



Firewall for Freedom: Campus Resolution Toolkit

Across the country, students are speaking out on urgent human rights issues including war, refugee and migrant rights, trans rights, racial justice, and reproductive rights.

At the same time, the Trump administration is threatening college and university funding if schools do not capitulate to the administration's demands about multiple facets of college and university life. The Trump administration has tried to dictate what colleges and universities can teach; undermined efforts to create inclusive environments for LGBTQ+ youth; attempted to ban programs to promote racial justice, equity, inclusion and belonging; and has sought to limit what speech colleges and universities allow from students.

Some colleges have curtailed freedom of expression and peaceful protest, suspended or expelled students, censored speech, and canceled events. Others have ended programs focused on promoting diversity, equity and inclusion; rescinded policies that support LGBTQ+ students; or limited student participation in extracurricular activities. **Our rights are under attack. Our school leaders need to hear from us.**

No one should be punished for peaceful protest; no one should be threatened for exercising free speech; and no one should be deported for speaking out for human rights. All students should feel like they belong on their campus and are free to be themselves without being harassed or singled out. **Our schools must fight to protect our rights – and refuse to collaborate in the government's attacks on our campus.**

Your voice matters, and you matter.

Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have teamed up to help students defend their campuses from the Trump administration. Together, we are working to create a "firewall" for students against these attacks on our rights. We are working with students across the country to introduce and pass campus resolutions that call on their campus administrations to *defend* the rights of students and refuse to voluntarily collaborate with the Trump administration's attacks on free speech, academic freedom, and inclusive learning environments.

This toolkit, combined with support from AIUSA and ACLU, provides you with tools and resources to advance a resolution on your campus and escalate pressure on your school administration to implement policies that protect and safeguard our human rights.

In addition to guiding you through **how and why to pass a campus firewall resolution**, our toolkit offers guidance on **what to do after a resolution passes**, like engaging administrators and scaling up your impact, and what to do **if a resolution doesn't pass**, including alternative tactics like grassroots organizing, direct action, and building power without formal endorsement.

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Firewall for Freedom Resolutions

What is a Firewall for Freedom Resolution?

A resolution is a motion adopted by an official body such as a student council and is a formal expression of an opinion. A Firewall for Freedom resolution is a declaration of support for students' rights, and for students, faculty, and staff who are under attack by the Trump administration, particularly for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly.

Right now, the White House and federal agencies are engaged in a brazen attempt to intimidate schools into compromising on free speech and academic freedom and into abandoning their lawful efforts to create inclusive learning environments. But in higher education, academic freedom protects schools from government interference in choices over what professors teach, including with regard to racial justice, equity, inclusion and belonging. Schools should continue to support students by maintaining a safe and equitable learning environment for all students.

The resolution calls on the school to establish a firewall for freedom. Establishing a firewall means that schools will not voluntarily share their resources – including their staff's time or the data they collect on students and

faculty – with federal law enforcement who are seeking to violate our civil rights or target members of our school community based on their exercise of civil rights.

There is a draft resolution and many other resources in the Appendix section.

Why You Should Pass a Resolution on Campus

- To show support for students, faculty, and staff who are being targeted or punished for the lawful exercise of their right to freedom of expression, including the right to protest.
- To protect all of our rights to peaceful expression of our beliefs.
- To show that your student body supports the rights of all people regardless of immigration status, country of origin, refugee status, race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or religious affiliation to live with dignity, safety, and full enjoyment of their human rights without discrimination, including the rights to life, freedom, education, and security.
- To provide accurate information about civil liberties and human rights including the rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly.
- To pressure your campus officials to take concrete action to protect the rights of all students, including the rights to free speech and assembly, and to not proactively work with government agencies to infringe on these rights or to target students, no matter their immigration status.

Steps to Passing a Resolution

1. Find out how your student government works:

- Who sits on the student government body? Are there both student and staff roles?
- What is the process for submitting a resolution? Can you submit a resolution as a student? If not, what is the alternative?
- Is there a certain time of the school year when resolutions can be submitted? What is the timeline for your student government ending business this year?
- How long might the resolution process take? And can you speed that up?

2. Identify allies and others who can help you pass this resolution

- Use a [SWOT analysis](#), [risk matrix](#), and [power mapping tools](#) to think about any individuals and groups who might care about this issue and want to help.
- Consider bringing in faculty, like those who teach ethnic studies, law, international relations, or public policy, local civil rights organizations or legal clinics, and alumni networks.
- Reach out individually to those likely to support your goal (i.e. students, faculty, parents, alumni, donors, boards, etc.) and ask if they would be willing to join you. Ask them to join the [sign on letter](#) or [sign the petition](#) and if they'll help get other signatures.
- When asking for their support, consider what resources or relationships they or their group have that could help you publicize the resolution or gain more supporters. You might also consider how enthusiastic they seem. If they agree to support you but don't seem too excited, you might want to start by asking them to do something small, like post on social media or sign onto a joint letter announcing the resolution.
- In addition to allies, identify likely opposition to this resolution. Consider what your school leadership has said or done related to speech and protest (and other student rights) in the past year, as well as other groups that might oppose your efforts.

