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The Honorable Ronald B. Leighton

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA**

NWDC RESISTANCE, and COALITION OF ANTI-RACIST WHITES,

*Plaintiffs,*

IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, RONALD DONATO VITIELLO, in his official capacity as Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and KIRSTJEN NIELSEN, in her official capacity as Secretary of Homeland Security,

*Defendants.*

No. 3:18-cv-05860-RBL

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT  
FOR DECLARATORY AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

This lawsuit challenges the practice of Defendant Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) to systematically surveil, detain, and deport immigrant activists who speak out about immigration policies and practices. ICE cannot seriously dispute that such a practice exists. For example, ICE admits it targeted Maru Mora-Villalpando, a member of Plaintiff Northwest Detention Center Resistance (“NWDC Resistance”), because of her “anti-ICE protests.” Ravi Ragbir was arrested after protests at his ICE check-in meeting, which ICE characterized as an unwanted “display of wailing kids and wailing clergy.” Daniela Vargas was arrested as she left a press conference supporting the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

1 (“DACA”) program. And Baltazar Aburto Gutierrez was arrested because, as an ICE agent told  
2 him, he had spoken to the newspaper.

3 ICE’s actions have injured Plaintiffs NWDC Resistance and Coalition of Anti-Racist  
4 Whites (“CARW”). All these organizations have historically engaged in a significant amount of  
5 First Amendment-protected conduct. All have been forced to divert scarce resources to fighting  
6 ICE’s retaliation against activists, thereby frustrating their missions to draw attention to  
7 confront and challenge immigration detention conditions.

8 Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court vindicate their First Amendment rights by  
9 declaring ICE’s actions unconstitutional and enjoining its unlawful policy of retaliation.

10 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11 1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because  
12 Plaintiffs’ claims arise under the laws and Constitution of the United States, including the First  
13 Amendment.

14 2. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391. A substantial part of the  
15 events giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

16 3. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between the parties under 28 U.S.C.  
17 § 2201, and this Court has authority to grant declaratory and injunctive relief, *id.* §§ 1351,  
18 2201, 2202.

19 **PARTIES**

20 4. Plaintiff NWDC Resistance is a grassroots collective led by U.S. citizens and  
21 undocumented immigrants and located in Tacoma, Washington. It is an unincorporated  
22 association formed for the purposes of confronting human rights violations at the Northwest  
23 Detention Center and dedicated to ending the detention and deportation of immigrants.

24 5. Plaintiff Coalition of Antiracist Whites (“CARW”) is an organization of white  
25 people located in Seattle, Washington. CARW works to undo institutional racism and white  
26 privilege through education and organizing.

1 6. Defendant Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) is a component of  
2 Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”), an executive department of the United States. It is  
3 headquartered in Washington, DC.

4 7. Defendant Ronald Donato Vitiello is Acting Director of ICE, and is sued in his  
5 official capacity only.

6 8. Defendant Kirstjen Nielsen is Secretary of DHS, and is sued in her official  
7 capacity only.

8 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

9 9. Since January 2017, ICE has engaged in a pattern and practice of selectively  
10 enforcing immigration laws against outspoken immigrant rights activists who publicly criticize  
11 U.S. immigration law, policy, and enforcement.

12 10. ICE has investigated, surveilled, harassed, raided, arrested, detained, and  
13 deported those activists immediately following press appearances and news conferences. It has  
14 detained spokespeople and directors of immigration advocacy organizations. It has surveilled  
15 the organizations’ headquarters and targeted their members.

16 11. This sharp spike in immigration enforcement targeting the most vocal  
17 immigration activists is intended to stifle dissent. According to U.S. Representative Jerry  
18 Nadler: “These are well-known activists who’ve been here for decades, and [ICE is] saying to  
19 them: ‘Don’t raise your head.’” Similarly, U.S. Representative Luis Gutierrez has stated: “I  
20 have long suspected that very vocal advocates were harshly targeted after they spoke out.”

21 12. On January 26, 2018, thirty-one members of Congress sent a letter to ICE and  
22 DHS expressing concern about the agencies’ targeting of activists, which they explained “may  
23 create a broader chilling effect within the community, dissuading some immigrants from  
24 invoking their legal rights for fear that doing so will result in retaliation by ICE.”

25 13. On February 14, 2018, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
26 Human Rights issued a statement that Mora-Villalpando’s “notice to appear at deportation  
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1 proceedings, received without warning, seems to be related to her advocacy work on behalf of  
2 migrant detainees.”

