

NEW ORLEANS WORKERS' CENTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

MEDIA ADVISORY

Children's March for Human Rights Will Press Mayor to Protect Immigrant Families

WHAT: Children's March for Human Rights

WHO: Immigrants and family members fighting deportation, community leaders from the [New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice](#) (NOWCRJ) and BreakOUT!

WHEN and WHERE: Friday, October 24, 2014

* 11 a.m. gathering at Congo Square (700 N. Rampart St.) for march

* 12:15 p.m. rally and press conference at City Hall (1300 Perdido St.)

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On Friday, October 24, 2014, the children of immigrant reconstruction workers in New Orleans will march to demand an end to human and civil rights violations by New Orleans police, including their collusion with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in unconstitutional, race-based community raids. The marchers will rally at City Hall at 12:15pm, where they will call on Mayor Mitch Landrieu to end the police abuse.

The children of immigrant construction workers are marching because the climate of terror ICE and New Orleans police have created have left hundreds of immigrant families unable to exercise their most basic ability to access food, education, and participation in civic life.

15 year-old Braylan Medina said, "When my mom is scared to take me to school, when my dad is scared to go the grocery store to buy food, when we can't take a family trip to the park without fear, my human rights are violated. That's why I'm marching on Friday, and that's why I'm asking Mayor Landrieu to tell the police to not work with immigration."

The race-based community raids by NOPD and ICE, [first exposed by NOWCRJ in late 2013](#), have led to a citywide human and civil rights crisis. The raids continue in spite of the [Congressional investigation](#) and [front-page coverage in the New York Times](#) that followed NOWCRJ's exposé.

The march comes amongst growing pressure on NOPD and Mayor Landrieu for other police abuses such as the profiling of young transgender women of color and other LGBTQ youth in New Orleans. BreakOUT! member Keira Dixon. said, "We can't even walk down the street in certain parts of town without the police questioning and harassing us. Our ability to move freely throughout the city is restricted." BreakOUT! will also be releasing their report, "We Deserve Better," at the press conference, which is the result of over one year of research by youth members about discriminatory policing practices of LGBTQ youth in New Orleans.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has the power to help end the crisis by ordering the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) to issue a bias-free policing policy that protects the human

and civil rights of all community members regardless of immigration status, and includes the following directives:

- NOPD shall not use police resources on enforcing immigration law and facilitating the deportations of immigrant members of our community;
- NOPD shall not submit to ICE requests for assistance unless required by criminal warrant or court order from a federal judge; and
- Unless otherwise required by law, or by court order, no NOPD officer shall spend their time and resources inquiring into the immigration status of any person, engaging in activities designed to ascertain the immigration status of any person, or in reporting immigration status information to ICE to facilitate their deportation.

In a recent poll by the New Orleans Times-Picayune, [64 percent of respondents](#) said that NOPD should have no role in policing immigration, as it is “a waste of resources” that should be left to the federal government.

The march coincides with the U.S. Human Rights Network regional meeting and human rights tribunal held in New Orleans on October 24-25th.

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