

## **PSC RESOLUTION IN DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF ICE DETAINEES AND ALL IMMIGRANTS**

**WHEREAS**, core to the labor movement are the values of solidarity, freedom, opportunity, and equality for all, and

**WHEREAS**, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency's (hereafter ICE) detention centers throughout the country are a crucial part of its cruel and illegal deportation machine that is spreading terror and disrupting the lives of millions of immigrants around the country, particularly in New York City. Without ICE's ability to hold up to 41,000 immigrants in detention, it would be impossible for it to deport the 400,000 or more immigrants per year it is now expelling, and

**WHEREAS**, Immigrant detentions are unconstitutional and a threat to the rights of all. By ICE's own admission immigrant detainees are "administrative detainees" who have not been charged with or convicted of a crime. Their detention violates the basic protection of the 14th Amendment that no person is to be deprived of liberty without due process, and

**WHEREAS**, more than 15,000 children have been detained by ICE, many of them separated from their parents or primary caregivers and housed in facilities with grossly inadequate conditions and little access to pediatric care, counselling and legal services<sup>1</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, the current practice of holding video conference hearings for detainees where they are not permitted to be physically in the courtroom with their attorneys is also a violation of their due process, and

**WHEREAS**, of the more than 300,000 people annually detained by ICE, nearly three-fourths are kept in privately-run facilities, thus representing a collusion between state policy and business interests,<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, deportations and detentions undermine all workers' rights. The threat of arbitrary detention and deportation deters many immigrants from defending their rights to decent wages and working conditions. This hinders the ability of all workers to defend these rights, and

**WHEREAS**, ICE detention of immigrants sows terror among families, friends, neighbors and co-workers, and

**WHEREAS**, CUNY educates a large population of immigrant students, including many undocumented immigrants, and ICE policies adversely impact them and their families, and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2018/dec/22/migrant-children-us-custody>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/05/trumps-immigration-crackdown-is-a-boom-time-for-private-prisons/>  
[https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/sites/default/files/reports/A%20Toxic%20Relationship\\_DWN.pdf](https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/sites/default/files/reports/A%20Toxic%20Relationship_DWN.pdf)

**WHEREAS**, the PSC has a strong history of aligning with the rights of immigrants, especially, undocumented students, and the union has passed resolutions calling for all colleges and schools to be Sanctuary institutions, 2017; to re-enfranchise legal non-citizen residents in local elections, 2013; in support of financial aid for undocumented immigrant students, 2011; in support of students hunger-striking for passage of the Dream Act, 2010; on increasing tuition for undocumented immigrants, 2001, and

**WHEREAS**, a growing movement of labor, civil rights, community, religious, and immigrant rights groups are protesting the violation of rights and the human dignity of immigrants, and therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the PSC calls on the Trump administration, Congress, and all cooperating State, City and County governments to use their authority to immediately and permanently close all ICE and CBP (Customs and Border Patrol) immigrant detention centers.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the PSC will work with other labor unions and community groups to remain actively involved in the growing movement to end the illegal and unconstitutional detention of immigrants without criminal charge, and for equal rights for all who live here, and throughout the United States.