

February 5, 2020

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

As immigrant rights, civil liberties, faith, labor, anti-violence, community, and legal advocates, we write to express our continued support for New York City's detainer discretion law. We appreciate New York City's commitment to standing firm against the Trump administration's efforts to exploit tragedy to advance its xenophobic agenda.

Now, more than ever, we must stand strong behind policies that protect the rights of our communities, rather than increasing criminalization and demonization of immigrants. We are deeply distraught by the Trump administration's efforts to exploit and politicize the tragic death of Maria Fuertes. We extend our condolences to Ms. Fuertes family and loved ones, and recognize their deep grief.

The administration's repeated scapegoating of immigrants has alarmed communities across the country. It is clearly a coordinated attempt to divide communities while the President advances his anti-immigrant, hate-filled agenda. We stand with you in fighting back against it.

The detainer law helps protect New Yorkers, including immigrants, by disentangling local policing from mass deportation. The federal government's system of detention and deportation is rife with shocking abuses and is fueled by racist scapegoating. Furthermore, federal courts have repeatedly found that ICE's requests to local law enforcement to detain people for extra time, at local expense, violate basic principles of due process and probable cause. To hold people without a warrant signed by a judge undercuts civil liberties protections for all of us and opens the door to chilling abuses. We applaud and stand by the city's commitment to maximize protections for our immigrant communities as the federal government escalates its attacks.

We worked with your Administration to pass these protections because we know so well that our communities are safer when local law enforcement is not a conduit for the deportation system. The coalition that fought for the detainer law—advocates for survivors of violence, immigrants' rights groups, LGBTQ groups, youth organizations, labor unions, civil rights organizations, and legal service providers—remain united around maximizing the protections for all New Yorkers.

By refusing to play into the Trump administration's hateful and criminalizing rhetoric, New York City continues to stand firm in protecting our families and uplifting our vibrant communities. We look forward to working with you to continue to uphold and expand protections for everyone who calls New York City home.

Make the Road New York
Immigrant Defense Project
New York Immigration Coalition
NYU School of Law Immigrant Rights Clinic
The Bronx Defenders
Cardozo Immigration Justice Clinic
Queens Defenders (formerly Queens Law Associates)

Brooklyn Defender Services
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
African Services Committee
Central American Legal Assistance
New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP)
Safe Horizon
The Legal Aid Society
Violence Intervention Program, Inc.
Her Justice
The Urban Justice Center
Center for Popular Democracy
Sanctuary for Families
New Sanctuary Coalition
SEIU 32BJ
1199SEIU
Brooklyn Bail Fund
Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
Families For Freedom
Worth Rises
New York Civil Liberties Union
Hispanic Federation
Asian American Federation
Center for Appellate Litigation
JustLeadershipUSA
UnLocal, Inc.
Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson
The Interfaith Center of New York
Chinese-American Planning Council
South Asians for Global Empowerment
Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus
Center for Community Alternatives
Arab American Association of New York
NY Tibetan Service Center
African Communities Together
National Immigration Law Center
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving
Garifuna Community Services
NMIC
Lawyers For Children
Asian Americans for Equality
Sapna NYC
MinKwon Center for Community Action
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Youth Represent
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
Muslim American Society

Brooklyn Community Pride Center
New York Justice for Our Neighbors, Inc
Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development
UNITEHERE Local 100
The Sikh Cultural Society, Inc
Academy of Medical & Public Health Services, Inc.
Center for Family Life
Women for Afghan Women
Life of Hope
Societe Generale
United States Sierra Leonean Association
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network
Translatinx Network
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
Bend the Arc Jewish Action
Citizen Action of New York
Rockaway Women for Progress
Big Apple Soccer Club NY
Urban Upbound
National Queer Theater
La Jornada
The Korean American Family Service Center
Mixteca Organization, Inc.
The Africa Center
National Day Laborer & Organizing Network (NDLON)
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
Caribbean Women's Health Association, Inc
DBGM, Inc.
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
The Ghanaian Association of Staten Island NY Inc.
United Sherpa Association Inc.
Network of Sherpa Students and Professionals
Emerald Isle Immigration Center
Adhikaar
Chhaya Community Development Organization
Haitian Centers Council, Inc.
Federation of Indigenous People of Nepal in America
Shetu Inc.
Womankind
United Neighborhood Houses
Bangladeshi American Community Development and Youth Services (BACDYS)
National Lawyers Guild - New York City Chapter
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
Churches United for Fair Housing (CUFFH)
Greater Flushing Chamber of Commerce
Lawyers For Children

Brooklyn Community Foundation
Community Service Society of New York
Elmcor Youth & Adult Activities
United We Dream
Muslim Community Network
The Central Family Life Center
La Colmena
Jahajee Sisters
Congregation Beit Simchat Torah
Hillside Islamic Center
Street Vendor Project/ Urban Justice Center
Sylvia Rivera Law Project
Hillside Islamic Center
Yemeni American Merchants Association
Bangladeshi Americans for Political Progress
Caribbean Equality Project
The Ghanaian Association of Staten Island Inc.
Apna Brooklyn Community Center
El Centro Del Inmigrante
Project Hospitality, Inc.
Haitian-Americans United for Progress
DSI International Inc.
Flatbush Development Corporation