

Campaign: Tell Your College or University: Don't Comply with Project 2025

A Ten-Point Platform and Rapid Response Toolkit for Responding
to Trump's Executive Orders Attacking on Palestine Protesters,
International Visa Holders, and Undocumented Students, Faculty,
and Staff.

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Please send comments, suggestions, questions, and additional resources to:
jonah@jewishvoiceforpeace.org and we'll include them in future updates.

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The first weeks of the Trump administration have seen a flurry of Executive Orders and actions, many of them of dubious constitutional validity, designed to attack vulnerable students, faculty, and staff including international students, undocumented students, DACA students, trans students, and those engaged in pro-Palestine organizing on campus.

This is nothing new. When Trump was elected in 2016, he immediately tried to enact policies like the "Muslim Ban" and attacks on undocumented communities. Back then, most colleges and universities responded with new policies and communications, assuring students that they would not voluntarily cooperate in attacks on their own students. This time, they have mostly stayed silent. Some have even voluntarily adopted harmful policies straight out of the Project 2025 playbook, going well beyond what they are legally required to do, prioritizing anticipatory obedience to the far-right over protecting their campus constituents. This is unacceptable.

*This rapid response toolkit is designed to help you push back against Trump's attacks. It is a first draft and a work in progress. Please send feedback and additional resources to:
jonah@jvp.org*

This toolkit is designed to help you push back against Trump's Executive Orders targeting visa holders, undocumented persons, and those engaged in pro-Palestine organizing. We recognize that Project 2025 targets a wide range of vulnerable groups not well-covered in this toolkit, including trans folks, BIPOC communities, women, LGBTQI+ individuals, and more. This toolkit is designed to be flexible and adaptable. We encourage you to talk with other targeted groups on your campus and, whenever possible, incorporate their demands into your campaign. We are all in this together and we will win only when we join in solidarity with each other and support each other's causes.

We recognize that every campus is different and we encourage you to adopt the material below to your local context. Start by speaking with directly affected groups on your campus. Find student clubs, graduate and staff unions, faculty groups, and community organizations. Work together to identify targets, articulate your demands, and build a strategy that makes sense to you. We hope this toolkit helps you in your organizing.

Don't Comply with Project 2025: A Ten Point Pledge for Colleges and Universities:

The College / University must publicly affirm its commitment to:

1. Refuse all information sharing about international and undocumented students with ICE and other federal authorities.
2. Designate multiple safe, locked areas on campus where ICE can be denied entry without a valid judicial warrant.
3. Destroy grievance procedures and all paperwork pending related to pro-Palestine, immigrant justice, or other social justice related protests, which is at their full discretion. Pledge not to collect or store any new surveillance materials on protesters that could be used in future authoritarian attacks on students, faculty, and staff.
4. Do not preemptively comply with apparent DEI, immigration, or antisemitism orders that lack definition, scope, and specificity.
5. Direct administrative staff to facilitate student visa applications and renewals. Refuse to take any action that will enable visa denials or deportations, including actions that may affect international students, undocumented students, and non-citizen workers employed or contracted by the college.
6. Add ICE alerts to their systemwide alerts and direct campus police / security to refuse voluntary cooperation with ICE or other federal agencies.
7. Partner with immigrant and legal justice organizations to implement Know Your Rights training for students, faculty, and staff. For Faculty and Staff, these trainings should include information on FERPA's limitations on sharing student data, any sanctuary requirements not to release information, and what to do if confronted by ICE or other federal agents on campus.
8. Provide training for Title VI officers in how to distinguish between antisemitism and antizionism; how to recognize and respond to anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim racism;

how to recognize and respond to targeting of Chinese international students, especially in STEM fields.

9. Reaffirm the right of all students, regardless of immigration status, to engage in protest on campus as the fulfillment in their core mission of educating tomorrow's civically minded global leaders.
10. Direct education lobbyists with whom the university contracts to pressure state and federal representatives to support legislation that provides additional protections for international students, undocumented students, and students engaged in social justice protests, and push back against legislation that threatens members of the campus community due to their immigration status or their social justice activism.

Things to Research Before You Begin Your Campaign:

Before you begin your campaign, it will be useful to gather some information:

1. **Who decides?** Who has the power to say yes to each of the demands? For example, who is in charge of Title VI adjudication at your campus? Who is in charge of the emergency alert system? What support does / can your International Students and Scholars Services Office provide for visa renewals?