3. Find a student government member who is likely to support the resolution

- Approach them and be ready to make your case. Why is this resolution important to you? Why should they support it? Ask if they will support your resolution within student government.
 - Before your meeting, brainstorm answers to possible questions that they might ask before deciding whether or not to support.
 - Depending on how your school government works, you may ask them to introduce the resolution at an upcoming student government meeting.
 - Ask whether they know of other student leaders who would also be likely to support it, and approach them too, to build as much support as possible.
- 4. Rally your campus! Use our [outreach strategy model](#) to amplify your message and build support**
- Collect [petition signatures](#) from students and others to support the resolution. Set a goal, and aim for a number that shows broad student backing—like 25% of the student body—as well as support from other influential individuals.
 - Consider a [sign on letter](#) signed by various student, faculty, or family associations supporting the resolution. A broad coalition will show the power of the student body.
 - Use your networks: Ask your faculty advisor or other professors and staff for ways to speak in classrooms, make presentations, or lead discussions.
 - Make your case in campus media: [Pitch a column or letter to the editor](#) explaining why your resolution matters and should be adopted.
 - Organize a teach-in, storytelling circle, or vigil to engage people emotionally and intellectually. You can also host a demonstration or protest about this issue to show support.
 - Build a strong social media presence, and ask partner groups and individuals to amplify your message.
- 5. Attend any public student government meetings about the resolution**
- Mobilize large groups to attend in order to demonstrate broad support for the resolution.
 - Have spokespersons from your group ready to speak on behalf of the resolution.
 - Take pictures! Post on X (formerly Twitter) and tag @amnestyusa, and post on Bluesky and tag @aclu.org using #CampusFirewallForFreedom and #HumanRightsCampus, and be sure to send pictures and updates to firewall@aiusa.org.
- 6. Celebrate and [escalate pressure on the school administration](#)**
- Share your pictures or use our [post-resolution social media toolkit](#)! Use the hashtag #CampusFirewallForFreedom and #HumanRightsCampus and tag us on all social media platforms. This helps other students see your victory!
 - Send ‘thank you’ notes to everyone who supported the resolution.
 - [Write an op-ed or letter to the editor](#) of your local paper/university newspaper.

How to Get Support

Staff at ACLU and AIUSA are available to support in planning and carrying out your resolution campaign, and can ensure you’re familiar with your legal, constitutional rights along the way.

- [Let us know what’s happening on your campus](#), especially if you’re seeing your campus leadership acting in cooperation with unlawful actions by the Trump administration. This helps us keep an eye on trends and actions nationwide, and we can follow up with you if you need specific support.
- When you kick off your resolution work, let us know by emailing firewall@aiusa.org and we can also add you to a WhatsApp group with other students working on resolutions. You can share ideas, ask for feedback, and collaborate.

- Review these [Know Your Rights](#) resources, including those for immigrants.
- Use our lines of responses if you're facing backlash, and you can share the ACLU's guidance to school general counsels on their [responsibilities and rights when dealing with ICE investigations and enforcement actions](#) as well as the ACLU's guidance to schools regarding their [privacy obligations](#).

What Comes Next After Passing a Resolution

After you've passed a student resolution, it's time to celebrate... and make sure your campus officials respond to student demands, commit to protecting student rights, and being to implement these protections.

- [Share your success on social media](#), and let Amnesty/ACLU know as well as your peers on WhatsApp (let us know if you need to be added to the group) and slack groups, as well as with Amnesty/ACLU. We will do our best to amplify it! Launch a campus and social media push demanding action from campus officials using our social media kit.
- [Write an op-ed or letter to the editor \(LTE\)](#) for local and campus press celebrating your win and asking campus officials to enact these protections; consider co-authoring with a supportive alumnus, board member, faculty members, donor, etc.
- Build your base with new students, faculty, and allies using the [outreach strategy model](#)
- Mobilize alumni, donors, board members, parent and family associations to write to the school administration, sharing the resolution text and their support for its provisions. Help them craft a sample letter to send, using our key asks:
 - **Do not voluntarily share data on those in the campus community with ICE**
 - **Do not punish those in the campus community for their participation in First Amendment protected activities**
 - **Do not capitulate to the administration's unconstitutional requests and threats**
- Organize bold, creative actions: rallies, banner drops, or art installations. See our [50 ways to take creative actions for powerful impact](#).
- Track university response and follow up on any public commitments.

Building Power When Your Resolution Wasn't Passed

- 1. Assess your local climate and build support**
 - a. Why didn't it pass? Who opposed it? What was the problem?
- 2. Expand your base slowly and strategically**
 - a. Launch a student [petition](#) and/or [sign-on letter](#) instead of a formal resolution. You can also incorporate more language from our [draft resolution](#).
 - b. Host low-risk events like Know Your Rights trainings; digital panels; "Power Hours" on protest and academic freedom.
- 3. Alternative pressure tactics**
 - a. Partner with faculty in key departments (ethnic studies, law, journalism, racial justice etc.).
 - b. Co-write an [op-ed](#) with your professor and submit it to your campus or local paper.
- 4. Visibility without direct confrontation**
 - a. Chalk campus sidewalk or post flyers with messages about freedom (i.e. "Freedom to Speak, Learn, Dissent" "Freedom to think" "Academic Freedom ≠ Collaboration with ICE").

