



714 4th St. SW ♦ Albuquerque, NM 87102 ♦ (505) 246-1627

Saturday, January 14, 2017

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rachel LaZar [\(505\) 217-5189](tel:5052175189); rlazar_elcentro@yahoo.com

ABQ Immigrant Community "Here to Stay" on Immigrant Day of Action

Immigrant community and allies denounce Trump's hate agenda

Albuquerque, NM--In addition to sending a delegation to Washington DC for a large mobilization on the National Day of Action for Immigrant Justice, dozens of members from EL CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos, a local immigrant's rights and workers justice organization, joined the MLK march* in Albuquerque. Members united with the march to honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, in solidarity with communities of colors, and to send the message that immigrant communities are here to stay.

Today, immigrants, women, people of color, LGBTQ communities, Muslims and allies united across the nation to send a message that there will be an unprecedented opposition to hatred and racism in the coming four years. Since the election, Trump has nominated some of the most extremist anti-immigrant individuals to run his administration and control his deportation and enforcement programs. He has continued to vilify and criminalize immigrants, refugees and Muslims. All indications are that he is laying the groundwork for turning his campaign threats into reality.

Ramon Dorado, member of EL CENTRO urged people to join forces, "It is vital to march and show that we are not afraid. We need to create alliances with other communities of color and low-wage workers to fight together. We are stronger together."

Rachel LaZar, EL CENTRO's Executive Director, reaffirmed EL CENTRO's commitment to fight back against senseless deportations, civil rights violations, and the exploitation of workers during the Trump administration. She continued, "we will use every tool at our disposal to fight back. We will organize to pass and strengthen local immigrant friendly policies, use strategic litigation, and ramp up our organizing efforts to fight back against Trump's deportation machine and agenda of hate."

Fabiola Bawden, a civil rights organizer with EL CENTRO, was part of the New Mexico delegation that joined the mobilization in Washington DC. "We are proud New Mexico parents, workers, students, and community members. We have a history of resistance in our state against those politicians that try to use an anti-immigrant agenda for political gain. We have a legacy of passing policies that are conducive to integrating immigrants into the mainstream. The November election showed that this state rejects Trump's agenda of hate and we are not going to let him change that in the next four

years. Both in DC and in Albuquerque, we are sending a strong message that we are here to stay."

XXX

*The MLK march was organized by the New Mexico State Martin Luther King Jr. Commission

**El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos is a grassroots, immigrants' rights and workers' justice organization based in Albuquerque, NM that works with Latino immigrant communities and allies to defend, strengthen, and advance the rights of our community.*