3 14. On February 16, 2018, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
4 (“IACHR”) issued a statement expressing “deep concern” about allegations that the United  
5 States is targeting immigrant human rights defenders and community leaders for detention and  
6 deportation. The IACHR has identified Mora-Villalpando as one such activist.

7 15. On March 22, 2018, four members of Congress sent a letter to ICE expressing  
8 concern about retaliation against activists, stating that “the use of law enforcement resources to  
9 retaliate against critics and political opponents of the President is contrary to our most basic  
10 democratic norms.”

11 **I. Known Instances of Activists Targeted by ICE for Speaking Out**

12 **A. Daniela Vargas**

13 16. On March 1, 2017, in Jackson, Mississippi, ICE agents detained Daniela Vargas,  
14 a 22-year-old activist and DACA recipient, as she left a news conference where she had spoken  
15 alongside immigration advocacy groups. Vargas had witnessed ICE arrest her family the  
16 previous month and was not detained then because she told officers that she had DACA status.  
17 That status had expired, but Vargas was in the process of applying for renewal.

18 17. ICE agents arrested Vargas minutes after she spoke to reporters outside Jackson  
19 City Hall. A person who witnessed the arrest reported that ICE agents opened the car door  
20 saying: “You know who we are and you know why we’re here.” Although she had a pending  
21 DACA case, ICE agents explained that she was listed as a “visa overstay” and detained her.

22 **B. Migrant Justice**

23 18. ICE has targeted multiple members of Migrant Justice, a community-based non-  
24 profit organization of Vermont dairy farmworkers and their families. A majority of Vermont  
25 dairy workers are immigrants, and Migrant Justice has engaged in campaigns to defend the  
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1 rights of their members as workers and as immigrants. Migrant Justice has sought to hold  
2 immigration enforcement agencies, including ICE, accountable for rights violations.

3 19. On March 17, 2017, ICE arrested Jose Enrique Balcazar Sanchez and Zully  
4 Victoria Palacios Rodriguez shortly after they left a meeting at Migrant Justice's office.  
5 Balcazar Sanchez has been a visible Migrant Justice representative and publicly promoted  
6 policies to limit ICE's entanglement with local law enforcement, serving as one of Migrant  
7 Justice's primary spokespeople in its campaigns for driver's licenses and for a fair and  
8 impartial policing policy, and on a task force to advise the Vermont Attorney General on  
9 immigration issues. Palacios Rodriguez is a key Migrant Justice organizer and was arrested  
10 because she had overstayed her visa—a civil violation—by approximately eight months. She  
11 was held without bail, which is atypical treatment for an immigrant who has overstayed a visa.

12 **C. Baltazar "Rosas" Aburto Gutierrez**

13 20. In early December 2017, ICE agents detained Baltazar "Rosas" Aburto  
14 Gutierrez. The agents explicitly referenced the fact that Aburto Gutierrez had spoken to  
15 newspapers in November 2017, which Aburto Guterrez had done to speak out about the  
16 circumstances of his partner's arrest and deportation to Mexico. Although he made his  
17 comments anonymously in a *Seattle Times* article, a second article in the *Chinook Observer*  
18 reference his nickname, "Rosas," and both articles reported his partner's full name. When the  
19 ICE agent approached Aburto Gutierrez, he said: "You are Rosas" and "You are the one from  
20 the newspaper" and that "[m]y supervisor asked me to come find you because of what appeared  
21 in the newspaper."

22 **D. Ravi Ragbir**

23 21. Ravi Ragbir is the director of the immigrant advocacy group New Sanctuary  
24 Coalition in New York City, a collection of 150 faith-based organizations, and chair of the  
25 Board of Directors for Families for Freedom, a multi-ethnic human rights organization by and  
26 for families facing and fighting deportation. A nationally recognized activist, Ragbir advocates  
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1 for immigrant rights and against immigration enforcement and detention, and has trained other  
2 advocates, allies, community organizers, and elected officials on those issues.

3 22. On January 11, 2018, during a routine check-in, with scores of Ragbir's  
4 supporters rallying outside the federal building, ICE detained Ragbir with plans to deport him  
5 immediately based on a prior deportation order. An ICE agent had expressed anger at the press  
6 surrounding Ragbir's prior ICE check-in.

