

# Cornell University Student Assembly

## S.A. Resolution #36

### Calling on Cornell to Establish Itself as a Sanctuary Campus

ABSTRACT: This resolution is calling on Cornell to establish itself as a sanctuary campus for undocumented students, faculty, and staff.

**Sponsored by: Allison Arteaga '21, Ailen Salazar '21, Melissa Yanez '21, Marco Salgado '22, Stella Linardi '22, Tomás Reuning '21, Valeria Valencia '23, Lucy Contreras '21**

**Whereas**, the term “sanctuary campus,” inspired by the sanctuary city movement, refers to any college or university that implements policies to protect students, faculty, and staff who are undocumented immigrants.

**Whereas**, the following are some of the policies that have been proposed or implemented by self-described sanctuary campuses or other immigrant-friendly campuses:

- Barring ICE officers from campus unless they possess a valid judicial warrant.
- Instructing campus police not to cooperate with ICE or CBP against members of the campus community when an official judicial warrant is unavailable;
- Refusing to share information about faculty or students’ immigration status with ICE absent a court order, given FERPA rights; and
- Implementing a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on student or faculty immigration status
- Facilitating “undocu-ally” workshops to educate students, faculty, and staff
- Providing confidential legal support to students with immigration law questions and issues

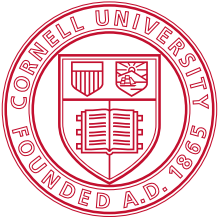
**Whereas**, The American Association of University Professors has endorsed the sanctuary campus movement.

**Whereas**, the actions of sanctuary campuses do not conflict with their legal obligations. For example, it is not a federal offense to refuse admission to ICE officers without a warrant.

**Whereas**, other universities and colleges have established themselves as sanctuary campuses, including but not limited to: University of Pennsylvania, Portland State University, Reed College, Wesleyan University, Pitzer College, Santa Fe Community College, Swarthmore College, Drake University, Connecticut College

**Whereas**, There have been multiple protests at various campuses:

- Connecticut College
- Dartmouth College
- Drexel University
- Florida State University



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- 45 • Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- 46 • Middlebury College
- 47 • Mills College
- 48 • New Mexico State University
- 49 • The New School
- 50 • Northeastern University
- 51 • Ohio University
- 52 • Portland Community College
- 53 • Rutgers University
- 54 • St. Mary's College
- 55 • Stanford University
- 56 • Stockton University
- 57 • Texas State University
- 58 • Texas Woman's University
- 59 • Trinity College
- 60 • Tufts University
- 61 • University of Denver
- 62 • University of Illinois campuses
- 63 • University of Michigan
- 64 • University of Mississippi
- 65 • University of New Mexico
- 66 • University of North Texas
- 67 • University of Pennsylvania
- 68 • University of San Diego
- 69 • Vanderbilt University
- 70 • Wesleyan University
- 71 • Western New Mexico University
- 72 • Yale University

73

74 **Whereas**, this issue was brought up in 2016 with a faculty coalition group of approximately  
75 100 faculty members petitioning for Cornell to establish itself as a sanctuary campus. The  
76 petition gathered over 2,000 signatures but was not ratified by then sitting university  
77 president Hunter Rawlings.

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79 **Whereas**, there have been "ICE Scares" in the past following reported sightings of ICE  
80 officers causing unnecessary stress and fear in the community

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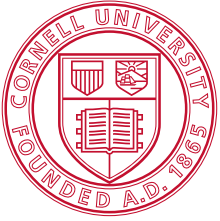
82 **Whereas**, CUPD has disclosed that they have no formal protocol in the event that a student  
83 or member of the Cornell community is detained or deported by ICE.

84

85 **Whereas**, CUPD relies on an *informal* and *undisclosed* system of communication  
86 regarding crisis situations involving ICE or CBP.

87

88 **Whereas**, Cornell University Administration has referred to members of the  
89 undocumented community on campus as "charity cases," and former Dean of Students Vijay



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90 Pendakur asked undocumented student organizers, “What more do you want?” fostering a  
91 toxic school environment.

92

93 **Whereas**, students have threatened to call ICE on their undocumented peers.

94

95 **Whereas**, undocumented students at Cornell have been recorded disclosing their status by  
96 fellow students with the intent of exposing the undocumented students to the media and the  
97 public, which increases the risk of being exposed, detained, and/or deported by ICE.

98

99 **Whereas**, only in 2016, did Cornell finally allow DACA students to be considered for  
100 financial aid as domestic students, as opposed to international students; and only recently,  
101 in 2020, did Cornell finally allow undocumented students to benefit from the domestic  
102 financial aid funding pool instead of the international pool.

103

104 **Whereas**, due to the expansion of the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport into the Ithaca  
105 Tompkins International Airport, Customs and Border Patrol, which has the ability to detain  
106 and deport immigrants, is now stationed less than 3 mile from campus.