- b. Use anonymous art or poster campaigns to make your message seen without risk. [Access creative ideas here.](#)

Appendix

Draft Resolution

A resolution calling for a firewall for freedom to protect against the federal government's attacks on our constitutional, civil, and human rights.

The **[University Student Senate]** Enacts:

WHEREAS, **[University/College Name]** prides itself on being a campus that supports the civil and human rights of all members of our community, including students, staff and faculty;

WHEREAS, the ability to criticize our government, its policies, and even its foundational philosophies is critical to the exercise of all our civil and human rights--and is protected against government interference by the First Amendment;

WHEREAS, the White House is pressuring university officials to assist it in targeting students, faculty, and staff who are not U.S. citizens, including holders of non-immigrant visas and lawful permanent residents, as punishment for the lawful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression under the Constitution and international law;

WHEREAS, across the country, students are increasingly afraid of being accosted and taken from their communities by federal law enforcement agents, including those who conceal their identity and refuse to provide basic information, and who abuse immigration laws to target students for what they believe and who they are;

WHEREAS, protected political speech and association alone—no matter how offensive to members of the campus community—should never be the basis for discipline, nor should it lead to an individual's arrest, detention or deportation;

WHEREAS, the White House and federal agencies are threatening to deprive universities across the country of federal grant money and other sources of support, in order to gain their cooperation and capitulation in efforts to punish dissent, attack non-citizens, students of color, and LGBTQ+ youth, and dictate educational programs;

WHEREAS, this includes brazen attempts to intimidate schools into abandoning lawful efforts to create inclusive learning environments;

WHEREAS, schools are obligated under federal law to protect students from discrimination, harassment, threats, and violence;

WHEREAS, schools are also obligated under federal law to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of student records, including against unwarranted disclosure to the government or private parties;

BE IT RESOLVED, the student body of [university/college] declares its support for the protection of civil and human rights of all members of our campus community and calls upon the **[university/college]** president to take

all possible measures to ensure that our campus is a safe space, where students may exercise their rights without fear or intimidation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the student body encourages the [University/College] President and Board of Trustees to resist White House and federal agency demands that undermine academic freedom and our civil and human rights in exchange for an illusory promise of continued federal grantmaking;

BE IT RESOLVED, the student body of [University/College] calls on the [U/College] President to employ their authority to establish a firewall for freedom, prohibiting employees of the [university/college] from voluntarily providing information or assistance in response to a request from federal authorities or out-of-state authorities that seeks—

- a. to identify, or impose civil or criminal liability or other penalties, including termination or reduction of grant funding, upon a person or entity based on their participation in activities protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution including assembly, petitioning, expression of viewpoints, and speech;
- b. to identify or apprehend a person in order to subject them to immigration detention, removal or deportation proceedings; or to prosecute a person or persons for offenses related to immigration status based on their participation in activities protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution including assembly, petitioning expression of viewpoints and speech; and
- c. to investigate the sex or gender of a student, faculty, or staff member.

Talking Points on Resolution

- Right now, the Trump administration is pressuring colleges and universities to crack down on students, faculty, and staff for speaking their minds about issues impacting people of color, religious minorities, LGBTQ+ and immigrant communities. But that's not how free speech works.
- We all have a right to read, teach, discuss, and learn. Period. Censoring academic work by and about people of color, religious minorities, and LGBTQ+ people because the government doesn't like the messages and viewpoints expressed is discriminatory and clearly violates our free speech rights.
- Students, faculty, and staff do not give up their rights by entering colleges or universities. Students also have rights under US federal law to keep certain information private and not to have that information revealed without their consent.
- While new executive orders and statements from the White House are pushing schools to monitor and report noncitizen students for their political views, universities and colleges have a responsibility to defend their students, faculty, and staff who are under attack.
- Antisemitism, Islamophobia or targeting individuals and communities for their religion, ethnicity or nationality are all hatred and must be condemned.
- Universities should be places where individuals can lean into their passions, share ideas, and discover themselves, not where students and faculty fear surveillance or punishment for being themselves. By passing a Firewall For Freedom resolution, university leaders can remain firm in their commitment to free speech, open debate, and peaceful dissent on campus.
- Under the slew of attacks on LGBTQ +rights, universities and colleges should continue to support students by maintaining a safe and equitable learning environment for LGBTQ+ youth and other students.
- More than ever, it is imperative to create frameworks that can truly protect the civil rights of communities on campus, their personal data, and their overall safety.