7 23. Ragbir's attorneys filed a motion for temporary restraining order in the U.S.  
8 District Court for the Southern District of New York to stay his impending deportation.  
9 Comparing the Trump administration's immigration policies to those of an authoritarian  
10 regime, U.S. District Judge Katherine B. Forrest said it was unconstitutional and cruel for  
11 authorities to "pluck him out of his life without a moment's notice." Her decision likened ICE's  
12 actions to "treatment we associate with regimes we revile as unjust."

13 **E. Jean Montrevil**

14 24. Jean Montrevil emigrated from Haiti with a green card in 1986, when he was 17  
15 years old. Federal authorities ordered him deported in the early 1990s because of a conviction  
16 for possession of cocaine. Notwithstanding his order of deportation, Montrevil was released  
17 and spent more than two decades living and working in the United States on an Order of  
18 Supervision. He started his own business, married a U.S. citizen, and had four U.S. citizen  
19 children.

20 25. With Ragbir, Montrevil co-founded the New Sanctuary Coalition. Like Ragbir,  
21 he became a public figure in this role, advocating for the rights of undocumented immigrants  
22 and organizing an accompaniment program for individuals facing frightening ICE check-ins.

23 26. On January 3, 2018, while appeals were still pending in his immigration case,  
24 ICE abruptly arrested Montrevil at his home and detained him. ICE deported him to Haiti less  
25 than two weeks later, where he remains today.

1           27.     On January 18, 2018, hundreds of protesters rallied in support of Montrevil,  
2 demanding his return to the United States.

3           **F.     Eliseo Jurado**

4           28.     Eliseo Jurado was born in Mexico and came to the United States as a teenager.  
5 His father is a U.S. citizen; his mother is a green card holder. He is married to Encalada  
6 Latorre, a Peruvian woman who has taken sanctuary in churches in Boulder, Colorado since  
7 December 2016. The couple has two U.S. citizen children. Latorre has been the subject of  
8 extensive news coverage since she moved into a local church to avoid deportation.

9           29.     On January 11, 2018, ICE detained Jurado after he left his home to run an  
10 errand. Although local ICE Field Office Director Jeffrey Lynch denied that Jurado's arrest was  
11 related to his wife's decision to take sanctuary, he confirmed in his statement that Jurado came  
12 to the agency's attention during an investigation into Latorre.

13           **G.     Amer Othman Adi**

14           30.     Amer Othman Adi, a 57-year-old businessman, husband and father, arrived in  
15 the United States at age 19. He was placed into removal proceedings decades ago, accused of  
16 entering a "sham" marriage to secure Lawful Permanent Resident ("LPR") status. Adi was told  
17 that he would be deported in 2016, but ICE granted a temporary stay.

18           31.     On January 16, 2018, ICE arrested and detained Adi. The stay remained in  
19 effect. To protest his deportation, he began a hunger strike. Ohio Democratic congressman Tim  
20 Ryan introduced a bill to grant Adi LPR, which would have allowed him to remain in the  
21 United States. The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security  
22 approved the bill, asking ICE to grant Adi a six-month stay of deportation. But ICE reversed its  
23 stay and rejected the congressional request. Adi was deported to Jordan on January 29, 2018.

1           **H.     Alejandra Pablos**

2           32.     Alejandra Pablos is a human rights activist who works as a field coordinator for  
3 the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health. In her work, she has highlighted  
4 “cimmigration,” the system in which immigrants are funneled into the immigrant detention  
5 system from the criminal justice system.

6           33.     In January 2018, she was arrested during a peaceful protest of immigration  
7 enforcement and detention outside a DHS office in Virginia.

8           34.     At her next ICE check-in, in March 2018, Pablos was abruptly detained and  
9 shipped to Eloy Detention Center, despite having a pending asylum case. She spent more than  
10 40 days in detention before an immigration judge ordered her released on bond.

11           **I.     Sergio Salazar**

12           35.     Sergio Salazar is a filmmaker and activist who came to the United States from  
13 Mexico when he was 2 years old. He is committed to fighting deportations, police violence, and  
14 corporate exploitation. He had status under the DACA program until its expiration on August 2,  
15 2018, at which time he had applied for renewal.

16           36.     In July 2018, the *San Antonio Express-News* quoted Salazar as saying that he  
17 and his group planned to remain in an encampment in front of an ICE processing facility until  
18 “ICE no longer operates in San Antonio.”

19           37.     On August 2, 2018, ICE arrested Salazar at that encampment. The ICE agents  
20 took him behind a Walmart and shackled him. The agents asked him to be an informant against  
21 fellow protesters and told him that if he did, it could help his immigration case. They also told  
22 him that his recent DACA renewal application had been denied because he was a “bad person.”

