

## Recommendation for local action in defense of DACA recipients

Below are texts of statements issued by Human Rights defenders in two Human Rights Cities, Seattle Washington and Washington DC. The Steering Committee of the National Human Rights Cities Alliance is sharing these statements as examples for other local groups to bring to local authorities and to otherwise use in fostering discussion and dialogue around this timely human rights concern. We encourage local human rights advocates to take some action at this time to lift up and defend the rights of immigrants in our communities.

In crafting our national response to this issue, we learned two lessons relevant to broader human rights organizing:

- Based on feedback on our conversations in Seattle, we added **language about supporting all undocumented immigrants, not only DACA recipients**. This was feedback from DACA recipients who were involved in writing the statement, as maintaining DACA but deporting undocumented immigrants would be an injury to human rights, and most DACA recipients have family members who they are worried about, who don't have DACA status.
- The Washington DC statement initially included language about the economic contributions of DACA recipients to the city, but we removed it after receiving feedback that **economic contributions aren't a human rights argument**.

## **Washington DC HUMAN RIGHTS CITY STEERING COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON DACA**

The DC Human Rights City Steering Committee is deeply concerned about President Trump's decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, otherwise known as DACA. Removing DACA and targeting the immigrants without DACA status is an inhumane and cruel decision that will devastate the lives of thousands of young people and their families in the DC area and across our nation.

We believe in our Dreamers and call President Trump and Congress to commit the continuation of DACA, established by the Obama Administration via executive order in 2012. DACA allows young migrant immigrants who entered the country as underage minors without documents to receive two-years period of deferred action from deportation and the eligibility for work permits. We believe that Dreamers have positively contributed to our communities and country, and we urge Congress to come together and pass bipartisan legislation to allow them to remain in the United States.

The City of Washington, DC was declared a Human Rights City on December 10th, 2008, committing itself to protect, respect and fulfill the full range of inherent human rights for all as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and numerous other international human rights treaties. Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone

has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.”

The DC Human Rights City Steering Committee urges the City Council to act immediately to uphold basic human rights and protect DACA recipients, their families, and all.

### **Seattle Human Rights Commission: 1963 – 2017· 54 years of championing human rights and fostering a just world**

The Seattle Human Rights Commission is deeply distraught about President Trump’s decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, otherwise known as DACA. Removing DACA and targeting the immigrants without DACA status is an inhumane and cruel decision that will devastate the lives of thousands of young people and their families in the Seattle area and across our nation.

The Seattle Human Rights Commission joins Governor Jay Inslee, Attorney General Bob Ferguson, local elected leaders, and community organizations that are organizing at the forefront to fight with and for DACA recipients, and all undocumented people. The City of Seattle was declared a Human Rights City on December 10th, 2012, committing itself to protect, respect and fulfill the full range of inherent human rights for all as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and numerous other international human rights treaties. Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.” Assuring that DACA recipients and all undocumented people can study, work, live without fear and support their families maintains their basic human rights.

Roughly 12,000 DACA recipients live in King County, and 18,000 DACA recipients live across Washington State. Many DACA recipients support their families through the income that they receive with DACA. Overall, roughly 250,000 undocumented people live in the state of Washington, and their work and service is extremely important to the community.

The Seattle Human Rights Commission urges the Washington State Congressional Delegation to act immediately to uphold basic human rights and protect DACA recipients, their families, and all of the undocumented people living in the United States who did not qualify for the program.