The demands above may be under the purview of multiple decision makers and it will be helpful, especially if your initial demands are turned down by the college president, to know who else on campus has the power to grant you some or all of these demands. In your local context, it might make sense to focus on one or two of the demands above and try to achieve that as an interim victory, as you build power towards being able to effectively demand the full platform. Use your existing relationships with key decisionmakers (faculty, staff, administrators, etc.) as a way of building understanding and alignment amongst decisionmakers and those close to them.

2. **Which allies or people more favorable to your demands have power with these decisionmakers or decision-making bodies?** Are there decision-makers or decision-making bodies above that overlap with faculty / student committees, where you might be able to identify allies to organize to apply pressure?

Identifying decision-makers and decision-making bodies that might be influenced by people and groups more amenable to our demands is a helpful place to start in terms of identifying where to apply pressure! Build towards resolutions in your student or faculty senate. Work through your unions. Research and lobby specific Board Members who may be sympathetic to immigrant rights, human rights, and Palestine.

3. **What past statements or policies from your university's response to the first Trump administration might be relevant?** Did your college / university make a statement about undocumented / international students in 2016-2017? Did it update its policies to provide additional protections? Are those policies still valid on paper? Did your college or university update its protest policies during or following last year's pro-Palestine encampment protests? What is done with the records from these

disciplinary hearings? Does your university mission statement mention democracy, citizenship, civic engagement, diversity, justice, etc.

Many colleges and universities made public statements and adopted new policies to protect international and undocumented students in 2017. If your college did so, you can point out that there is precedent for such action may also be helpful in getting decision-makers to concede to demands. You can also ask whether the policies announced at that time are still valid and what the administration intends to do to enforce those policies.

4. **What state and local laws will affect your campaigns?** You may also live in a city or state jurisdiction with strong sanctuary protections. Conversely, your state may have passed repressive policies, like IHRA or laws limiting non-compliance with ICE.

Ways to mobilize: Suggestions for Actions and Escalations

Your campus environment will determine the specific targets and actions you will take. To get you started, we've suggested a few avenues. See the resources page below for samples, guides, and links.

- **Meet with administrators:** For many campuses, the first step will be requesting a meeting with the college / university President or the highest ranking administrator willing to meet with your group. These meetings can be useful, especially if you think your college administration may already be sympathetic to at least some of the demands listed above. But be wary of delay tactics ("let me study this and get back to you"). Things are moving fast and we need to move fast as well. Be clear in any meetings about timelines.
 - Remember there are likely other decision makers on campus too who may be able to give you at least some of these demands. For example, your president may not be receptive to rejecting the discredited IHRA definition of antisemitism, but your Title VI office may be willing to host a training from Parceo or other organization that distinguishes between anti-Zionism and antisemitism.
- **Faculty / Student Senate Resolutions:** Build towards a resolution in the local bodies that represent you. Depending on your campus, this would be a good time to develop educational material, hold teach-ins, or protests in the lead-up to a vote. Sample resolutions are in the resources section below.
- **Know Your Rights / Anti-Bias Trainings:** Ensure that qualified Know Your Rights organizations are selected. For antisemitism trainings, ensure your university is partnering with groups that are not hostile towards Palestinian and Muslim students. If your college or university refuses to implement these demands, you can bring in organizations (see resources below) for parallel / counter trainings.
- **Demand Transparency and Democracy:** So much of the repression is taking place behind closed doors. Especially where you do not feel like you have the power to achieve the full platform listed above, demands for transparency can be a strong intermediate goal. Use structures of faculty, union, and student governance to demand

reporting on what university policies are and how they are being decided. File Freedom of Information requests from public institutions (state by state sample letters [here](#)).

