



Resolution to Support Immigrants and Call for the Closure of the Northwest Detention Center

Resolution #2025.22

WHEREAS, the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO (WSLC) has a proud history of standing with all workers, regardless of immigration status, in the fight for dignity, justice, and human rights; and,

WHEREAS, immigrant workers are integral to Washington's economy, contributing labor, culture, and community strength across industries including agriculture, construction, healthcare, service, logistics, and more; and,

WHEREAS, the immigrant community continues to face inhumane treatment, family separation, and criminalization due to unjust federal immigration policies and enforcement; and,

WHEREAS, the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma has been the subject of repeated reports of human rights abuses, medical neglect, retaliation against hunger strikers, wage theft and denial of due process; and,

WHEREAS, the NWDC is a for-profit detention center ran by The GEO Group, and has a history of exploiting detainees' labor by paying them \$1 a day; and,

WHEREAS, the NWDC continues to violate immigrants' human rights, those who are vulnerable and can't speak up for themselves are needing solidarity; and,

WHEREAS, the continued operation of the NWDC represents a moral stain on our state, perpetuating a system that detains and dehumanizes people whose only alleged offense is seeking a better life; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Leo Daniel experienced the second longest detention in solitary confinement by ICE since 2018 for 1244 days, regardless of suffering from mental illness; and,

WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature enacted RCW 70.395 calling for the prohibition of private incarceration and establishing standards for sanitation, hygiene and safety in 2021

WHEREAS, the labor movement is rooted in the belief that an injury to one is an injury to all, and that the rights of immigrants are workers' rights and human rights; and,

WHEREAS, HB 1232 was recently passed granting the WA State Health Department the ability to conduct unannounced inspections at the detention center, the WSLC should be committed to raising awareness and applying pressure to elected officials; now therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, reaffirms its commitment to defending the rights and dignity of all immigrant workers and their families; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that this Council unequivocally opposes the criminalization and detention of immigrants, and calls for a humane, just, and efficient immigration system that adequately manages the flow of human beings leaving crisis to find a better life; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the WSLC will work in solidarity with immigrant rights groups such as La Resistencia, the Washington Immigration Solidarity Network, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, One America and others to achieve the elimination of for profit detention centers nationally including the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma congruent with RCW 70.395; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the WSLC will support and hold accountable elected officials at all levels of government to end immigrant detention; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, that the WSLC will urge the AFL-CIO to develop a national campaign to prioritize federal legislation that assures the humane treatment and dignity of those involved in any and all immigration proceedings.