Your Right to Protest

Protest is a powerful way to speak truth to power. Throughout history, student-led protests have driven major change, exposing injustice, demanding accountability, and inspiring hope for a better future. You have the **right to peacefully protest**, and the government has a **duty to respect, protect, and facilitate** that right—not suppress it. Unless a protest violates content-neutral and reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, obstructs traffic or access to buildings, or poses a threat to the safety or rights of others, interference by the government is not justified. If you attend a private school, keep in mind that, as a legal matter, the school is not a government actor and is not constrained by the First Amendment, so it may impose additional restrictions.

- Learn more about your rights to protest under US law: [Know Your Protest Rights](#) (ACLU)
- [Take Amnesty's Human Rights Course to learn why the right to protest is protected by human rights law and standards.](#)
- If you're an Amnesty International Student group, learn more about protesting as Amnesty: [Protest Q&A](#)
- [ACLU Open Letter to College and University Presidents on Student Protests](#)

Your Right to Speech and Association

You have the right to freely express your beliefs-- and not only can the government not infringe on that right, it has to ensure you are able to exercise that right. **The right to freedom of expression** is enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and protected by a raft of international and regional treaties and the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Indeed, the right to protest is part of this umbrella of rights.

Freedom of expression also underpins other human rights such as the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion – and allows them to flourish.

- [Take Amnesty's Human Rights Course to Learn more about Freedom of Expression.](#)
- [ACLU Open Letter to Colleges and University Leaders: Reject Efforts to Restrict Constitutionally Protected Speech on Campus](#)
- [ACLU Open Letter to Colleges and Universities: Protect Campus Speech](#)

Your right to protest as an immigrant under U.S. law (source: [National Immigration Law Center](#))

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the government from restricting your right to free speech. This means that you have a right to participate in political protests, marches, and demonstrations. The First Amendment also protects freedom of the press (among other rights). **These rights apply to everyone in the U.S., regardless of immigration status.** At the same time, your risks may vary depending on your individual circumstances, including immigration status, and you should take those into account. Individuals should consider their own level of safety, comfort and visibility in these situations. For example:

- Consider leaving immediately if it appears that the situation is escalating.
- If you choose to take your mobile phone with you, use a passcode instead of facial recognition or Touch ID, and be aware that your phone can be seized by authorities.
- Know your rights and know your risks. If you are concerned about being identified or retaliated against for holding certain views, consider using a pseudonym when signing petitions, and review your digital hygiene practices and privacy settings

More resources around safety and your rights:

- [AIUSA Know Your Rights: How to Stay Safe Around ICE](#)
- [National Immigration Law Center's Know Your Rights: Immigrants' Participation in Protests](#)
- [ACLU Know Your Rights](#)

ACLU Resources on Students' Rights

- [ACLU Know Your Rights: Students' Rights](#)
- [ACLU Know Your Rights: Students' Free Speech on Campus - Graphics](#)

Your Right to Learn and Express Viewpoints

Freedom of expression protects our right to read, learn and share ideas free from viewpoint-based censorship, including in curricular and extracurricular settings. No government actor should be able to suppress that right by banning books, restricting classroom learning, and prohibiting discussions, debates, and student activities and clubs solely because of viewpoints, including those related to diversity, equity and inclusion. Moreover, on college and university campuses, the First Amendment's protection for academic freedom protects professors' speech, research, and publications.

More resources around your right to learn:

- [ACLU Right to Learn Campaign](#)

Your Rights as an LGBTQ+ Individual on Campus

Unfortunately, the Trump administration has been working to roll back federal rules ensuring protections for transgender students under Title IX, and is targeting colleges and universities who have supportive transgender policies by launching investigations and threatening funding. However, the Trump administration cannot change the law itself which still provides protections, and many state officials, school administrators, and colleges and universities are fighting back to make sure LGBTQ+ students are protected. Some states have more explicit state-level protections for LGBTQ+ students. And all students have the right to an education and to safety and privacy at school.

Ideas for Educating Your Community about this Resolution

- Pop-Up Human Rights Gallery: Consistent with school rules, transform a hallway, library wall, or outdoor space into a visual storytelling installation featuring prominent activists' stories, student art, and quotes about freedom of expression and the right to protest
- Open Mic Night: Invite students to perform original poems, stories or music related to identity, dignity, protest or belonging
- Op-ed: Work with the campus newspaper to write a positive article about the right to protest
- Photo Petition: ask students to take photos holding signs like: 'Protect Protest. Defend Dignity'; 'Freedom of Expression is a Human Right'. Create a digital collage or display it in a central campus area to spark conversation.
- Zine-making workshop: Co-host with an art department to provide space for students to create visuals advocating for the rights to free expression, protest, and association. Distribute zines or posters around campus or include in a public installation.
- Syllabus Collaboration: partner with a professor to include a film screening, a reading, or Amnesty/ACLU action in a class session. Bonus: Host a panel with the professor after class.

