



Dayton United for Human Rights

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Human Rights Are Non-Negotiable—And Neither Is Our Solidarity"

Dayton United for Human Rights Stands with Our Immigrant and Marginalized Families

Dayton, Ohio — Dayton United for Human Rights (DUHR) stands firmly with our community members whose dignity, safety and humanity are being harmed and may be harmed by the current practices of immigration agents. This includes immigrants, their families, and community members susceptible to being profiled as immigrants on the basis of race, language, employment or place of residence.

Guided by the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, we affirm that human rights belong to **everyone**, regardless of immigration status. These rights exist to protect people from fear, abuse of power, and the separation of families, and they are being systematically undermined. Our constitution and human rights are under attack and we must act.

When immigrant neighbors are dehumanized, targeted by race or language, or denied basic respect, **Articles 1 and 2**—dignity, equality, and non-discrimination—are violated. **Article 3** is compromised by unnecessary or prolonged detention, while **Articles 5 and 9** are breached through inhumane conditions, denial of medical care, solitary confinement, or arbitrary detention without timely judicial review. **Articles 10 and 12** are denied when people face rushed deportations without counsel, or when homes, privacy, and family life are invaded. **Articles 13 and 14** are violated when movement is restricted without cause or when people fleeing danger are denied the right to seek asylum. **Article 16** is breached through family separation, and **Article 25** is denied when detained individuals lack adequate healthcare, nutrition, or humane living conditions. These violations are not theoretical. They are lived experiences that fracture families, traumatize children, destabilize neighborhoods, and erode trust in democratic institutions. Immigrants are not outsiders, they are parents, workers, students, faith leaders, and essential members of our community.

Practices associated with **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP)** must be held to human rights standards that prioritize dignity over punishment and humanity over fear. A democracy is measured not by how it treats the powerful, but by how it protects the vulnerable.

Dayton United for Human Rights stands unwavering with our immigrant families, affirming their inherent dignity and humanity of all people. We call for the end of policies and practices that criminalize migration, use racial and language profiling, separate families, and undermine universal human rights, and we urge the advancement of compassion-grounded, rights-based, and people-centered solutions that preserve family unity, uphold democratic principles, and strengthen the well-being of our community. We call on our community to take peaceful, lawful, and collective action in response to actions of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as the Border Patrol that undermine human dignity and violate constitutional protections.

This moment calls for clear civic action: register, vote, and mobilize others to vote for leaders who commit to rights-based, people-centered immigration policies; contact elected officials to demand oversight, transparency, and accountability; and engage in advocacy and public education that strengthens democratic participation. We also affirm the power and necessity of nonviolent, peaceful protest as a protected civil right and a vital tool for change. Immigration agents must not violate the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, the Fifth Amendment guarantee of due process, or the Seventh Amendment right to fair legal process. No agency stands above the Constitution, and rights do not disappear based on immigration status. We urge all people to stand in solidarity with impacted families, support community-based and legal-aid efforts, and act together to defend dignity, democracy, and the constitutional rights promised to all. Connect to our local organization ***Miami Valley Immigrant Coalition*** to support and mobilize through <https://linktr.ee/mvicdayton> or mvicdayton.org. The ***Ohio Immigrant Alliance*** hotline number to report ICE abuse is 419-777-4357 or at hotline@ohioimmigrant.org. To our immigrant and marginalized families and friends: **You belong. Your lives have value. Your families matter. Your dignity is non-negotiable.** *We see you, We stand with you, and We will continue to advocate for a future rooted in human dignity, democracy, human rights and hope for all.*

Dayton United for Human Rights Coalition

Founded in 2022, Dayton United for Human Rights (DUHR) is a community-led coalition advancing human dignity, hope, democracy, and civic engagement through a human-rights framework rooted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. DUHR educates, organizes, and collaborates across the Dayton region to advance rights-based, people-centered solutions, with a strong focus on uplifting marginalized communities and empowering youth, while affirming that human rights belong to everyone. A notable milestone in DUHR's work includes receiving a resolution from the Dayton City Commission committing the City to become the first Human Rights City in Ohio, including undertaking an internal human rights assessment to evaluate policies, practices, and community impact through a human-rights lens. Through education, community dialogue, youth leadership, research, and advocacy, DUHR works to strengthen democratic participation and turn human rights principles into a lived community practice for our shared future.

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