Why an occupation?

We're taking over a small space in the Indiana Memorial Union in response to the proposed anti-immigrant bill SB 590. This is not a protest, it's not an attempt to force a politician or official or institution to do something different. We're creating an occupied info-point to spread information widely about the law, and what it will mean for undocumented people, for people who will be racially-profiled as undocumented, and for everyone who will face increased surveillance and police control.

Specifically, we need to meet face-to-face because...

...Facebook isn't enough. When we're confronted with measures this terrible, we need to create spaces for connecting face-to-face, for serious discussion and joyful resistance. Please drop by whenever, to talk about this bill and everything else that's awful or amazing in this world. Let's build decentralized networks for resisting this bill and to feel more powerful in a world that usually leaves us powerless.

It's intolerable pretending that everyday life should go on as normal...

...especially when lawmakers are discussing a law aimed at creating a legal racial-underclass. Isn't it obscene that we all try to pretend that everything is ok, when it feels like the world is becoming more and more terrifying? A small occupation can begin a process of interrupting this suffocating, isolating normality. Maybe some people will object that occupying a small part of the cafeteria will create discomfort and inconvenience, but isn't it more more uncomfortable to continue acting like nothing horrible – whether SB 590, the proposed ban on gay marriage, the end to funding for Planned Parenthood, or the cuts to teachers – is happening?

Occupation is only one path among many. There is no winning path, but it's possible to begin talking right now about new strategies for building a world we'd actually want to live in.

₹ Stopsb590.wordpress.com

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