- **Strategically escalate confrontations with university policy:** The Trump administration's strategy relies on recruiting universities to do its dirty work. We can engage in a series of confrontational actions that show the world how these new policies violate the core mission of the college. **Please note: These escalatory actions carry risks, especially during this time of high repression. Please assess your vulnerability and ability to take on these risks. The university can bring far harsher punishments against a non-citizen student who engages in actions that violate its unjust policies than it can against a tenured professor, a concerned community member, or a guest speaker. Consider how you can position allies into the roles that carry greater risk.**
 - Hold a public event in which you encourage campus community members to sign Never Again Action's [ICE non-compliance pledge](#).
 - Letters and petitions: On many campuses, open letters, petitions, and letter writing can help demonstrate popular support to administrators. They can also be a crucial vehicle for educating your campus community about what the university could be doing but is not to protect its members. Similarly, op-eds drawing on the talking points below can help shape the narrative.
 - Strategically violate unjust policies: If your college caves to the Health and Human Services new guidance that criminalizes wearing keffiyehs or displaying Palestinian flags, have a day where you encourage everyone to wear keffiyehs. If your college adopts IHRA definitions of antisemitism, have a teach-in about "antiracism and antizionism" or a movie screening on "settler-colonialism and the racist foundations of Israel and the United States." Alternatively, you can hold a study-in in your campus library where you explore these topics. Use these tactics to force your universities to publicly choose between endorsing Project 2025's repressive policies and supporting their core values of academic freedom and the First Amendment rights.
 - Look for Targets of Opportunity: Is ICE or DHS recruiting at a job fair on your campus? Are weapons manufacturers complicit in militarizing the US-Mexico border or sending weapons for the Israeli military to use in attacking Palestinians? Are officials representing these policies giving talks on campus? Hold protests, plan disruptions, demand they be banned from campus.
 - Escalate deliberately and strategically: When you are ready, you can take these themes towards more escalatory actions, like protests, walkouts, sit-ins, or encampments. Whenever possible, these escalatory actions should be accompanied with social and traditional media designed to embarrass the university for embracing the far right attacks on its own community, rather than upholding its core values.

Suggested Key Talking Points

Note: Many of these policies are being implemented in the name of "Jewish safety." Because of this, we believe that JVP members and other Jewish-identifying people on campus have a

particular role to play in pushing back against Trump's repressive policies. For talking points developed specifically for JVP Members and other Jewish identifying faculty, students, and staff, please see [this supplemental document](#).

- The detention of Mahmoud Khalil by the Trump regime is further proof that we are on the brink of a full takeover by a repressive, authoritarian regime. Free Mahmoud NOW
 - This is a moment in history where all people of conscience must take bold action to resist state violence and repression.
- These are no longer hypotheticals. The ten points listed above are urgent to protect students, faculty, and staff from the repression that is here now.
- Trump has pursued a series of extremist Executive Orders targeting students, faculty, and staff, especially international and undocumented students, as well as those who engage in political activism.
- Students, faculty, and staff deserve to be safe on campus. Right now, the administration thinks that terrorizing people will fix the system. We know that actually when we create safe learning environments for everyone, no matter their gender, sexuality, or immigration status, we can build the learning environments that our academic community deserves.
- Trump's Executive Orders are pulled directly from the pages of "Project 2025" and "Project Esther": the far-Right's plan to dismantle institutions of higher education and social justice movements.
- On January 29, Trump signed a blatantly authoritarian Executive Order that lays the groundwork for a wave of deportations of non-citizen student activists, in retaliation for exercising their right to freedom of speech, under the guise of "fighting antisemitism."
- The Executive Order encourages universities to closely monitor and report international student visa holders. Universities should not be engaging in this kind of surveillance, nor should they be doing voluntary policing on behalf of a state bent on attacking both non-citizen students and the foundations of the university system.
- Likewise, the administration's executive orders are designed to threaten local jurisdictions and institutions to participate in Trump's attacks on immigrant communities. Universities must reject the pressure to voluntarily participate in these attacks on their own students, staff, and faculty.
 - The reason for this pressure is that the mass deportation agenda cannot function without the cooperation of local people and institutions. This means that we can get in the way of this attack on our communities by refusing to cooperate.
- Threatening immigrant communities and restricting visas violates the core educational mission of colleges and universities. The Executive Actions are part of a broader attack on so many of our neighbors, members of our family, and friends. The administration fundamentally thinks immigrants shouldn't be here. Academic institutions, on the other hand, have always served as places for international thought engagement. Actions that threaten international students, staff, and scholars, threaten the very mission of the university and its values of free inquiry. It is therefore "the obligation of the university to oppose these measures" and it must work "actively to defend its interests and values" (Kalven Report).