23           **J.     Emilio Gutierrez-Soto**

24           38.     Emilio Gutierrez-Soto is a journalist who arrived in the United States in 2008 to  
25 request asylum, having fled his home in Mexico due to threats he had received for reporting on  
26 corrupt government officials. His asylum proceedings are pending.



1           39.     In October 2017, at the National Press Club, he accepted the Aubuchon Freedom  
2 of the Press award on behalf of journalists in Mexico, one of the most dangerous countries in  
3 the world for journalists. In his speech, he rebuked ICE and the Trump administration for their  
4 immigration policies and stated that the Administration “barter[s] away the international laws.”

5           40.     On December 7, 2017, ICE took Gutierrez-Soto into custody.

6           41.     His attorneys filed for a writ of habeas corpus, alleging among other things, that  
7 Gutierrez-Soto was targeted for detention due to his exercise of his First Amendment rights.

8           42.     On July 10, 2018, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas  
9 found that he had “offered enough evidence to create a genuine issue of material fact regarding  
10 whether [ICE] violated [his] First Amendment rights” by offering evidence that ICE officials  
11 targeted him because they did not approve of the negative press that he was generating.

12          43.     On July 27, 2018, ICE released Gutierrez-Soto from detention.

13           **K.     Maru Mora-Villalpando**

14          44.     Mora-Villalpando is a community organizer, trainer, and the founder of Latino  
15 Advocacy, an immigrant rights group. She is also an active leader and member of NWDC  
16 Resistance, which she and other undocumented immigrants founded to support hunger strikers  
17 at NWDC. She has more than 15 years of experience working on issues of immigration, racial,  
18 and reproductive justice. Her work focuses on highlighting and ending injustices committed by  
19 local and federal authorities against immigrants and immigrant detainees.

20          45.     Over the past decade, Mora-Villalpando has organized multiple local and  
21 statewide campaigns and protests in support of immigrants and immigrant detainees and against  
22 ICE and other federal and local authorities. For example, in 2006, she organized a campaign in  
23 Snohomish County to ensure immigrants in local hospitals are provided adequate language  
24 interpretation. In 2007, she organized the Latino community in Lynwood to oppose the practice  
25 of the Lynwood police hosting ICE agents in their police station. In 2011, she led an effort to  
26 defeat four anti-immigrant bills in the 2011 Washington legislative session.

1           46.     Mora-Villalpando is regularly invited to speak in local, state and international  
2 forums as an expert on immigration detention and deportations in Washington and beyond. For  
3 example, in 2014, she served on the Blue-Ribbon Commission convened by the National Day  
4 Laborer’s Organizing Network, a commission tasked with putting together recommendations  
5 for then-President Obama on immigration-related executive actions. In October 2016, she  
6 attended a meeting in San Diego with the United Nations Working Group Against Arbitrary  
7 Detention, where she presented a talk about the current conditions in NWDC. In March 2017,  
8 she testified before the IACHR about the conditions faced inside NWDC. In 2017, she  
9 organized and carried out several “resistance workshops” across Washington to educate the  
10 immigrant community about ICE’s and DHS’s February 2017 memos on enforcement  
11 implementation, namely Executive Order 13768 (“Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of  
12 the United States,” published January 30, 2017), and then-DHS Secretary John Kelly’s  
13 implementing memorandum (“Enforcement of the Immigration Laws to Serve the National  
14 Interest,” signed February 20, 2017),

15           47.     Mora-Villalpando is also regularly featured and invited to comment on state and  
16 local news items on immigration detention, deportation and enforcement. She has also written  
17 news articles highlighting her work as an undocumented activist.

18           48.     In 2014, it became clear that ICE was tracking Mora-Villalpando. On August 4,  
19 2014, she received a notification from LinkedIn, a profession-oriented social networking  
20 service, that Bryan Wilcox, then deputy field office director at ICE Seattle, had viewed her  
21 profile. On November 3, 2014, Mora-Villalpando received another notification that the  
22 “Policy/Program Administrator at US Immigration and Customs Enforcement” had viewed her  
23 LinkedIn profile.

24           49.     On December 20, 2017, Mora-Villalpando received a Notice to Appear at her  
25 home address.

