

## Statement of Solidarity with The Highlander Research and Education Center

April 12, 2019

As organizations in pursuit of justice and liberation for all people, we stand in solidarity with the community at the Highlander Research and Education Center. On March 29, a fire destroyed the main office of the center. Authorities later confirmed that a white power symbol was found spray-painted in a parking lot near the office, and have launched an investigation.

We send our support to Highlander's co-directors, Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson and Rev. Allyn Maxfield-Steele, staff, and all community members connected to the center. For so many of us, Highlander has served as a movement home, a hub for political organizing, a historical archive, and a catalyst for our own political consciousness. On the grounds of the Highlander Center, Freedom riders, Dreamers, and Appalachian and Southern organizers have envisioned, strategized, and seeded movements for social change. We encourage everyone to support Highlander during this time by sharing your own Highlander story (use #HighlanderStories), by [donating](#) to the center, and by participating in Highlander's [gatherings](#), including the 87<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Celebration this September.

What happened at the Highlander Center is yet another painful example of the types of threats facing activists and organizations today. We reaffirm our commitment to be united, to stay vigilant, and to fiercely love and protect each other.

Sincerely,

Advancement Project, National Office  
Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus  
American Friends Service Committee  
CAAAY Organizing Asian Communities  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Empowered Politics  
Detention Watch Network  
Education Justice Alliance  
ILM Foundation  
Mijente  
Million Hoodies Movement for Justice  
Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC)  
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)  
National Urban Indian Family Coalition  
Native Organizers Alliance  
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans - PANA  
Race Forward  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
United We Dream

*Our organizations are connected through a network called SolidarityIs to foster cross-racial and cross-movement collaboration. For more information, please visit [www.solidarityis.org](http://www.solidarityis.org).*