

U.A. Resolution #19

Calling on Cornell to Establish Itself as a Sanctuary Campus

[3/30/21]

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5	ABSTRACT: This resolution is calling on Cornell to establish itself as a sanctuary campus for
6	undocumented students, faculty, and staff.
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8	Whereas, the term "sanctuary campus," inspired by the sanctuary city movement, refers to any
9	college or university that implements policies to protect students, faculty, and staff who are
10	undocumented immigrants, and;
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12	Whereas, the following are some of the policies that have been proposed or implemented by
13	self-described sanctuary campuses or other immigrant-friendly campuses:
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15	 Barring ICE officers from campus unless they possess a valid judicial warrant.
16	• Instructing campus police not to cooperate with ICE or CBP against members of the
17	campus community when an official judicial warrant is unavailable;
18	• Refusing to share information about faculty or students' immigration status with ICE
19	absent a court order, given FERPA rights; and
20	• Implementing a policy of confidentiality on student or faculty immigration status
21	• Facilitating "undocu-ally" workshops to educate students, faculty, and staff
22	• Providing confidential legal support to students with immigration law questions and
23	issues, and;
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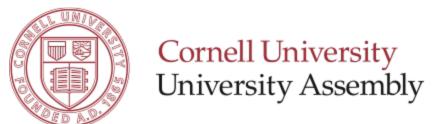


25	Whereas, The American Association of University Professors has endorsed the sanctuary
26	campus movement, and;
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28	Whereas, the actions of sanctuary campuses do not conflict with their legal obligations. For
29	example, it is not a federal offense to refuse admission to ICE officers without a warrant, and;
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31	Whereas, other universities and colleges have established themselves as sanctuary campuses,
32	including but not limited to: University of Pennsylvania, Portland State University, Reed
33	College, Wesleyan University, Pitzer College, Santa Fe Community College, Swarthmore
34	College, Drake University, Connecticut College, and;
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36	Whereas, There have been multiple protests at various campuses:
37	• <u>Connecticut College</u>
38	• <u>Dartmouth College</u>
39	• <u>Drexel University</u>
40	Florida State University
41	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
42	<u>Middlebury College</u>
43	• <u>Mills College</u>
44	New Mexico State University
45	• The New School
46	• Northeastern University
47	Ohio University
48	Portland Community College
49	• <u>Rutgers University</u>
50	• St. Mary's College
51	• <u>Stanford University</u>
52	Stockton University



53	<u>Texas State University</u>
54	• Texas Woman's University
55	• <u>Trinity College</u>
56	• <u>Tufts University</u>
57	• <u>University of Denver</u>
58	<u>University of Illinois</u> campuses
59	<u>University of Michigan</u>
60	<u>University of Mississippi</u>
61	<u>University of New Mexico</u>
62	• <u>University of North Texas</u>
63	<u>University of Pennsylvania</u>
64	University of San Diego
65	<u>Vanderbilt University</u>
66	Wesleyan University
67	Western New Mexico University
68	• <u>Yale University</u> , and;
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70	Whereas, this issue was brought up in 2016 with a faculty coalition group of approximately 100
71	faculty members petitioning for Cornell to establish itself as a sanctuary campus. The petition
72	gathered over 2,000 signatures but was not ratified by then sitting university president Hunter
73	Rawlings, and;
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75	Whereas, there have been "ICE Scares" in the past following reported sightings of ICE officers
76	causing unnecessary stress and fear in the community, and;
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78	Whereas, CUPD has disclosed that they have no formal protocol in the event that a student or

member of the Cornell community is detained or deported by ICE, and;



