

Resolution: Defend Immigrant Workers! No ICE, No Detention Centers, No Deportations!

WHEREAS, starting with the Palmer Raids in 1919, through the 1950s Operation Wetback, and continuing through the present, the federal government and the bosses of this country have used immigration enforcement and deportations as a tactic to undermine workers' economic freedom, deal with labor leaders, and cripple the workers' movement.

WHEREAS, immigrant workers have contributed immensely to the workers' movement in the United States and to its most militant organizations, such as UE, whose founding Director of Organizing, James J. Matles, was an immigrant born in the country now known as Moldova, and was himself targeted for deportation by the federal government in an attempt to weaken UE.

WHEREAS, the 79th UE convention adopted the resolution entitled "Stand Up for the Rights of Immigrant Workers".

WHEREAS, the ongoing abduction, detainment, and deportation of both immigrants and U.S. citizens are arbitrary, oppressive, wasteful and depraved practices, characteristic of a ruling class that has no shame or humanity and is willing to destroy an incalculable amount of lives to maintain the political control that enables their enrichment through corruption.

WHEREAS, victory over this oppressive class requires strong unity among workers against the bosses, regardless of differences in gender, skin color, background, or nationality. Meanwhile, our bosses relentlessly attempt to destroy that unity, relying on treacherous and immoral tactics to create divisions between the workers by any means possible.

WHEREAS, the media and politicians, who are in the pockets of the bosses, nurture and amplify these divisions, relying on racist stereotypes and referring to immigrant workers as 'illegals' and 'aliens', labels that carry no moral weight, and are merely rhetorical and legal terms invented to justify and rationalize the denial of rights to a sector of the working class, and to pit workers against one another.

WHEREAS, the federal government is increasingly moving its unpopular immigration enforcement and detention operations out of public view by building private prisons in low-income, majority non-White, and rural communities, like Winton, Hertford County, North Carolina, where decades of political and economic marginalization have left residents with little capacity to resist becoming a site where people die in private prisons where due process is withheld.

WHEREAS, statutes that require local law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration agencies abridges local democratic autonomy to pursue public safety in ways that comport with the needs, desires, and values of residents.

WHEREAS, this convention knows that an injury to one is an injury to all,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS 14th UE150 CONVENTION:

1. Demands an end to all concentration and/or internment camps for immigrants, and an end to the criminalization of asylum seekers, refugees, and those who provide humanitarian aid to them;
2. Opposes, and urges Hertford County Commissioners to oppose, the planned construction and operation of an ICE Detention Center in Winton, North Carolina, by The GEO Group.
3. Demands the complete abolition of all ICE operations, starting with an immediate moratorium on all ICE raids, arrests, deportations, harassment, seizures, I-9 audits, visa revocations, and other abuses of non-citizen, especially undocumented, workers;
4. Calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly to repeal hateful, anti-immigrant bills which preempt and undermine local democratic decision-making regarding public safety for all people, including but not limited to SL 2026-19, SL 2025-85, SL 2024-55.
5. Calls upon the North Carolina Senate to vote against proposed bills HB 261, which escalates immigrant criminalization, and HB 690, which creates administrative burdens to accessing public services.
6. Supports the inclusion of immigrants in all current and proposed public healthcare programs, including Medicare for All;
7. Demands that Congress enact immigration reform legislation that:
 - a. Includes a legalization program, allowing all immigrants currently living in the U.S. to remain here permanently and without penalty;
 - b. Protects worker rights for both current and future immigrants, including overturning *Hoffman Plastic Compounds, Inc. v. NLRB*;
 - c. Prioritizes family unification;
 - d. Liberalizes political asylum procedures;
 - e. Replaces guest-worker programs with pathways to permanent residency and citizenship for all immigrant workers;
 - f. Repeals the REAL ID Act;
 - g. Ensures immigrants have equal access to higher education, including student loans, financial aid, and in-state tuition;
8. Commemorates the martyrdom of the 68 people, foreign- and native-born, who have died in ICE custody or by the hand of ICE, CBP or Border Patrol agents since 2025.

Submitted by the UNC Graduate Workers Co-Chapter