



Organizing a Permanent Labor Defense Force for Free Speech, Immigrant Solidarity, and the Rights of All Working People in Washington

Resolution #2025.21

WHEREAS, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is essential to democracy, allowing individuals to express their beliefs, advocate for justice, and hold those in power accountable; and,

WHEREAS, the suppression of dissenting voices, particularly those advocating for labor and marginalized communities, weakens democracy and emboldens fascist and authoritarian tendencies; and,

WHEREAS, history has shown that attacks on free speech disproportionately harm unionists, activists, workers, immigrants, and communities fighting for justice; and,

WHEREAS, we've seen major assaults on protected free speech, exemplified by the arrest and attempted deportation of Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University student who is a legal resident with a green card, over his advocacy in support of the Palestinian people—without a warrant or due process; and,

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has launched a shock and awe fear campaign against immigrant workers that has threatened and targeted families at worksites, churches, schools, hospitals and courts; and,

WHEREAS, Washington's labor movement has been under direct attack, with the kidnapping and detention of unionists, including but not limited to: Lewelyn Dixon, a member of SEIU 925; Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez, organizer with Familias Unidas por la Justicia and Community to Community; and Maximo Londonio, a member of IAM Local Lodge 695; and,

WHEREAS, the Trump administration deployed the National Guard to California and authorized the deployment of the regular Armed Forces to repress protests opposing federal immigration raids on workplaces, protests where David Huerta, the president of the Service Employees International Union of California, was just one of many assaulted, injured, and arrested while he exercised his First Amendment rights; and,

WHEREAS, President Trump has refused, on multiple occasions, to denounce the activities of white supremacist and fascist militias and organizations that have stated desires to overthrow American democracy and instead has conveyed support for their actions, including federal pardons for known members and leaders; and,

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has shown no indication of ending attacks on the labor movement, after having already gutted the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), passed executive orders to dismantle collective bargaining rights for more than three quarters of all federal workers, and undermined public worker unions and the services they provide; and,

WHEREAS, working people refusing to work across the nation is a greater power than the political machinations of any aspiring despots, and the most powerful tool of the Labor Movement in our history has been the power of the General Strike; now therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, WSLC stands in unwavering support of the First Amendment and condemns any efforts—legislative, executive, or otherwise—that seek to suppress free speech, protest, and political expression; and be it further,

RESOLVED, WSLC will actively organize to defend the free speech rights of our affiliates, and our allies to speak out, and protest, in opposition to anti-worker edicts imposed by this administration and their cabinet of un-elected billionaires; and be it further,

RESOLVED, WSLC will call on elected officials to pledge to protect protesters and commit to not using police action or curfews to curtail these activities; and be it further,

RESOLVED, WSLC commits to organizing united fronts for mutual defense with other unions and communities that are under attack, including immigrant workers, refugees, communities of color, public worker unions, women, and transgender people; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that WSLC will affirm its position as a sanctuary Labor Council, and will call on all affiliates to individually affirm their sanctuary union status; and be it further,

RESOLVED, WSLC, in collaboration with other labor and progressive forces, will prepare for and take whatever actions are necessary to protect free speech, all workers' rights, our democracy and the Constitution, and be it finally,

RESOLVED, WSLC will update its affiliates about this resolution's passage and the importance of free speech, advocating for the rights of the oppressed, and resisting fascist and authoritarian overreach in all its forms.