1           50.     On January 26, 2018, Mora-Villalpando received from Senator Maria  
2 Cantwell’s office a copy of her I-213, a document that ICE uses to record its evidence against a  
3 person against whom it is initiating removal proceedings. Dated December 7, 2017, the I-213  
4 notes Mora-Villalpando’s “extensive involvement with anti-ICE protests and Latino advocacy  
5 programs” and that she “has become a public figure.” The I-213 contains only one piece of  
6 evidence: a media interview that she gave to “Whatcom News.”

7           51.     On February 13, 2018, Mora-Villalpando discovered that the Washington State  
8 Department of Licensing (“WA-DOL”) provided her address to ICE upon ICE’s request. On  
9 February 14, 2018, WA-DOL sent her a copy of their e-mail to ICE, which was addressed to  
10 the same ICE officer who signed her I-213, Timothy Black.

11           52.     Mora-Villalpando has dedicated her life to the fight for immigrant justice,  
12 demanding an end to detention and deportation. None of the usual triggers for deportation—  
13 such as contact with the police, raids, or prior deportations—apply in her case. ICE only knows  
14 about her because of her political work.

15           **II.     ICE’s Retaliation In Violation of First Amendment Has Required Allies to Divert**  
16           **Scarce Resources and Has Frustrated Their Missions**

17           **A.     NWDC Resistance**

18           53.     In the spring of 2014, a group of undocumented activists founded NWDC  
19 Resistance after immigrant detainees in NWDC, an ICE detention facility, initiated a hunger  
20 strike to protest their detention and inhumane conditions at the facility.

21           54.     Today, NWDC Resistance is aimed at dismantling an immigration system that  
22 profits from the separation of families and exploitation of undocumented communities. The  
23 organization fulfills its mission by supporting hunger strikes, organizing communities, working  
24 with families, accompanying immigrants to court and ICE check-ins, running campaigns  
25 related to stopping deportations, protesting ICE, engaging the media, and making the public  
26 aware of ICE’s practices.

1           55.     NWDC, a private for-profit facility owned and operated by the GEO Group, is  
2 one of the largest detention centers in the country, with a capacity to hold up to 1,575  
3 immigrants. People arrive at NWDC following transfer from local law enforcement custody,  
4 immigration raids, or transfer from the nation’s borders. Up to 200 people, mostly women,  
5 many seeking asylum, are transferred from the U.S.-Mexico border to NWDC each month.

6           56.     NWDC Resistance’s members include documented and undocumented  
7 immigrants, some of whom are detained at NWDC, others of whom are family members of  
8 detainees, and all of whom are concerned about immigration enforcement, detentions, and  
9 deportations because they or their family are at risk of deportation.

10          57.     Between 2014 and 2018, NWDC Resistance supported or helped organize  
11 thirteen hunger strikes in the NWDC and two hunger strikes in a protest encampment outside  
12 the facility. They supported the hunger strikers by sharing their stories with the public, through  
13 actions and media work, and by putting money in their commissary accounts so that they could  
14 make phone calls to share their stories with the outside world

15          58.     Between 2014 and present, NWDC Resistance instituted regular solidarity days  
16 outside NWDC aimed at shedding light on all parties implicated in the abuses against  
17 immigrant detainees, and at giving non-immigrant communities, including the Coalition of  
18 Anti-Racist Whites (“CARW”), the opportunity to participate and join efforts to end  
19 deportations and detentions. These events, frequent in 2017, became less frequent as NWDC  
20 Resistance concentrated its efforts on fighting Mora-Villalpando’s deportation in 2018.

21          59.     As part of these events, NWDC Resistance has spoken with family members  
22 visiting loved ones inside the detention facility to learn about conditions, and to bring those  
23 individuals, many of whom are undocumented immigrants, into advocacy work. These  
24 solidarity days also make a public show of support for detainees, and they often attract media  
25 attention.

1           60.     NWDC Resistance has helped maintain resistance efforts inside NWDC by  
2 reporting on abuses. Examples include NWDC denying a detainee with a cancerous tumor  
3 access to surgery, holding a detainee in solitary confinement for over a year, denying the  
4 release of over sixty Cuban asylees even though most had received determinations that they had  
5 a credible fear of persecution in Cuba, and refusing to fix broken air conditioning in a pod for  
6 weeks.