SWOT Analysis

	The good	The not-so-good
What we've got	<p>Strengths</p> <p>Who already supports us? What resources can we deploy? What are our advantages? What's working well?</p>	<p>Weaknesses</p> <p>Whose support are we lacking? Where are we starting to struggle?</p>
What's out there	<p>Opportunities</p> <p>Who might most value our resolution? What trends (including real life events and developments) work in our favor? What goals are within reach?</p>	<p>Threats</p> <p>Who might challenge us and how? What could go wrong?</p>

Risk Assessment and Mitigation for Student Activism

Use this matrix to evaluate your level of public exposure, identify potential risks or threats, based on your specific context and community dynamics, and make informed decisions about your engagement strategy. While we haven't seen targeted pushback against Firewall actions, including those that have passed, high-profile student activism has faced backlash elsewhere. This tool helps you do your own risk assessment so you're prepared, proactive, diligent, and protected if circumstances change.

Identity-Based Risk Awareness: Not everyone from your group may face the same level of risk. Students from immigrant communities, Black and Brown students, LGBTQ+ students, students from religious minorities, or student visas or green cards may face heightened risks when engaging in activism. These risks can surface through campus organizing (e.g. tabling and peaceful protest), digital expression (e.g. social media posts), or public criticism of political figures or administrative policies, especially on issues like Palestinian rights, LGBTQ+ inclusion, abortion, immigration, or racial justice.

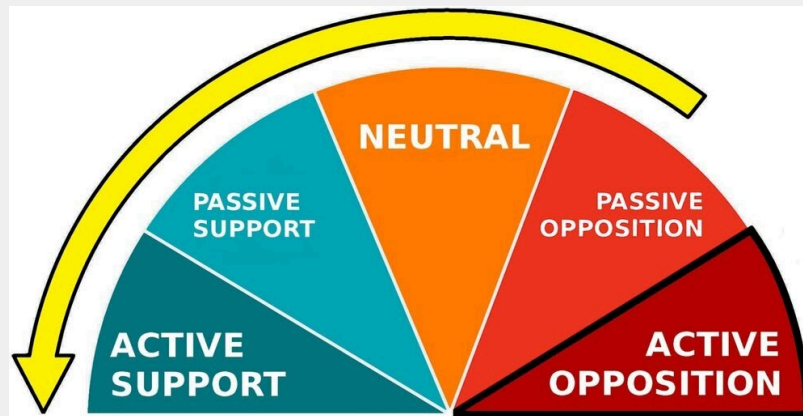
Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
1	2	3	4	5

Actions that may increase visibility/potential risk	Examples of Types of Potential Threat	Likelihood of threat (reminder: this will be different for different people)	Mitigation Strategy
Public firewall resolution campaigns or public demands	school administration retaliation, e.g. suspension, cancelling events; surveillance by campus or other police, etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very low 2. Low 3. Medium 4. High 5. Very High 	Use co leadership; delegate spokesperson roles; anonymize identities where possible; register campaign through faculty/alumni sponsors; train spokespeople in talking points; avoid being sole identifiable face.
Publishing op-eds about campus ICE policies, asylum rights, LGBTQ+ inclusion, Palestinian rights	; unwanted attention by officials school administration retaliation (note that while government retaliation is illegal, it is nevertheless a risk)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very low 2. Low 3. Medium 4. High 5. Very High 	Co-author with faculty/alumni; consider publishing anonymously; upload via centralized campaign accounts (not linked to your name); use content platforms outside campus-operated servers

Public interviews (TV, campus media) on sensitive issues	unwanted attention by officials; school administration retaliation detention; digital surveillance, public online harassment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very low 2. Low 3. Medium 4. High 5. Very High 	Brief trusted peer or local journalist to amplify message; photograph or record only anonymously; limit identifying visuals; maintain a spokesperson team.
Organizing or joining protests, banner drops, teach ins	Dispersal by campus police; arrest; retaliation via disciplinary process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very low 2. Low 3. Medium 4. High 5. Very High 	Operate as a group; have clear de-escalation training; designate legal observers; carry minimal personal documentation ; provide emergency contact list; rotate leadership.
Social media advocacy on immigration, LGBTQ+ rights, political criticism, Palestinian rights	Digital surveillance (e.g. by campus IT/police, local police, ICE); social media account targeting; doxxing; social media harassment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very low 2. Low 3. Medium 4. High 5. Very High 	Use campaign-branded accounts; avoid naming individuals; keep posts focused on policy not on individual leaders; backup content; set strong privacy settings
Hosting or attending private human-rights or strategy meetings	Surveillance by campus or local law enforcement; disruption of gathering	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very low 2. Low 3. Medium 4. High 5. Very High 	Choose accessible private spaces; use invitation-based access; vet participants; document meeting
Digital organizing (slack/Discord/WhatsApp groups)	Data-sharing vulnerabilities; hacked membership lists; undercover infiltrators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very low 2. Low 3. Medium 4. High 5. Very High 	Use vetted sign-up processes; require multi-factor authentication; limit sensitive discussions to encrypted channels; have digital moderators; hold digital security briefings.

