

Not backing down

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Dear Editor,

Today, some of our worst fears are fast becoming reality.

In his first days in office, President Donald Trump has signed orders attacking women's rights and environmental protections, and is now moving to restrict entry to the United States from majority Muslim countries and ban Syrian refugees. He also is swiftly acting to expand the Mexican border wall and target sanctuary cities like New York City.

The Workmen's Circle was founded by immigrants who arrived in the early 1900's in a United States that was not always welcoming to them. They had to fight for fair-paying jobs, safe working conditions, decent housing, education, and adequate healthcare, and the Workmen's Circle responded by organizing activist communities to successfully work for a better world for all.

Many of these same rights are now under attack, and we again pledge to organize and empower communities to fight back.

In New York City, we joined a vigil with the New York Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NY), one of a number of rallies across the country. The presence of so many New Yorkers from diverse communities sent a strong message of support for Muslim and immigrant rights.

The landscape ahead will be one of rollbacks to civil liberties and human rights. Here in New York, we can continue to show the country - and world - that we will stand strong against such hate and intolerance.

Sincerely,

Ann Toback

Executive Director

The Workmen's Circle