7           61.     Since late 2017, ICE’s targeting of immigrant rights activists such as Mora-  
8 Villalpando has significantly reduced NWDC’s capacity to fulfill its mission. NWDC has had  
9 to shift its focus to helping defend Mora-Villalpando. For example, NWDC Resistance has  
10 organized a legal defense committee, which has recruited and worked with lawyers to  
11 coordinate political actions that operate alongside legal court dates and legal filings; diverted  
12 donations to the removal defense; helped Mora-Villalpando prepare for deportation  
13 professionally and personally; organized rallies to support Mora-Villalpando; and coordinated a  
14 press strategy to publicize how she is fighting her removal case.

15           62.     The organization’s members have reduced their participation in activities and  
16 meetings because they fear retaliation from ICE. In particular, two undocumented leaders in the  
17 organization, who have attended dozens of gatherings combined and spoken to the news media,  
18 no longer attend any gatherings or ever speak to the media.

19           63.     In the fall of 2017, NWDC Resistance organized a retreat in which they had  
20 planned a “Road to Detention” campaign where they intended to march in protest of NWDC  
21 and ICE between Tacoma and the northern border. The entire NWDC Resistance team planned  
22 to work on this event, which would have involved walking from Blaine to Tacoma and taken  
23 hundreds of hours of work. NWDC Resistance had to drop this plan entirely because Mora-  
24 Villalpando was placed in removal proceedings, causing the organization to divert its resources  
25 to confronting that challenge.

1           64.     NWDC has also received less information from detainees inside NWDC as  
2 consequence of ICE's activities. NWDC Resistance gains information from detainees, which  
3 they use to promote media stories and public campaigns, through telephone calls, funded by  
4 donations to commissary accounts by NWDC Resistance. Activities to support targeted  
5 activists have displaced trips to NWDC to meet with detainees to learn about their experiences  
6 inside the detention center. NWDC Resistance members, including Mora-Villalpando, have  
7 been less able to deposit funds into commissary accounts and at times been unable to answer  
8 the phone since they have been organizing in relation to Mora-Villalpando's removal  
9 proceedings. As a result, they get less information about conditions inside the facility and are  
10 less able to transmit these messages to a public audience.

11           65.     For example, NWDC Resistance members answered fewer phone calls from  
12 detainees during the February 2018 hunger strike because they were focused on Mora-  
13 Villalpando's case. They were unable to follow up with some hunger strikers who were  
14 reportedly beaten by guards, with the exception of one individual for whom they found counsel.  
15 NWDC Resistance missed an opportunity to educate the public and pressure GEO with these  
16 additional stories. Mora-Villalpando plays a key role in providing this support to hunger  
17 strikers because detainees trust and engage with activists who are undocumented themselves.

18           66.     Since Mora-Villalpando was placed in removal proceedings, some members of  
19 NWDC Resistances have stopped attending regular meetings or actions. Even during protests  
20 and actions in which undocumented members do attend, they do not engage in certain frontline  
21 activities. In June 2018, NWDC Resistance organized an action blocking traffic in front of the  
22 Seattle ICE office to highlight the collaboration between ICE and the Seattle Police  
23 Department. While nine NWDC Resistance members took part in the action blocking traffic,  
24 Mora-Villalpando and at least two other undocumented members remained on the sidewalk  
25 because they feared ICE retaliation.

1           67.     NWDC Resistance has also not been able to effectively connect detainees in  
2     NWDC with media outlets since ICE’s retaliation began. In the past, current and former  
3     detainees would regularly speak with the media using their names and telling their stories. In  
4     2018, detainees at NWDC and individuals who have been released from detention have been  
5     less likely to respond to NWDC Resistance’s requests to respond to media inquiries. When  
6     individuals do respond to NWDC Resistance’s media requests, they only agree if they can  
7     speak anonymously, such as by using only initials and having their voice altered or face  
8     blurred. NWDC Resistance no longer responds to media requests where reporters are asking to  
9     speak with current or former detainees because NWDC Resistance knows that they can no  
10    longer recruit those people to serve as spokespeople due to their fear.

11           68.     NWDC Resistance’s members face the threat of targeted surveillance and  
12    deportation proceedings for engaging in constitutionally protected speech, as demonstrated by  
13    ICE’s targeting of Mora-Villalpando and other advocates. NWDC Resistance’s mission  
14    depends on undocumented persons speaking out, and ICE’s practice of targeting such persons  
15    therefore compromises NWDC Resistance’s mission.

16           **B.     Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites**

17           69.     CARW’s mission is to undo institutional racism and white privilege through  
18    education and organizing in white communities and active support of anti-racist, people of  
19    color-led organizations.