- Universities must dedicate specific resources to supporting DACA students, undocumented students, student visa holders, and foreign worker visa holders, all core members of our university community. That should include offering free, high-quality, and confidential immigration law services.
- The discredited IHRA definition of antisemitism is an unconstitutional infringement of free speech and bedrock principles of academic freedom. A federal judge in Texas recently found that [IHRA constitutes unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination](#). Adopting this policy invites litigation against the university. Universities must adopt policies that protect critical speech and scholarship, especially when it challenges prevailing political winds.
- Universities have shown a willingness to push back against Trump's cuts to NIH funding, as they should. But we have to be more than just a business. Just like NIH funding is essential to our mission, so too is the presence of international students, researchers and staff. So too is the ability to research and teach experts on Palestine, immigration, and human rights without undue political interference. So too is the ability to engage in political protests and express dissent. Now is a time for colleges and universities to live up to their stated values and mission statements.

Additional Resources:

Sample Letters to Administrators:

- Sample Letter from Tina Shull (with slightly different demands than the 10-point pledge above): [Sample Letter from Tina Shull](#):


Sample Student / Faculty Senate Resolutions: [Sample Resolution](#)

Title VI & Weaponization of False Charges of Antisemitism:

- Organize to bring Parceo: (<https://parceo.org>) in to talk with your Title VI office about anti-Zionism vs. antisemitism.
- Encourage your university to use these materials as the basis for HR trainings. Alternatively, you can use this curriculum as an alternative or counter-programming to trainings that intentionally conflate criticism of Israel with antisemitism: <https://www.antisemitismcurriculum.org/>
- Nohra.ca FAQ on the IHRA Definition of antisemitism: <https://www.noihra.ca/faq>
- Institute for the Critical Study of Zionism No IHRA toolkit: <https://criticalzionismstudies.org/2024/05/23/noihratoolkit>


Know Your Rights Trainings:

- National Immigration Law Center. Know Your Rights: What to Do if you are Questioned, Arrested or Detained by Immigration or Other Law Enforcement: <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2025.01.14-KYR-What-To-Do-If-Arrested-ENGLISH-Final-JAN.pdf>
- Immigrant Defense Project: <https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/>


- Download the Know Your Rights 4 Immigrants app on [Apple](#) or [Android](#).
- FAQ: ICE on campus  ICE on Campus FAQ.docx

Urge your colleagues to sign Never Again Action's ICE Noncompliance Pledge:
bit.ly/ICENoncompliancePledge

Preparing to Resist ICE Raids on Campus:

- Preparing for possible ICE raids on campus:  Know Your Rights - universities (2).pdf
- Make the Road's Deportation Defense Manual:
<https://maketheroadny.org/deportation-defense-manual/>
- AAUP Fact Sheet on Dealing with ICE on your campus:
<https://www.aaup.org/sites/default/files/AAUP-ICE-on-Campus.pdf>
- AILA Workplace Raids Action Plan:
<https://www.aila.org/library/aila-chapters-workplace-raids-action-plan>
- Presidents' Alliance: 10 Practices to Safeguard Undocumented Student Data in Higher Education:
https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/effective_practice/10-practices-to-safeguard-undocumented-student-data-in-higher-education/
- CAIR: What if ICE shows up at my Masjid:
<https://ca.cair.com/updates/what-if-ice-shows-up-at-my-masjid/>
- Immigrant Legal Resources Center: Immigrant Family Preparedness Plan
<https://www.ilrc.org/resources/family-preparedness-plan>

Additional Organizations and Resources to Join:

- Join the Campus Sanctuary Network, to share resources, labor, and strategy to protect each other and organize our communities under the coming assaults against migrants, international students, queer and trans folks, the sciences, and more::
<https://tinyurl.com/sanctuarycampusnetwork>
- Faculty for Justice in Palestine: [Emergency Resources](#).
- PSC / CUNY Immigrant Solidarity Working Group (lots of very good resources you can adopt to your campus): <https://psc-cuny.org/issues/immigrant-solidarity-working-group/>
-  IMMIGRATION/RAIDS RESOURCES
- Webinar Recording: How Campuses Can Prepare to Support Undocumented Students & Safeguard their Data in Higher Education:
<https://www.presidentsalliance.org/how-campus-can-prepare-to-support-undocumented-students-safeguard-their-data-in-higher-education/>