



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

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**Executive Director:**

Adrienne Pon  
Office of Civic Engagement  
& Immigrant Affairs

## Immigrant Rights Commission Statement on the 45<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration

For Release on January 20, 2017

Dear San Francisco,

Today is a day that may very well live in infamy. Today is the day that we as a country receive a new president of the United States, one who has often verbally attacked and belittled immigrants, people with disabilities, women, Muslims, people for whom English is not a first language, the press, POWs and service members, communities of color, respected leaders, and foreign nations. This is a president who disregards evidence, the will of the people and the rule of law.

With his congressional supporters and cabinet nominees, this president has threatened to deport millions of hardworking and law-abiding immigrants and families. He has threatened to cut civil liberties, health care to those who cannot afford it, and the rights of women and the LGBTQ community. He has threatened to eliminate San Francisco's federal funding because of our sanctuary policies and values of diversity, inclusiveness and justice for all.

But we will not be defeated and we are not alone. The San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission calls for all residents to stand for what is great about San Francisco and the nation—our sense of justice, our determination for greatness, our sense of right and wrong, and most important, our sense of acceptance and inclusion. San Francisco is and will always be a welcoming place and beacon for all persons, regardless of their circumstances or where they came from. We are the epitome of the American Dream and the American Spirit.

The new administration does not change who we are or what we stand for—it will make us strive harder to ensure greater equality for all people, for all communities, and for all of our residents. We must stand and work together. We are only as strong as the strength of the communities we serve. We are only as strong as the strength of diverse voices and the active participation of our people. We invite all San Francisco residents to be present and involved in our conversations, to share with us your fears, anxieties, and hopes. We ask you to invite us to your events, meetings and neighborhoods so that we may learn about your lives, struggles, and dreams.

The Immigrant Rights Commission meets the second Monday of each month at 5:30 pm in Hearing Room 416 at San Francisco City Hall. We invite members of the public to attend Commission meetings starting on Monday, March 13, 2017, to get involved, and to participate in our upcoming series of listening sessions throughout San Francisco.

While the road ahead may be difficult, we will be united. In our unity, we will find hope. And in our hope, we will be inspired to always do the right thing for ALL the people, not just some.

Respectfully,

Celine Kennelly, Chair

Haregu Gaime, Vice Chair

*The Immigrant Rights Commission is an appointed 15-member body that informs and advises the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and city officials on the wellbeing and integration of immigrants in San Francisco. Members of the Commission must be citizens of the United States. For more information, contact the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs at [civic.engagement@sfgov.org](mailto:civic.engagement@sfgov.org).*