

In our society, who gets to count as human?

Let's not fool ourselves, racial profiling already is a regular procedure of the police. One needs only to look at the increased police presence in neighbors inhabited primarily by people of color to see that. Minorities in our cultures are majorities in our jails and prisons, and its not because they break more laws than white people do. SB 590 is legalizing something that already is a widespread, unchecked practice. It will increase the amount of control and surveillance that the police and state hold over our bodies and rights. HB 1402 has a more specific target, but its logic is the same. By targeting undocumented students, HB 1402 will increase state control of who gets access to higher education, stripping away rights one at a time and cementing an ever-more rigid class division. Immigration is not a neutral political subject, it is about who gets to be part of our society, who gets citizenship and who gets any rights--basically who gets to count as human. It goes beyond that too, the state and the police are by no means the only ones who foster and spread these racist and anti-immigrant sentiments and actions. Racism is engrained in our society's consciousness from the way we treat and make assumptions about people based on their skin, culture, and accents. So let's stand against state sponsored racism and refuse to tolerate this new legislation and it's implications. And beyond that, let's refuse to tolerate racism in the way that we think, act, and treat the people around us.



In our society, who gets to count as human?

Let's not fool ourselves, racial profiling already is a regular procedure of the police. One needs only to look at the increased police presence in neighbors inhabited primarily by people of color to see that. Minorities in our cultures are majorities in our jails and prisons, and its not because they break more laws than white people do. SB 590 is legalizing something that already is a widespread, unchecked practice. It will increase the amount of control and surveillance that the police and state hold over our bodies and rights. HB 1402 has a more specific target, but its logic is the same. By targeting undocumented students, HB 1402 will increase state control of who gets access to higher education, stripping away rights one at a time and cementing an ever-more rigid class division. Immigration is not a neutral political subject, it is about who gets to be part of our society, who gets citizenship and who gets any rights--basically who gets to count as human. It goes beyond that too, the state and the police are by no means the only ones who foster and spread these racist and anti-immigrant sentiments and actions. Racism is engrained in our society's consciousness from the way we treat and make assumptions about people based on their skin, culture, and accents. So let's stand against state sponsored racism and refuse to tolerate this new legislation and it's implications. And beyond that, let's refuse to tolerate racism in the way that we think, act, and treat the people around us.

