



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Isaac De Luna | [idelunanavarro@gmail.com](mailto:idelunanavarro@gmail.com) | 5059175501**

**\*\*\* Photos and video of the gathering can be found [here](#) and [here](#).**

## **Immigrant Youth, Families, & Allies Gather to Protect Themselves During the Trump Administration**

*Gatherings Are First Step to Creating Sanctuary and Deportation Defense Plans In Local Cities to  
Protect All Immigrants from Deportation and Save DACA*

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** - Today, immigrant youth, families and community members and allies hosted a “community gathering” at **First Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque, NM**, to organize with the immigrant community to create sanctuary spaces and deportation defense teams ahead of a Trump administration.

For more than a year, Donald Trump has vowed to kill the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) which has protected nearly 800,000 young people from deportation, provided them with the ability to work and which has improved the wellbeing of their entire families and communities. He has promised to create a Muslim registry, to force every undocumented person out of the country and has hired anti-immigrant extremists to develop his immigration strategy.

Over 100 attendees underwent a Know Your Rights presentation and brainstormed anticipated legal and survival needs. The community collectively healed, discussed and developed an inclusive approach to protect DACA and defend the Albuquerque community against unnecessary deportation and arrests.

**Felipe Rodriguez, Lead Coordinator for NM Dream Team said,** “We know that this is a moment of uncertainty, but we want to remind the community that — they are NOT alone! Immigrant young people like yourselves made DACA happen when everyone thought it was impossible. The reason we succeeded is because we dared to dream together and we had each other. We need you to join us out on the streets with our #HereToStay campaign to protect DACA!”

**Gabriela Hernandez, Lead LGBTQ Organizer for United We Dream & Member of the NM Dream team says,** “Our message to our families & community is that we are here for each other and will protect each other. Here in NM we have fought

against an anti-immigrant governor for the past 6 years. We have defended our drivers licenses for years and it was because of the community. During Trump's presidency our resilience and unity will not change!"

**Josue De Luna, Member of the NM Dream Team also expressed,** "We came together today to call on all communities to gather, heal, and build community and prepare to mobilize. Now more than ever we must continue protecting our victories such as DACA, which has been proven to be a successful program. We will continue building bridges between community organizations and the immigrant community in Albuquerque to continue pushing for a welcoming environment in our city for all immigrants and refugees. Our immigrant community is ready and is #HereToStay!"

NM Dream Team and United We Dream are calling on all members of our community to organize in their hometowns and learn how to protect each other from deportation. The easiest way to plug in is to **text HereToStay to 877877** and to report activity of ICE agents to **United We Dream's Deportation Defense Hotline to 844-363-1423**

Additional events hosted by immigrant youth and families are being scheduled in the upcoming months in Albuquerque and across the state.

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*[NM Dream Team](#) is a youth-lead group made up of undocumented students, families, and allies working in and alongside our community committed to informing, empowering and standing up with immigrants in our state.*

*[United We Dream](#) is the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the nation, a powerful nonpartisan network made up of 55 affiliate organizations in 26 states. UWD organizes and advocates for the dignity and fair treatment of immigrant youth and families, regardless of immigration status. We seek to address the inequities and obstacles faced by immigrant youth and believe that by empowering immigrant youth, we can advance the cause of the entire community—justice for all immigrants.*