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81 Whereas, CUPD relies on an *informal* and *undisclosed* system of communication regarding 82 crisis situations involving ICE or CBP, and; 83 84 Whereas, former Cornell University Administration has referred to members of the 85 undocumented community on campus as "charity cases," and a former Dean of Students had asked undocumented student organizers, "What more do you want?" fostering a toxic school 86 87 environment, and; 88 89 Whereas, students have threatened to call ICE on their undocumented peers, and; 90 91 Whereas, undocumented students at Cornell have been recorded disclosing their status by fellow 92 students with the intent of exposing the undocumented students to the media and the public, 93 which increases the risk of being exposed, detained, and/or deported by ICE, and; 94 95 Whereas, only in 2016, did Cornell finally allow DACA students to be considered for financial 96 aid as domestic students, as opposed to international students; and only recently, in 2020, did 97 Cornell finally allow undocumented students to benefit from the domestic financial aid funding 98 pool instead of the international pool, and; 99 100 Whereas, due to the expansion of the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport into the Ithaca 101 Tompkins International Airport, Customs and Border Patrol, which has the ability to detain and 102 deport immigrants, is now stationed less than 3 mile from campus, and; 103 104 Whereas, the presence of CBP less than three miles from campus increases the risk of 105 deportation, detainment, and interactions for all undocumented/DACA and international 106 students, faculty, and staff on campus, and;



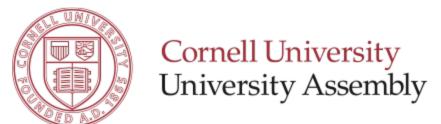
108 Whereas, Cornell University is 251 Miles from the Canadian Border, which puts undocumented 109 and international people at a higher risk of interaction with ICE than other Ivy League 110 Universities, and; 111 112 Whereas, ICE documents show that, for years, law enforcement in hundreds of jurisdictions 113 nationwide, including major sanctuary cities like Seattle, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, are 114 still feeding information into regional databases that can be viewed by ICE, and; 115 116 Whereas, although Ithaca has declared itself as a Sanctuary City, the ongoing threat of 117 deportation and detainment persists in Ithaca, NY, as demonstrated when 1) an on-duty TC 118 Sheriff's Deputy illegally called ICE to report a Mexican man seeking medical attention in 2019, 119 2) multiple ICE arrests in 1 month produced huge fear in the immigrant community in 2018, and; 120 121 Whereas, New York ranks fourth in the nation with 12,271 deportations as of 2020, and; 122 123 Whereas, the increased presence of CBP and sustained risk of ICE interactions has contributed 124 to increased levels of fear, anxiety, and worsening mental health amongst undocumented and 125 international populations at Cornell University, and; 126 127 Whereas, President Martha Pollack has expressed support for DACA and undocumented 128 students: 129 "Cornell, since its founding, has been committed to diversity and inclusion, and DACA students 130 are an integral part of our community. They were brought to this country before they had a 131 choice in the matter, have grown up here, and are succeeding here despite significant challenges 132 and obstacles. I believe they deserve a chance to fulfill their dreams (2017)," and; 133 134 Whereas, the Cornell University Chapter of the American Association of University 135 Professors has expressed support for efforts to establish a sanctuary campus, and;

136 137 Whereas, the following on campus organizations cosponsored this resolution at the Student 138 Assembly: 139 1. Cornell DREAM Team 140 2. Cornell Anti-Detention Alliance 141 3. Cornell Abolitionist and Revolutionary Society 142 4. La Asociación Latina 143 5. International Student Union 144 6. Native American and Indigenous Students at Cornell 145 7. Cornell American Civil Liberties Union 8. Arab Student Association at Cornell 146 147 9. Contigo Peru 148 10. Cornell Roosevelt Institute 149 11. First Generation Student Union 150 12. CUSLAR: Committee on U.S.-Latin American Relations 151 13. South Asian Council 152 14. Do Better Cornell, and; 153 154 Whereas, a similar resolution was passed by the Student Assembly on Thursday, March 25th, 155 2021, and; 156 157 Whereas, available data and supporting evidence show that college campuses must do more to 158 support undocumented and international students' health, safety, and wellbeing on campus. 159 160 Be it therefore resolved, in order to live up to its motto of "Any Person, Any Study," Cornell 161 must ensure that undocumented students, faculty, and staff feel safe from detainment and

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deportation, and;



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- Be it finally resolved, Cornell University must commit to fostering a safe and nourishing environment for undocumented students by establishing a Sanctuary Campus, including but not limited to:
 - 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 policy of confidentiality 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
 - Establishing an Undocumented Resource Center at Cornell University, overseen by the Associate Director for Student Empowerment and Undocumented/DACA Student Support.