

RPA Public Statement

On U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), State Violence, and the Erosion of Democratic Principles

The Radical Philosophy Association unequivocally condemns the actions of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and related federal enforcement agencies under the current administration. Recent developments—among them the killing of civilians, including *Renee Good* and *Alex Pretti*, by federal immigration agents in Minneapolis—constitute grave abuses of power and force, and gross violations of human life and democratic norms. These events demonstrate a pattern of force that is unequivocally a dangerous abuse of state power. The deployment of thousands of ICE agents into our cities are both disruptions to civic life and threats to the civil liberties of the people.

Reports of ICE and DHS enforcement activity reaching public school grounds and neighborhoods, including the detention of children and families, have alarmed educators and families alike. Even where federal officials deny formal school “raids,” the documented presence or reported threat of immigration enforcement near schools produces a climate of fear that undermines education, wellbeing, and the rights of children. As educators ourselves, we particularly abhor such violations.

The RPA stands against these police state tactics utilized across the United States: militarized enforcement, lack of accountability, and the normalization of violent force in civil life. They are antithetical to democracy and principles of human dignity. ICE is being used to further social exclusion and fear, increase racial profiling, criminalize dissent, and promote arbitrary violence with impunity. State action that leads to deaths, subversion of due process, and intimidation of marginalized communities is fundamentally incompatible with the principles of justice and democratic accountability that we promote.

Our commitment to radical critique draws from the philosophical tradition that rejects the consolidation of power in inviolable institutions unanswerable to the public. We affirm that a democratic society must safeguard ethical norms of restraint, accountability, and equal protection under law. The repeated use of lethal force by ICE agents, deployment of militarized units against communities, and the destabilization of civic spaces like schools are not anomalies; they are symptomatic of a systemic crisis in the governance of the state.

The Radical Philosophy Association reaffirms its commitment to rigorous critique of power, defense of human dignity, and engagement with justice beyond the narrow confines of academia. We encourage all scholars, activists, citizens, and community members to find ways to resist the encroachment and protect their communities.

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