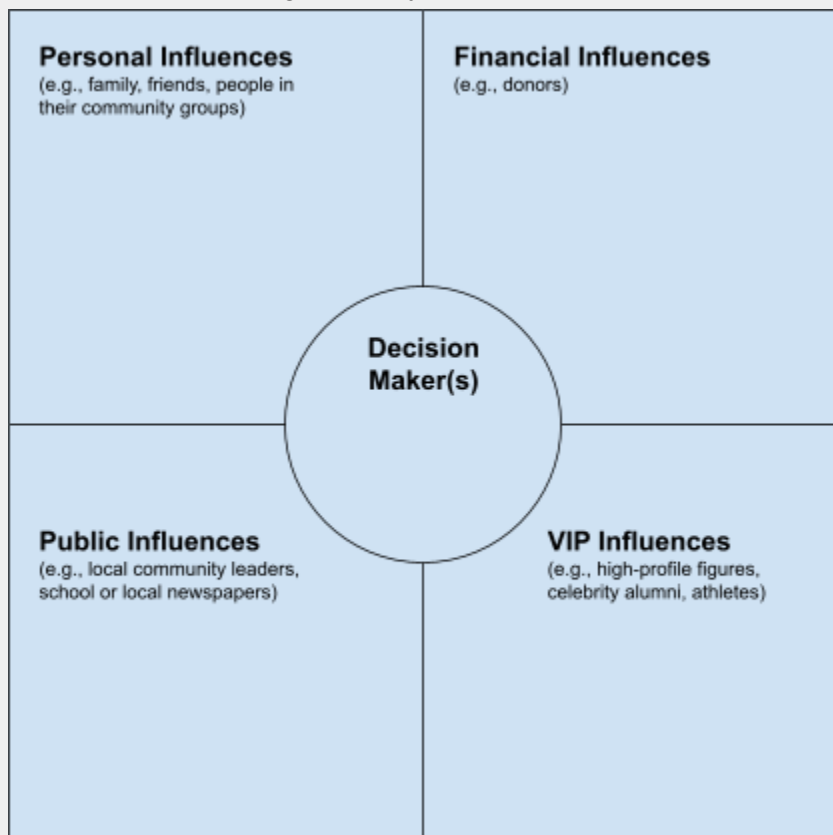
Influence Map

Focus on key decision makers you will need to 'move' towards your first goal. Depending on your campaign, you may have fewer than or more than five targets – that is okay as long as it makes sense in achieving your campaign's objective (do this for each of your goals).



NAMES OF <i>Student/affinity orgs & Leaders</i> <i>Student Government Members</i> <i>Admin / Board of Trustees</i> <i>Donors, alumni, staff, faculty,</i> <i>academic departments/deans, unions,</i> <i>parents, student news, College</i> <i>centers (LGBTQ+, Women's Center),</i> <i>campus religious centers & ministers,</i> <i>prospective students, Greek life,</i> <i>campus police, campus celebrities</i> <i>(students with large social following)</i>	ROLES <i>Org leadership position, student gov,</i> <i>role (Senator, President), Admin role,</i> <i>in faculty senate, Leads Alumni</i> <i>Network, union representatives,</i> <i>student wellbeing & confidential</i> <i>positions, Editor in Chief, student</i> <i>advocates.</i>	HOW CAN THEY HELP? <i>Orgs can help host kickoff event</i> <i>SGs can pass Firewall resolution</i> <i>Admin can enact Firewall policies</i> <i>Donors & BoT members can fund</i> <i>Student news can put public pressure on</i> <i>campus admin</i> <i>Mobilize student body</i> <i>Withhold tuition</i>	LEVEL OF POWER / INFLUENCE <i>High,</i> <i>medium, low</i>
ACTIVE SUPPORT			
			Select ▾
			Select ▾
			Select ▾
PASSIVE SUPPORT			
			Select ▾
			Select ▾
			Select ▾
NEUTRAL			
			Select ▾
			Select ▾
			Select ▾
PASSIVE OPPOSITION			
			Select ▾
			Select ▾
			Select ▾
ACTIVE OPPOSITION			
			Select ▾
			Select ▾
			Select ▾

Target Priority Relationships



Identify Interests



Sample Petition

All people have the right to say what they think, share information, and demand a better world. **No one should be punished for peaceful protest; no one should be threatened for exercising free speech; and no one should be deported for speaking out for human rights. All students should feel like they belong on their campus, are free to be themselves without being harassed or singled out, and can participate in the extracurriculars of their choice.** The leadership of **[INSERT SCHOOL NAME]** must fight to protect our rights – **and refuse to collaborate in attacks on our human rights.**

We, the undersigned, call on school leaders to establish a firewall for freedom. Specifically, that means:

- Do not voluntarily share data on those in the campus community with ICE
- Do not punish those in the campus community for their participation in First Amendment protected activities
- Do not capitulate to the administration's unconstitutional requests and threats

We support the resolution calling on school leadership to not voluntarily share their resources – including their personnel and our data – with federal law enforcement seeking to violate our human rights or target members of our school community based on their exercise of human rights.