107

108 **Whereas**, the presence of CBP less than three miles from campus increases the risk of  
109 deportation, detainment, and interactions for all undocumented/DACA and international  
110 students, faculty, and staff on campus.

111

112 **Whereas**, Cornell University is 251 Miles from the Canadian Border, which puts  
113 undocumented and international people at a higher risk of interaction with ICE than other  
114 Ivy League Universities.

115

116 **Whereas**, ICE documents show that, for years, law enforcement in hundreds of  
117 jurisdictions nationwide, including major sanctuary cities like Seattle, Washington, D.C. and  
118 Los Angeles, are still feeding information into regional databases that can be viewed by ICE.

119

120 **Whereas**, although Ithaca has declared itself as a Sanctuary City, the ongoing threat of  
121 deportation and detainment persists in Ithaca, NY, as demonstrated when 1) an on-duty TC  
122 Sheriff's Deputy illegally called ICE to report a Mexican man seeking medical attention in  
123 2019, 2) multiple ICE arrests in 1 month produced huge fear in the immigrant community in  
124 2018.

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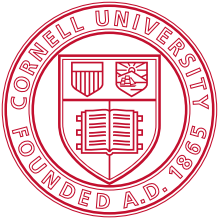
126 **Whereas**, New York ranks fourth in the nation with 12,271 deportations as of 2020.

127

128 **Whereas**, the increased presence of CBP and sustained risk of ICE interactions has  
129 contributed to increased levels of fear, anxiety, and worsening mental health amongst  
130 undocumented and international populations at Cornell University.

131

132 **Whereas**, President Martha Pollack has expressed support for DACA and undocumented  
133 students:



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134 “Cornell, since its founding, has been committed to diversity and inclusion, and DACA  
135 students are an integral part of our community. They were brought to this country before  
136 they had a choice in the matter, have grown up here, and are succeeding here despite  
137 significant challenges and obstacles. I believe they deserve a chance to fulfill their dreams  
138 (2017).”<sup>5</sup>

139

140 **Whereas**, the Cornell University Chapter of the American Association of University  
141 Professors has expressed support for efforts to establish a sanctuary campus.

142

143 **Be it therefore resolved**, available data and supporting evidence show that college  
144 campuses must do more to support undocumented and international students’ health,  
145 safety, and wellbeing on campus.

146

147 **Be it therefore resolved**, in order to live up to its motto of “Any Person, Any Study,”  
148 Cornell must ensure that undocumented students, faculty, and staff feel safe from  
149 detention and deportation.

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151 **Be it finally resolved**, Cornell University must commit to fostering a safe and nourishing  
152 environment for undocumented students by establishing a Sanctuary Campus, including but  
153 not limited to:

154

- 154 • Barring ICE officers from campus unless they possess a valid judicial warrant.
- 155 • Instructing campus police not to cooperate with ICE or CBP against members of the  
156 campus community when an official judicial warrant is unavailable;
- 157 • Refusing to share information about faculty or students’ immigration status with ICE  
158 absent a court order, given FERPA rights; and
- 159 • Implementing a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on student or faculty immigration status
- 160 • Facilitating “undocu-ally” workshops to educate students, faculty, and staff
- 161 • Providing confidential legal support to students with immigration law, questions,  
162 and issues
- 163 • Establishing an Undocumented Resource Center at Cornell University, overseen by  
164 the Associate Director for Student Empowerment and Undocumented/DACA  
165 Student Support.

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167 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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169 **Allison Arteaga ‘21**

170 *DREAM Team*

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172 **Melissa Yanez ‘21**

173 *DREAM Team*

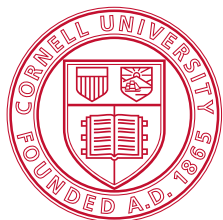
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175 **Marco Salgado ‘22,**

176 *DREAM Team*

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178



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- 179 **Ailen Salazar '21,**  
180 *DREAM Team*  
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182 **Stella Linardi '22**  
183 *DREAM Team*  
184  
185 **Tomás Reuning '21**  
186 *LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*  
187  
188 **Valeria Valencia '23**  
189 *Minority Student Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*  
190  
191 **Lucy Contreras '21**  
192 *First-Generation Student Representative At-Large*  
193  
194 **Cornell DREAM Team**  
195  
196 **Cornell Anti-Detention Alliance**  
197  
198 **Cornell Abolitionist and Revolutionary Society**  
199  
200 **La Asociación Latina**  
201  
202 **International Student Union**  
203  
204 **Native American and Indigenous Students at Cornell**  
205  
206 **Cornell American Civil Liberties Union**  
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208 **Arab Student Association at Cornell**  
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210 **Contigo Peru**  
211  
212 **Cornell Roosevelt Institute**  
213  
214 **First Generation Student Union**  
215  
216 **CUSLAR: Committee on U.S.-Latin American Relations**  
217  
218 **South Asian Council**  
219  
220 **Do Better Cornell**  
221  
222 *(Reviewed by: Diversity & Inclusion Committee, 3/24/2021)*