

NYU Law Immigrant Rights Project

Dear NYU Law Community,

We stand in solidarity with the family of Michael Brown, the black unarmed teenager shot by white police officer, Darren Wilson. It is important to recognize that we must stand as a law school community against the continued marginalization and violence perpetrated against racial minorities.

Last week, President Obama's Executive Action speech endorsed local law enforcement's cooperation with Immigration Customs Enforcement, in programs like Secure Communities, that targets non-citizens with criminal convictions, completely ignoring the impact on their families if they were to be detained and deported. The vast majority of the 34,000 people currently detained are black and brown non-citizens who have ended up in the hands of immigration enforcement because of the over-policing and surveillance of their communities.

State, local, and federal government forces have blatantly endorsed racist tactics and strategies by further militarizing our police force and making it clear that if one is a racial minority, poor, LGBTQ, and/or a non-citizen, we are treated as subhuman in this country.

While many of us remain frustrated and saddened by this tragedy, it is critical that we recognize our collective trauma. We have the power to create a space for all of our voices to be heard without attacking one another. We owe it to each other. We owe it to ourselves. We owe it to those who have lost loved ones to state violence who cannot share their holidays.

Sincerely,

NYU Law Immigrant Rights Project

<http://www.law.nyu.edu/studentorganizations/immigrantrightsproject>