Printed Name	Signature	Association to school (student, faculty member, alumnus, donor, board members, parent, etc.)

Sample Sign On Letter

All people have the right to say what they think, share information, and demand a better world. **No one should be punished for peaceful protest; no one should be threatened for exercising free speech; and no one should be deported for speaking out for human rights. All students should feel like they belong on their campus, are free to be themselves without being harassed or singled out, and can participate in the extracurriculars of their choice.** The leadership of [INSERT SCHOOL NAME] must fight to protect our rights – **and refuse to collaborate in attacks on our human rights.**

We, the undersigned student organizations, faculty associations, and parent and family associations call on school leaders to establish and implement a firewall for freedom. Specifically, that means:

- Do not voluntarily share data on those in the campus community with ICE
- Do not punish those in the campus community for their participation in First Amendment protected activities
- Do not capitulate to the administration's unconstitutional requests and threats

We support the resolution calling on school leadership to not voluntarily share their resources – including their personnel and our data – with federal law enforcement seeking to violate our human rights or target members of our school community based on their exercise of human rights.

[INSERT ANY RELEVANT CONTEXT SPECIFIC TO YOUR CAMPUS]

Signed,

Sample Op-Ed or Letter to the Editor (LTE) for your campus paper

Note: personalize your letter as much as possible. Here are some tips for writing [op-eds](#) and [LTEs](#).

The Trump administration is attacking universities across the country, trying to dictate what they can teach; attempting to ban programs that promote equity; and trying to limit protest and free speech. Federal agencies are demanding access to student data, scrutinizing syllabi, and threatening to withhold money to campuses that don't cooperate. [\[speak to example from your campus if applicable\]](#)

What's worse, we've seen university leaders who have chosen compliance over courage: Shutting down programs, limiting free speech and protest, not protecting students. This must not happen at [\[University/College Name\]](#).

That's why our student government [\[must pass a / has passed a\]](#) Firewall for Freedom Resolution, which urges [\[Campus President Name\]](#) and university leadership to protect our rights – and refuse to collaborate in attacks on our human rights.

The resolution calls on school leadership to:

1. Refuse to voluntarily share data about members of the campus community with ICE.
2. Protect students, faculty, and staff from retaliation or punishment for engaging in First Amendment-protected activities, including protest and organizing.
3. Not capitulate to the administration's unconstitutional requests and threats that aim to erode academic freedom, equity, and civil liberties.

Our [\[draft/passed\]](#) resolution is available at [<short link>](#).

We can either be a university that caves under political pressure and betrays its principles, or one that stands firm in protecting its students and defending academic freedom, free speech, and all our rights.

Sample Video Script for Social Media

The Trump administration is attacking our rights as students to speech, protest, and an inclusive education — and [university name] is not immune. One of the most important ways we [can fight back / have already started to fight back] is by passing a campus resolution demanding our school administrators refuse to coordinate with the federal government's crackdown on our rights.

As the [role] of [name of student/faculty/family organization], and as a [student/alumnus/donor/parent/faculty member/etc.] concerned with universities across the country capitulating to President Trump's demands, I hope you join me in keeping [university name] a place where academic freedom thrives by signing our petition urging student government to pass this resolution.

Together, we have the power to [pass / implement] a campus Firewall for Freedom resolution and send a strong message to our school officials: We demand they protect their students.

MAKE A COPY of the social graphics in this [Canva link](#) (under File on the top left), and then edit them for your own use!

Make sure to tag **@amnestyusa** ([Instagram](#) / [X](#) / [Facebook](#)) and **@aclu_nationwide** ([Instagram](#)) / **@aclu.org** ([Bluesky](#)) / **@aclu** ([Facebook](#)), and use the hashtag **#CampusFirewallForFreedom** or **#HumanRightsCampus** so we can see and amplify your success.

Graphic	Caption
 <p>We passed a Firewall for Freedom resolution!</p> <p>Now it's up to [school] to protect its students from political attacks.</p> <p>ACLU AMNESTY (ADD YOUR LOGO HERE)</p>	<p>Victory! [School name] students just adopted a Firewall for Freedom resolution to protect our campus from brazen attempts by the White House to suppress academic freedom and silence free speech.</p> <p>Now, we're calling on our school's leaders to listen to us and our demands that they reject political intimidation. Join us in keeping up the pressure.</p>
 <p>By passing a Firewall for Freedom resolution, [school] students said:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES to freedom of speech • NO to targeting ideas <p>ACLU AMNESTY (ADD YOUR LOGO HERE)</p>	<p>Our student body has spoken loud and clear: Censorship and suppression of ideas have no place on our campus.</p> <p>[School name] thrives when students are able to share our ideas and express our beliefs without fear of punishment. That's why we passed a Firewall for Freedom resolution – to ensure that the rights and liberties of students are always protected, no matter who's in the White House.</p>
 <p>President Trump is attacking our rights as students.</p> <p>Here's how we're defending ourselves.</p> <p>ACLU AMNESTY (ADD YOUR LOGO HERE)</p>	<p>The Trump administration has launched a series of attacks to suppress our voices and undermine diversity of thought on campuses across the country.</p> <p>We aren't powerless. We've passed a Firewall for Freedom resolution to safeguard the fundamental rights of our students and faculty, and create a campus environment where open dialogue and intellectual diversity are protected.</p> <p>Our school leaders must take action now.</p>

