

WE BELONG TOGETHER



KIDSBELONGTOGETHER.ORG

April 17 - 22, 2017

Thanks for registering to host an event for the #WeBelongTogether Kids Week of Action!

Young people are standing up for their families, their friends and their future. Trump and his ICE agents are trying to tear parents away from their children in mass immigration raids. Politicians and police are criminalizing Black youth and stealing away our friends and family. And Trump's Muslim ban threatens the survival of refugee kids. But we are standing up for one another.

We know that the voices of children and youth are particularly powerful; their future is at stake.

That's why kids from Florida, New York, Colorado, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina are spending their spring break traveling to DC and joining with local youth to stand up to Trump's bullying. When they get to DC on April 13th they will create a giant interlocking circle in front of the White House to demonstrate our unity and refusal to be divided.

Join us by taking action in your home town during the week of April 17 - 22. Together we will create a chain of unity circles across the country in schools, City Halls, Congressional offices, places of worship, parks, and other symbolic locations. These actions will demonstrate young people's unity and power and will call upon local leaders to stand strong against dangerous policies that threaten to tear our communities apart.

This toolkit contains ideas and resources to help you plan your event. Check out www.webelongtogetherkids.org for updates about the Kids Week of Action.

Toolkit:

1. [How to share your action on social media](#)
2. [Ideas for events and activities to do during the Kids Week of Action](#)
3. [How to create a unity circle with kids and youth in your community](#)
4. [The We Belong Together chant](#)
5. [Template invitation letter to elected officials](#)
6. [Template media advisory for your event](#)
7. [Sample social media messages and memes](#)
8. **We Belong Together Kids Action poster to download and print**

How to share your action on social media

Together we can maximize our impact by sharing photos and stories on social media using the hashtag **#WeBelongTogether!** Elected officials and the press will see that kids all over the country are taking action to stand up for their families, friends, and futures. And our actions will be impossible to ignore. Here's what you can do to maximize our impact:

1. Take lots of photos of your action or event -- make sure that the kids demonstrating unity (holding hands, supporting one-another etc.) are front and center in your photos. Use lots of colorful visuals if you can. Print out copies of the We Belong Together Kids Action posters and make sure that kids are holding them in the photos you take. You can also encourage kids to make hand-lettered signs with their hopes and demands and the hashtag #WeBelongTogether.
 2. Make sure to keep your tone positive and kid-focused. Talk about how kids are taking action to fight for the families, their friends, and their future and how they are showing all of us the way towards a future we can all believe in.
 3. Post your photos on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter using the hashtag #WeBelongTogether. On Twitter, tag @WomenBelong and we'll make sure to retweet. On Facebook, tag @We-Belong-Together-207549645977714 and we'll be sure to like and share. On Instagram tag @we_belong_togethr_ and we'll like your photos!
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Ideas for events and activities to do during the Kids Week of Action

- **Organize a #WeBelongTogether Unity Circle at a public library, house of worship, playground, or other symbolic community location.**
 1. Teach kids and youth the We Belong Together chant and recite it together.
 2. Print out copies of the We Belong Together Kids Action poster for kids and youth to hold up in the circle.
 3. Include games and activities to make a space that feels welcoming for kids.
 4. Invite press to cover the event.
 - [You can use this template to create your own media advisory.](#)
- **Organize a #WeBelongTogether Unity Circle at your or your children's school.**
 1. As a group commit to making your school a place that is safe and welcoming for all students; all children have a right to an education.
 2. Teach students and teachers the We Belong Together chant; recite it together.
 3. Talk to school administrators about what they should do to create a safe and welcoming school:
 - Make sure Immigration (ICE) agents aren't violating policies that limit their access to schools; protect students' personal or family information.
 - Support and protect transgender and all LGBTQ students.
 - Create a school environment that supports - not criminalizes - Black and Brown students.
 - Commit to making your school a place that is free from hate and racism.
 - What other ideas do the students at your school have?

