



RESOLUTION CALLING FOR OPEIU LOCAL 8 SANCTUARY STATUS

WHEREAS, OPEIU members are united as workers and unionists, and our families are diverse in nationality, race, ethnicity, immigration status and an injury to one of us is an injury to all of us; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's stoking of xenophobia and racist scapegoating of immigrant workers of color is an obvious divide and conquer tactic intended to weaken unions; and

WHEREAS, workers have been threatened with deportation as retaliation for speaking out against unsafe working conditions and wage theft; and

WHEREAS, ICE raids and DHS checkpoints keep immigrants and people of color in a state of constant fear and instability, which is disruptive to our members' livelihoods, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration and its right wing friends, the Koch Brothers and the Freedom Foundation, benefit immensely from silencing workers, and that silencing compromises our essential actions such as demonstrations, pickets and strikes; and

WHEREAS, we have witnessed with Northwest Detention Center, which is currently being sued by Attorney General Bob Ferguson for its forced labor practices, that detainment is cruel, violent and unjust; and

WHEREAS, deportation can be a death sentence, as people are sent to countries where they cannot speak the language, may have no family, find work, or even fled from originally to avoid murder by way of political and social persecution (LGBTQ immigrants, for example); and

WHEREAS, we remember that corporations are borderless under the global economic system, exploiting all workers, thereby uniting us in a global struggle, so our solidarity must extend beyond borders; and

WHEREAS, we remember the devastation wrought on Japanese Americans (some of them third and fourth generation Americans) and the Native Aleut people during their brutal displacement and incarceration, which was a direct result of xenophobia and race-baiting by their own government, evidence that attacks on undocumented populations today are motivated not by legality nor public safety, but are motivated by racism, purely; and

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WHEREAS, we remember that labor unions have historically fought for human rights, defending the dignity and safety of the working class, and it is our imperative to honor this history with fervent opposition to oppression and injustice, our legacy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that OPEIU 8 will not cooperate with federal agents in the prosecution or attempted deportation of members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that OPEIU 8 will protect and refuse to collect unnecessary personal information from our members that may be used against them in terms of their immigration status; and be it further

RESOLVED, that OPEIU 8 shall commit to holding “Know Your Rights” trainings and sharing legal resources with our members, including citizenship application help; and be it further

RESOLVED, that OPEIU 8 will continue to build alliances in the community with others engaged in similar work to protect communities and the undocumented, and participate in protests in response to ICE raids or employer collaboration for the sake of union-busting; and be it further

RESOLVED, that OPEIU 8 will commit to collectively bargain new contract language that strengthens workplace protections for immigrant members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that OPEIU 8 will fight to uphold and expand the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that OPEIU 8 will continue fighting for comprehensive immigration reform, but not at the expense of increased border policing and deportations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that OPEIU 8 declares itself a “Sanctuary Union” and stands with other Sanctuary Unions, such as the Teamsters Joint Council 16 in New York, and National Union of Healthcare Workers in California, and will publicize our resolution, in order to invite other local unions in Washington State to follow suit.

M/S/C Membership Assembly on September 23, 2017