Outreach Strategy Model

STEP 1: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

- **1:1 conversations:** Meet student peers for coffee or after class to listen to what they care about and share information about the Firewall for Freedom campus resolution toolkit
- **Class presentations:** Ask professors of ethnic studies, First Amendment, sociology, international relations, law, gender to provide space for a 2-3 min presentation on the campus Firewall for Freedom and its significance
- **Map allies:** Identify and reach out to faculty who are vocal on human rights, rule of law, DEI, or freedom of expression and protest rights
- **Office Hours:** Visit professors or relevant student clubs inviting them to co-sign onto your letter to the administration, co-author an op-ed in a student newspaper, co-host an event, or share information about the firewall among their academic networks
- **Alumni outreach:** Email or DM alumni via LinkedIn to gather endorsements on your letter to the administration

STEP 2: MOBILIZING DIVERSE ACTIONS

- **Tabling and QR Code petitions:** Use visuals, free snacks and signage to attract sign ups and endorsement to your letter to the administration.
- **Movie night or pizza night:** Use documentaries or slide deck presentations followed by a discussion and action sign up (such as joining your group email/channel; attending group meetings; organize events on campuses). Bonus: invite a special speaker guest; parents, local journalists, friendly faculty members
- **Banner drop or chalk art:** Host creative gatherings to work on public actions. For inspiration [check out 50 ways to take action](#).
- **Days of action:** Coordinate 'Wear your Color' Days days, or host an event and publicly speak out around key moments like Board vote or alumni gala or visible repression on campus. Don't forget to take photos! For support and security assessment, contact firewall@aiusa.org and fill out a [risk matrix](#).

STEP 3: EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS

- **Skills trainings:** Host workshops on how to write letters to the editors, speak at rallies and organize on campus. You can use resources from this toolkit and AIUSA's [Human Rights Education](#) platform.
- **Storytelling campaigns:** Use IG Reels or TikToks to spotlight personal stories. Use anonymous names and avoid sharing your identity to mitigate risk. You can share your voice, graphics, and generic pictures to illustrate your point in a creative and engaging manner.
- **Leadership building:** Create a supporter journey that nurtures new interest into sustained leadership. Start by identifying students who've signed up or expressed interest, then follow up personally to invite them into deeper engagement. Offer clear, step-by-step pathways for involvement: Sign up → attend an event → co-lead actions → lead meetings
- **Buddy system:** Pair new activists with experienced members for mentorship, emotional support and ideation

STEP 4: UTILIZE DIVERSE CHANNELS TO RAISE AWARENESS

- **Instagram, Bluesky and TikTok:** Share relevant visuals and actions with Amnesty and ACLU social channels; post reels from your campus events; interview with students, share visual explainer of your resolution and the right to free expression and protest
- **Campus newspaper:** submit letters to the editor or op-eds about your campus resolution

- **Blast updates:** Share regular updates with members of your group and allies on actions, events, wins and urgent asks via email, Slack, WhatsApp/Signal, etc.
- **Campus stunts:** Plan attention-grabbing actions during high-traffic times (like lunch hours or class changeovers) to spark curiosity and conversation.

ACLU Letter to College and University General Counsels

The ACLU shared an open letter to general counsels at colleges and universities across the nation outlining their responsibilities and rights when dealing with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigations and enforcement actions.

Amid the growing retaliatory crackdown against noncitizen students for their First Amendment-protected speech and advocacy, the open letter explains that colleges and universities are not violating the law by providing housing or services to noncitizen students, including students whose visas have been revoked by the government. It further advises institutions that they are legally able to refuse to comply with warrantless searches of non-public areas, like dorm rooms, by ICE agents.

The letter also outlines a legal framework for responding to administrative subpoenas from ICE. In consultation with legal counsel, universities generally maintain the right to not respond to administrative subpoenas unless and until ICE obtains an enforcement order from a judge. Universities also have the right to publicize the subpoenas or alert students if their information has been targeted by an ICE subpoena.

[You can read and download the full letter here to share with your campus administration.](#)

ACLU Guidance for States, Schools, and Universities on Privacy Obligations

In its first 100 days, various Trump administration efforts have focused predominantly on students, families, and educational institutions. Those efforts have included requests for student records by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. Department of Education (USED), and Congressional committees; data sharing with ICE by campus law enforcement; and efforts by USED to use student privacy law to displace state and local policies protecting transgender students. Those efforts to obtain student records raise concerns that they conflict with schools' obligations under existing student privacy laws, especially the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The ACLU has drafted guidance outlining educational institutions' responsibilities under FERPA and how FERPA may apply to various Administration and Congressional efforts. [You can read and download the full guidance here.](#)