

Stefania Arteaga

Good morning everyone, my name is Stefania Arteaga, I am an organizer with Comunidad Colectiva a grassroots organization in Charlotte that organizes around the way that local Law enforcement collaborate with Immigration Customs enforcement and the way ICE enforcement terrorizes immigrant.

As I was getting ready to speak today, I did something many women of color do, I questioned myself.... I asked and wondered which part of myself I was going to leave behind to make everyone feel comfortable.

But today, I decided that was not going to be the case. I want to have an open and free conversation on what it looks like to have a women's movement that does not just revolve around reproductive rights, and wage-pay gaps that mostly cater to a white audience but to bring to the table the issues that affect us women/ fems of color, trans femms, gender non-conforming that often are left out of these conversations.

And I invite you, the audience to listen with open hearts and open, minds. As I talk about what it looks like to have a womens movement that is centered in the values and needs of our communities. Because at the end of the day, we aren't free until we are all free!

I want to talk to you about women's issues through the lens of a woman of color, someone who came up poor, who did not have the privilege of citizenship and who is not only fighting for her self but every black and brown woman, gender-non conforming, trans fem out there.

When I talk about the Women's movement issues through the lens of women of color they are deportations, police accountability, the forced migration of central americans and southeast Asians are undergoing for years due to US military interventions, trans rights and so much more.

As we talk about a wome's movement we need to emphasize that women of color we will not and should not be silence and in fact need to be at the forefront of this movement, because at the end the day our liberation is tied to yours.

A women's movement is one that is:

- POC sisters are not silence
- Pro Black
- Pro LGBTQ and gender non-conforming
- In solidarity with indigenous women and migrants

So I will challenge each and every one on our you out here today:

You will hear from a wide range of speakers today, many who will not look like you. I challenge you that after today's event you check out our groups pages (SEAC, CU) donate to our causes, show up to our actions, SIMPLY INTERACT with open hearts and open minds and listen to our will about our movements, our struggles and our values.

Listen and don't disrupt our collective vision towards liberation. And most importantly, because I come across this too often, THIS WORK CAN NOT BE ROOTED IN ANTI-BLACKNESS because all lives Matter when black lives matter.