

**National Lawyers Guild
SEATTLE CHAPTER**



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For Immediate Release

**Seattle National Lawyers Guild Calls on Universities to Protect Students from
Deportations**

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The Seattle Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (“Seattle NLG”) calls on Washington universities to protect our students, provide them with legal representation, and issue statements of noncompliance with Trump’s illegal persecution of international students.

Recently, the Trump regime announced the revocation of the visas of 14 international students at various institutions of higher education in Washington State. This was done without any warning or semblance of due process. Trump is making due on his xenophobic promises to deport immigrants around the country. This persecution has resulted in outright kidnappings on public streets in retaliation for free speech, with the danger of extra-judicial deportation to foreign torture centers in El Salvador. We ask our Washington schools to act like Tuft University, who is supporting their student Rumeysa Ozturk who was kidnapped from the streets in Massachusetts and transported to an ICE detention center in Louisiana, as opposed to Columbia University, who collaborated with ICE leading to the illegal arrest of Mahmoud Khalil.

The Seattle NLG calls on the University of Washington, Seattle University, and other colleges and universities in Washington State to immediately issue statements of support to our international students. Washington universities and colleges should commit to provide legal representation for all impacted students. They should also commit to not complying with Trump’s illegal requests for information about international students and faculty and those engaged in pro-Palestine protests on campuses. We ask our institutions of higher learning to stand by the principles of freedom of education and freedom of speech and to put that commitment into action to protect our students.

“This is a crucial moment for our institutions of higher education to stand up for democracy and object to fascism in this country. The Seattle Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild calls on these institutions to protect our students, not to succumb to bullying by Trump, and to make clear that students who engage in First Amendment activities and who stand against the ongoing US funded genocide in Gaza are not persecuted for their political beliefs under the guise of national security,” said Seattle NLG officer Rowan Laidlaw.

Seattle NLG is hosting three upcoming Know-Your-Rights trainings to provide people with information about their rights and best practices in police and immigration officer interactions. These trainings are free and open to the public. Dates and registration information are below.

- Monday, April 14, 2025: 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Register here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tVdKHL27TbqbE8US2Mdw6w>
- Wednesday, April 16, 2025: 12:00 – 1:30 pm. Register here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8H6tXpiJSVuZu-jCHhWgpQ>
- Tuesday, April 22, 2025: 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Register here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Q2qICwH3Q6uXcjgzwFiOQ>