

So You Want to Get Involved?

Steps for Social Workers Invested in Social Change

1. Get educated

- Read - a lot, check your facts and sources
- Take a class in non-violent resistance or community organizing
 - Think critically about what kinds/levels of risk you are willing to assume for yourself and the consequences (i.e., If you get arrested, how will this impact your employment, financial aid, etc.?)
 - Think about what issues are your priorities
 - Start a list of issues impacting your clients
 - Train to be a poll watcher

2. Find community

- Talk to people in person and across party lines. Meet your neighbors, go to a community group, attend town hall meetings
- Form a solidarity group with peers, a neighborhood, an affinity group
- Join existing coalitions that are organizing

3. Get engaged

- Write about it (editorials, blogs, social media networks)
- Call your senators and representatives, leaders in both political parties (Paul Ryan, Charles Schumer, etc. (calls work better than emails)
- Lead a skill share - Examples: How to legally change your gender marker, studying for the citizenship exam, getting educated about your birth control options
- Bring the issues affecting your clients to agency level meetings/ask your agency to engage in social action
- Run a voter registration drive at your agency for clients and staff
- Volunteer
- March (attend rallies in your community)

STAY SAFE

1. Know the consequences of your action

- Consider your personal and professional responsibilities and implication of action
- What would happen to your job, status as a student, financial aid, immigration status, if you were arrested?
- What level of individual risk are you willing to assume?
- How would consequences you face impact your clients, family, community?
 - E.g., client care, impact of your potential unplanned absence
 - Care for others who may depend on you

2. Develop a plan for support and intervention if needed

- Identify who you will call
- Develop a phone tree
 - Instrumental support
 - Family
 - Friends

RESOURCES

- Southern Poverty Law Center
<https://www.splcenter.org/20150126/speak-responding-everyday-bigotry>

- Council of Nonprofits
<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-policy-issues/the-2016-elections-impact-the-work-of-charitable-nonprofits>

- National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
<http://www.nnirr.org/drupal/post-election-resources>
http://www.nnirr.org/drupal/sites/default/files/ilrc_-_post-election_talking_points.pdf

- National Immigration Law Center
<https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/everyone-has-certain-basic-rights>

- Transgender Law Center - Know Your Rights - Federal ID Quick Guide
<http://transgenderlawcenter.org/resources/id/id-please-quick-guide>

- Black Lives Matter
Blacklivesmatter.com

- ACLU
<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-if-your-rights-are-violated-demonstration-or-protest>
<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-if-youre-stopped-police-immigration-agents-or-fbi>

- The World is a Terrible Place
<http://www.theworldisaterribleplace.com/ohcrap>

- Human Rights Campaign
<http://www.hrc.org/blog/what-a-trump-administration-could-mean-for-lgbtq-rights>

- NY Magazine Article
<http://nymag.com/selectall/2016/11/fake-facebook-news-sites-to-avoid.html>

- United We Dream
<http://unitedwedream.org/action/stop-deportations/open-cases/>

- Massachusetts Hotline for Reporting Incidents of Bias Motivated Threats, Harassment and Violence
<http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/2016-11-14-hotline-to-report-bias-motivated-threats-harassment-violence.html>

- Hate Crimes Information from the Massachusetts Attorney General
<http://www.mass.gov/ago/consumer-resources/your-rights/civil-rights/hate-crimes.html>