- **Hold a #WeBelongTogether Unity Circle in front of your Congressional representative's local office or at a Recess Town Hall event.**
 1. Members of Congress will be in their home districts from April 10-21. Find out if your member of Congress is holding a town hall during the recess; check their website or call their office to find out about any public events.
 2. Invite local children and youth to join the circle and speak about why they're taking action and their message for their Congressional representative.
 3. Call on your representative to oppose Trump's agenda of hate and policies and budget priorities that harm and separate families and communities.
 4. Invite press to cover the event.
 - [You can use this template to create your own media advisory.](#)

- **Hold a #WeBelongTogether Unity Circle outside your Mayor or City Council office.**
 1. Invite local children and youth to speak about why they are taking action.
 2. Invite local immigrant rights, racial justice, LGBTQ, youth, or child advocacy organizations to join the circle.
 3. Invite local elected officials to join you in the circle and commit to standing with kids and youth taking action.
 4. Invite press to cover the event.
 - [You can use this template to create your own media advisory.](#)
 5. Call on your local elected officials to pass policies to make your city welcoming for the young people and families who are targets of the Trump administration.
 - For ideas about local policies and campaigns, check out a new report from our friends at Mijente - [Expanding Sanctuary: What Makes a City a Sanctuary Now?](#)

- **Host a #WeBelongTogether house meeting with your neighbors to talk about how to make your community one that welcomes and protects all of us.**
 1. Have children and youth write or draw letters to elected officials.
 2. Have children make yard signs declaring your home is part of a community where #WeBelongTogether.
 - You can also download and print, or order for pick-up or delivery, trilingual *Welcome Your Neighbors* yard signs from the Immanuel Mennonite Church here: www.welcomeyourneighbors.org.
 3. Organize a family outreach day and recruit volunteers to talk to your neighbors about how to stand with individuals who are being targeted by hate. Ask people to sign up to help with future activities.

- **Tweet at local elected officials throughout the week of action.**
 1. Invite your friends and neighbors to join you.
 2. Include messages from local children and youth and the hashtag #WeBelongTogether.
 3. [Click here for some messages to get started.](#)

How to create a #WeBelongTogether Unity Circle with kids and youth in your community

1. Form a circle linking arms around a space you seek to make safe and welcoming for all.
 2. Recite the We Belong Together chant as a group. You can also invite kids and youth to add their own lines to the chant.
 3. Give participants in the circle an opportunity to express their commitment to keeping the circle together (for example: not letting Trump or other officials take their friends or loved ones away; not letting their neighbors live in fear because of hate and racism).
 4. Invite local leaders to join the circle - teachers, school officials, faith leaders, Mayors, City Council members, and others - and commit to enacting or fighting for policies that support and defend young people in their communities and others being targeted.
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We Belong Together Chant

***We belong together
as family, friends, and neighbors***

***We are part of one story
connected and stronger each day***

***The future belongs to us
Together, we are unbreakable***

Template invitation letter to elected officials

VERSION 1 for local elected officials:

Dear [TITLE AND NAME OF ELECTED OFFICIAL],

Young people are standing up for their families, their friends and their future and as an important community leader, we would like to invite you to join them. As federal immigration policies systemize family separation, Black youth continue to be criminalized and the global ban on refugees threatens the survival of children around the world, we are standing up for one another.

Parents, children and youth from [YOUR TOWN] have joined the *We Belong Together Kids Week of Action* to stand up to Trump's harmful policies and commit to make this community welcoming and free from hate. Please join us in creating a *We Belong Together Unity Circle* on [DATE AND TIME] at [LOCATION AND ADDRESS]. Your presence will be powerful in amplifying young people's message to stand strong against dangerous policies that threaten to tear our communities apart. We can work with your office to determine the details regarding your support of this event.

Thank you for your service to our community and for your consideration of this invitation. If you have any questions, please contact me at [PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL].

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE AND ORGANIZATION]

[CONTACT INFO]

VERSION 2 for Members of Congress:

Dear Representative [NAME],

I would like to invite you to join us in supporting the *We Belong Together Kids Caravan*, where 40 children and youth of color will journey on a bus from Miami to Washington, DC to call on elected officials to stand with kids in creating a welcoming country.

Young people are standing up for their families, their friends and their future. The Trump Administration's immigration policies systemize family separation, further criminalize Black youth and the travel ban threatens the survival of refugee children around the world.

We know that the voices of children and youth are particularly powerful; their future is at stake. That is why children and youth from Florida, New York, Colorado, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina will spend their spring breaks traveling to DC and joining with local youth to stand up to the bullying of the Trump Administration. They will arrive in DC on April 13th and create an interlocking circle in front of the White House to demonstrate their unity and refusal to be divided.