20           70.     CARW members believe that as recipients of white privilege, they have a  
21    special responsibility to work toward racial justice on an individual, collective, and institutional  
22    level by educating white communities and mobilizing them to support people of color-led  
23    organizing.

24           71.     CARW’s Migrant Justice Solidarity group works against the injustices of the  
25    immigration detention and deportation systems and for change that promotes the rights and  
26    dignity of all persons by following the leadership of undocumented immigrant activists.

1           72. To support the Washington movement against immigration enforcement and  
2 detention, CARW provides logistical support for immigrant-led events, and amplifies the  
3 voices of immigrant activists by mobilizing other white U.S. citizens to get involved in the  
4 fight. They ask undocumented activist leaders what those leaders need and do those things.  
5 CARW's agenda is expressly set by undocumented activist leaders.

6           73. For example, CARW members support logistics for immigrant-led events at  
7 monthly solidarity days at NWDC under the leadership of Mora-Villalpando, NWDC  
8 Resistance, and other undocumented immigrant activists. These events highlight the injustice of  
9 immigration detention. They bring public attention, including media coverage, to the abuses  
10 inside the detention facility and the brave resistance of hunger strikes among the detainees.  
11 These goals are set by undocumented activist leaders, such as Mora-Villalpando.

12           74. The solidarity days are important because, in addition to the public attention  
13 they draw to detention conditions, they also provide an entry point for families of detainees to  
14 join the organizing work and become new sources of undocumented leadership.

15           75. At the solidarity days, CARW members help speak with families who are  
16 visiting loved ones inside the facility. Through these conversations, they learn about the  
17 conditions inside the facility, including mistreatment and medical neglect. They also learn  
18 about detainee hunger strikes. The events attract media coverage and draw public attention to  
19 the conditions at NWDC.

20           76. CARW welcomes detainee families to join the organizing work by participating  
21 in future events, including media events, which are designed to make a public demonstration to  
22 NWDC and GEO that the public is watching their actions and holding them accountable. Some  
23 of these family members become new activist leaders for the movement.

24           77. CARW members also mobilize community members to support immigrants at  
25 their removal hearings or accompany them to their ICE check-in meetings so that those  
26  
27



1 immigrants feel secure and loved by the community in difficult and frightening circumstances,  
2 and again, so that ICE understands that the public is watching their actions.

3 78. Since Mora-Villalpando has been placed in removal proceedings in retaliation  
4 for her immigrant rights activities, CARW members have had to divert significant resources to  
5 supporting her case. They have provided logistics and support for three rallies on her behalf.

6 79. In June 2018, CARW was unable to host a solidarity day at NWDC because  
7 they were too busy organizing support and logistics for a rally on the day of Mora-  
8 Villalpando's removal proceedings in Seattle on June 26, 2018.

9 80. Dozens of families visit the detention center each weekend, so CARW lost the  
10 opportunity to speak to dozens of individuals that otherwise would have passed by their  
11 canopy, and they lost the opportunity to learn about those individuals' stories, elevate those  
12 stories in the public eye and in the media, and recruit these individuals to participate in  
13 advocacy.

14 81. When CARW missed the June 2018 solidarity day, it also was unable to fulfill  
15 its commitment to accompany an immigrant to his ICE check-in meeting that same day.

16 82. CARW relies on undocumented immigrant rights activists because CARW's  
17 entire mission is predicated on following the leadership of those activists. Without them,  
18 CARW would cease to exist because it is anathema to their mission for white people to make  
19 decisions about the direction of their activism. Those decisions are made by the undocumented  
20 activists. These undocumented activists have prioritized elevating the stories of detainees at  
21 NWDC by drawing public attention and media coverage and supporting immigrants by  
22 accompanying them to ICE check-ins and removal hearings, and to send a message to ICE that  
23 people are watching what the agency is doing.

24 83. For this reason, if an undocumented immigrant rights activist is targeted by ICE,  
25 CARW's mission is undermined, and they must drop their normal activities and support the  
26 targeted activist to protect her from deportation.

1 84. ICE's threat to undocumented activists frustrates its mission because it is a  
2 threat to CARW's very existence.

3 **Claim for Relief**

4 **First Cause of Action: Violation of the First Amendment**

5 85. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth in this  
6 Count.

7 86. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees Plaintiffs the  
8 rights to speak freely, to associate freely, and to receive information.

9 87. Plaintiffs exercise these rights when they speak about or organize against United  
10 States policies on immigration, immigrant detention, and deportation.

