

To the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and Sheriff Fryhoff:

In the spirit of unity and respect for the fundamental principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I implore you to consider the deeply intricate issue of illegal immigration through a lens of compassion, empathy, and justice. Our shared commitment to human rights requires us to address two pressing concerns, acknowledging the need for a fair and humane approach.

First, let us address the misconception that undocumented immigrants contribute to an increase in crime. It is essential to recognize that this claim lacks scientific substantiation¹ and should not be wielded as a tool to stoke fear and division within our communities. It is incumbent upon us, as responsible leaders, to uphold the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which asserts that every individual is entitled to the right to life, liberty, and security, without discrimination. Our duty is to ensure that no one becomes the target of unwarranted fear or prejudice, especially in pursuit of political agendas that disproportionately impact vulnerable communities, particularly those of color.

The time has come to melt the icy barriers that divide us, figuratively and literally. We must recognize that the very principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which we uphold, are incompatible with the undue suffering and fear endured by immigrant mothers who are ensnared in abusive environments due to their undocumented status. The abuse they endure not only affects their lives but also extends to their children, thus infringing upon their right to be free from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as declared by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In conclusion, I appeal to you to act with compassion and empathy in addressing these complex issues surrounding illegal immigration. Let us stand in unity with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and work toward a future where the rights and dignity of all individuals are upheld, regardless of their immigration status. Together, we can create a more just and humane society for everyone. It is indeed time to melt the ICE out of Ventura County and usher in a new era of compassion, understanding, and respect for the rights and well-being of all. In conclusion, let us not forget the importance of *transparency*, which is the basis of the Truth Act Forum.

¹Farah, "Does Immigration Really Increase Crime? Here's What the Science Says," May 29, 2023.

Sincerely,

Patrissha Booker