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**NASW-NYC Denounces Xenophobia,
in Solidarity with Immigrants and calls the Profession to Action**

The NYC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers joins in solidarity with civil rights and immigration rights groups to support equitable legislation and oppose the current targeting of specific immigrant groups which denigrates the foundation and values of the United States of America. NYC is home to over three million immigrants. The Statue of Liberty in NY Harbor has been a shining symbol of freedom and justice for 130 years. Like the Statue of Liberty's torch, it is time for NYC to be a shining beacon to everyone who aspires to call America their home.

In unison with National NASW, NASW-NYC opposes all actions by the new Administration, which oppress and marginalize communities who have greatly contributed to our Nation's phenomenal growth and development. Throughout the campaign, and now continuing for the first months of his presidency, Donald Trump has asserted an agenda against certain immigrants whom he has described as criminals, rapists and terrorists; particularly Mexican immigrants and those from predominantly Muslim countries. From his appointments of Jeff Sessions as Attorney General, to John Kelly as Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security, to Steve Bannon as Chief White House Strategist and more, President Trump's Cabinet is filled with officials who threaten the American promise of opportunity and justice.

NASW-NYC denounces the first and second versions of the executive orders which have served as a Muslim ban against immigrants from Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Iraq (subsequently removed). NASW-NYC also opposes the effort to build a wall between the US and Mexico using taxpayer dollars. NASW-NYC opposes the expansion of deportations and expedited removals, the increase of detention centers, the hiring and expanded authority of more Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) staff, and the push for police officers to assist in these efforts. Additionally, NASW-NYC opposes the proposal to punish Sanctuary cities via the withdrawal of federal funding to city budgets and considers this counterproductive to the agenda of making cities safer. Furthermore, the criminalization of immigration enforcement is unethical and inhumane in its effects that divide families from their loved ones and force their deportation. We agree that the US has a right and a duty to secure our borders; however we call for sensible and equitable laws, policies and practices that actually address factual issues.

NASW-NYC joins in the call for legislation which would provide sanctuary statehood to New York State. The Chapter encourages and supports City Hall in keeping the promise to take a strong stance, now more than ever, to uphold a just standard of governance and representation.

NYC and NYS must send a message to the rest of the country and the world that we are a true Sanctuary.

To act in solidarity we must move beyond words and social media posts to action. Most importantly, social workers in the city, we ask that you join with us and take a clear stance against the historical and deep systemic oppression of racism and xenophobia. #Action!

Resources:

NYU School of Law Immigrant Rights Teach-In and Know Your Rights Presentations

<http://www.law.nyu.edu/immigrantrightsclinic/community-resources/videos>

Immigrant Defense Project

<https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/>

Immigration Equality

<http://www.immigrationequality.org/>