11 88. Defendants' have targeted members of NWDC Resistance who exercise their  
12 First Amendment right to speak about or organize against United States immigration policies.

13 89. These practices have silenced undocumented members of NWDC Resistance  
14 and resulted in decreased group membership.

15 90. These practices have also resulted in the resignation of two former NWDC  
16 Resistance leaders.

17 91. These practices have frustrated NWDC Resistance's goal of raising awareness  
18 about issues relating to United States immigration policies, including NWDC, by decreasing  
19 their media presence and undermining their core advocacy strategy.

20 92. This is a violation of NWDC Resistance's rights to speak, assemble, and  
21 associate.

22 93. Defendants' retaliatory practices have forced CARW to divert significant  
23 resources to the protection and defense of immigrant rights activists at the cost of fulfilling  
24 those organizations' stated missions to speak out on political issues.

25 **Second Cause of Action: Violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment**

1 94. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth in this  
2 Count.

3 95. Plaintiffs have a liberty interest under the Due Process Clause in speaking with,  
4 receiving information from, and associating with undocumented immigrants.

5 96. Defendants' retaliatory practices violate Plaintiffs' substantive due process  
6 rights because they further no legitimate purpose, much less a compelling government interest.

7 **Third Cause of Action: Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act**

8 97. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth in this  
9 Count.

10 98. This Court has jurisdiction to review the claim and provide relief to Plaintiffs  
11 pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-705.

12 99. ICE's pattern and practice of selectively enforcing immigration laws against  
13 outspoken immigrant rights activists is, on information and belief, the realization of a policy  
14 statement prioritizing immigration enforcement against vocal immigration activists with the  
15 intention of stifling dissent.

16 100. ICE's policy of selectively enforcing immigration laws against outspoken  
17 immigrant rights activists violates the First and Fifth Amendments to the United States  
18 Constitution.

19 101. ICE's policy of selectively enforcing immigration laws against outspoken  
20 immigrant rights activists violates established Executive Orders and agency policies, including  
21 but not limited to Executive Order 13768 ("Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the  
22 United States," published January 30, 2017), and the DHS Secretary implementing  
23 memorandum ("Enforcement of the Immigration Laws to Serve the National Interest," signed  
24 February 20, 2017), setting priorities for immigration enforcement, none of which permit using  
25 immigration enforcement to retaliate against immigrant rights activists for their protected  
26 political speech.  
27

1 102. It additionally violates Executive Order 13798 (“Promoting Free Speech and  
2 Religious Liberty,” signed May 4, 2017), which directs all federal agencies to “respect and  
3 protect the freedom of persons and organizations to engage in religious and political speech.”

4 103. ICE’s policy of selectively enforcing immigration laws against outspoken  
5 immigrant rights activists is arbitrary, capricious and otherwise not according to law, and  
6 contrary to the constitutional rights of Plaintiffs, in violation of 5 U.S.C. § 706.

7 **Fourth Cause of Action: Violation of Equal Protection Clause**

8 104. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth in this  
9 Count.

10 105. The Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment incorporates a guarantee of  
11 equal protection and prohibits unjustified discrimination by federal actors.

12 106. On information and belief, ICE’s policy of selectively enforcing immigration  
13 laws against outspoken immigrant rights activists disproportionately impacts Latinos.

14 107. This policy violates the rights of Plaintiffs, their members, and third parties  
15 under the Fifth Amendment because the policy is motivated by discriminatory animus against  
16 Latinos, as evidenced by the President’s many pre-presidential and post-presidential statements  
17 expressing such animus. *See Regents of the Univ. of California v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*,  
18 908 F.3d 476, 519 (9th Cir. 2018).

19 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

20 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that this Court enter judgment in their favor and:

- 21 a. Declare that ICE’s policy of retaliatory enforcement of the immigration law  
22 against activists based on their protected political speech about U.S.  
23 immigration law violates the First and Fifth Amendments;
- 24 b. Enter a permanent injunction restraining Defendants from selectively  
25 enforcing the immigration law against any individual—including, without  
26 limitation, through investigation, surveillance, detention, deportation, or any  
27

1 other adverse enforcement action—based on the individual’s protected  
2 political speech about U.S. immigration law and policy;

3 c. Award Plaintiffs costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees; and

4 d. Order such other relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

5 Respectfully submitted,

6 DATED this 20th day of December, 2018.

7  
8 Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

9  
10 By /s/ Ambika K. Doran

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16  
17 NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT OF THE  
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27 \* *pro hac vice* applications pending