During the week of April 17-22, there will be a *National Week of Action* and local communities around the US will create chains of unity circles in schools, City Halls, Member offices, places of worship and other locations. These actions will demonstrate young people's power to stand up to bullying and call on local communities to stand strong against dangerous policies that threaten to tear our communities apart.

Some examples of how you can support the *We Belong Together Kids Caravan and National Week of Action* include:

- Sending a video message of support to the Caravan and DC action participants;
- Making public statements supporting the Caravan and the importance of children and youth raising their voices for unity and welcoming;
- Participate in unity actions in-district during the week of April 17th-22nd; and
- Join the unity circle in DC on April 13th at 1pm in Lafayette Park.

Please let me know if you would like to support this important event or if you need any further information. Looking forward to partnering with you.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE AND ORGANIZATION]

[CONTACT INFO]

Template media advisory for your event

MEDIA ADVISORY for [Day of Week, Month, Day, Year]

Media Contact:

[Name, Email, Phone Number]

Kids and Youth in [CITY] Lead Action to Stand Up to Trump's Bullying & Hate

[Name of host organization, school or community] Joins National #WeBelongTogether Kids Week of Action April 17-22

What: Kids and youth taking action to keep families together and stand up to Trump's bullying and hate.

When:

Where:

Who: [Host organization, school, or group], children and youth, parents, and local community members.

Speakers:

Visuals: Balloons, children's games, posters and banners, kids creating a unity circle and reciting a #WeBelongTogether chant.

(City, State) -- This week, children and youth from [town] are joining the *We Belong Together Kids Week of Action* and gathering at [specific location] to demonstrate their unity and call on [local leaders. EXAMPLE: Mayor, Governor, Congressional Representative, School Principal, etc.] to stand strong against dangerous policies that threaten to tear our nation apart. The event is part of a National Week of Action led by parents and kids who vow to stand up to Trump's bullying and commit to make their communities places that are welcoming and free from hate.

[Quote from child or youth participating in the action about what message they want to send to adult leaders in their city or community]

[Quote from a parent or organizer: EXAMPLE: "Kids and families are under attack by Trump, from immigration raids ripping parents from their children to the criminalization of Black youth. But young people in [city] are courageously standing up for each other and calling for unity. It's their future that's at stake and as a parent I'm proud to stand with them."]

The week of action comes on the heels of the *We Belong Together Kids Caravan*, where 40 children and youth of color journeyed on a bus from Miami to Washington, DC, to show their unbreakable bonds with one another and demand a country that welcomes everyone. Joining that call, kids and parents all over the country have vowed to host similar actions this week.

For more information on actions taking place in other communities, see the map at www.webelongtogetherkids.org.

[Insert brief description of host organization]

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Sample social media messages and memes

- **Sample Tweets for the We Belong Together Kids Week of Action**
 - Last week kids went from Miami to DC to stand up for families, friends & future. Now kids in [name of your town] take action: #WeBelongTogether!
 - Kids know to stand up for each other. This week, they're urging grown-ups to do the same: webelongtogetherkids.org #WeBelongTogether! [photo of your action]
 - Kids know #WeBelongTogether as family, friends, and neighbors & they're standing up to Trump & his bullies! [share video of kids reciting the We Belong Together chant]
- **Sample tweets to tweet at local officials in your community:**
 - Hey [@name of your local official here] kids like [name of your child or other local youth leader] know that we need to stand up & protect each other. Will you stand up and protect kids? #WeBelongTogether [include their photos holding a sign urging the elected leader to take a specific action to protect all kids]
 - Hey [@name of local official here] kids know that #WeBelongTogether. Show us that you do too by making [name of your town] a welcoming place for all!
- **Sample Facebook posts for the We Belong Together Kids Week of Action**
 - Kids know how to stand up to bullies and protect each other. This week, kids in [name of your town] are urging grown-ups like [name of your local official] to stand up to Trump and his cronies and protect their families, their friends, and their futures. Join us: webelongtogetherkids.org #WeBelongTogether! [add a picture of your action or of local kids holding signs with their demands]

We will share additional sample tweets and Facebook posts during the week of action. Check out www.webelongtogetherkids.org and this toolkit for additional messages you can share throughout the week.