, too, AFT has registered its opposition, and has provided a summary of resources available to you and your members, along with suggested ways to fight back. We urge you to read AFT's inspiring statement in full:

<http://allin.rtp.aft.org/aft-opposes-trump-executive-orders-information-and-resources>

We are also sending all members a PDF of AFT's pamphlet "Immigrant and Refugee Children: A Guide for Educators and School Support Staff," which offers advice in case of a raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We urge you and any other member to contact AFT-Wisconsin when facing any specific situation requiring legal advice or other support.

There have been, and there will be, other outrages from the Trump administration. In times like these, we urge all to remember that our unions have always been, and must continue to be, vehicles for workers to fight for not just our own dignity at work, but for the betterment of society as a whole. This was the case when unions fought for civil rights beginning in the 1930s and 1940s, and organized for the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom where Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. And this has been the case more recently when our unions have stood up for marriage equality, employment nondiscrimination, and many other rights for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer members and allies. And it continues as we fight to this day—in Congress, the courts, and the streets—for the rights of all the marginalized against the powerful.

We encourage members to think of our unions, then, as a means to collective action against the entirety of Donald Trump's agenda as it seeks to harm our communities locally, nationally, and internationally. When actions are called by others, consider organizing and showing up proudly with your union signs and shirts. Consider leading protests in partnership with others. We have an opportunity to play an important role in the growing coalition of groups comprising the Wisconsin Resistance, and we should take it.

AFT-Wisconsin will support these efforts at the state level; and AFT supports them at the national level. Together we stand united against hate, and for a world of equality and social progress. Please let us know of any events your local is considering promoting or leading, and how we might help. Solidarity will be key to the coming years—both between our members, and between all working people from every walk of life, within unions and without—and your state federation is eager to stand alongside you as we build it.