

Demands from the International Student Working Group of SWC

Due to the unprecedented detainment of former student-worker Mahmoud Khalil by the Department of Homeland Security while in a Columbia University apartment building and the ongoing presence of ICE around campus, the International Students Working Group of the Student Workers of Columbia has these immediate demands of Columbia University:

1. **Establish Columbia University as a sanctuary campus** in which every student is protected from threat of deportation or detention. We define a sanctuary campus to mean the following:
 - a. A commitment not to allow ICE officers on campus or into University Housing without a judicial warrant under any circumstance and to inform all security personnel and other staff of this policy. Refuse to provide information to immigration authorities or any federal agency on Columbia affiliates without a subpoena.
2. **Stop surveilling the student body** and do not allow previous surveillance to be used by federal agencies currently targeting non-citizens. Specifically, we demand the University:
 - a. Order Public Safety and private contractors to cease collecting personally identifying information of Columbia affiliates in relationship to First Amendment protected activity and protests on campus,
 - b. Destroy all records of personally identifying information collected of Columbia affiliates in relationship to First Amendment protected activity and protests on campus, including those collected as evidence for disciplinary proceedings,
 - c. Order Public Safety and private contractors to stop patrolling departmental and organizing spaces on campus, including classrooms.
3. **Support** the non-US citizens on our campus through education on non-citizen rights, financial resources, academic flexibility, legal support for students, and more. Specifically:
 - d. Disseminate “know your rights” information for all students through broad and consistent messaging.
 - e. Commit not to use immigration status as leverage to coerce student workers into disciplinary proceedings.
 - f. Increase the International Students and Scholars Office’s (ISSO) resources to support students whose Visas and Green Cards have been revoked by maintaining an emergency hotline, assisting in appeals, covering legal fees, and allowing continued residency in University housing during appeals, and maintaining their non-immigrant visa status.
 - g. Assure degree conferral, including through alternative routes in case of administrative impediments.
 - h. Cover legal fees for any Columbia affiliate detained or threatened by ICE.
 - i. Commit to reissuing DS-2019 and/or I-20s for all international students and not terminating SEVIS/I-20/DS-2019 records when visa status is revoked. Overall, commit to ensuring that all international students are able to maintain their student status within the university.

- j. Grant instructors flexibility to move classes online, for students to demand hybrid instruction, and for staff to work from home and ensure the new Anti-Doxxing and Online Harassment policy supports them

4. Defend the non-US citizen students on our campus by taking actions to resist their targeting by the Trump administration and other anti-immigrant actors. Specifically:

- k. File a lawsuit to have Trump's January 29th Executive Order 13899 revoked or halted.
- l. Designate the reporting of other Columbia affiliates to immigration authorities based on their perceived or assumed immigration status as a form of discriminatory harassment.
- m. Notify students whose names are provided by the government to the University as targets for detention and of any government agency's search, arrest, administrative warrant, subpoena, or other formal or informal request for documents or information on a student.

Have the assurance of degree conferral / **commitment from Columbia to support the completion of study for those targeted**, including through alternative routes in case of administrative impediments.

This is critical because some people may find themselves close to completing their degrees but unable to attend / defend in person.

From anthro colleague: "Demand that the administration train/give strong directives to all of the security personnel not to let ICE on campus without a warrant, since it seems very unlikely that without extremely explicit training anyone from public safety will of their own initiative refuse access."

The anthropology grad student association sent this request to department admin ahead of a department faculty meeting tomorrow, along with a request to meet asap: "We urge the department to release a public statement on its website, advocating that the University **(1) cover legal fees for any student detained or threatened by ICE, and (2) revise the protocol for ICE visits to indicate that the University will never *under any circumstance* allow ICE agents to access University buildings or people without a judicial warrant."**

Questions (short term) that admin must answer:

Not sure if this is the right place to put this, but I wonder if it would be productive to link our demands re: protecting international students with the 400m in federal grants. The way I see it, our fight (really) is with the Trump administration and Columbia is the terrain of that fight. Trump is simultaneously defunding higher ed and violating the rights of students, and it is in Columbia's long-term interest to fight for both. Our main goal is to protect international students and workers, of course, but to get Columbia to join us on that we need to make them understand that they will not get the 400m back by throwing them under the bus. That's why I'm proposing a demand that Columbia join with other institutions of higher ed (such as Yale) to replace the lost federal funding with money from the endowment, and to commit to lobby and pressure the federal government to restore funding *without* capitulating on this fascist shit.