WHO WE ARE

Food for All is a committee of Solidarity Across Borders, a grassroots migrant justice network. We believe that access to food is a fundamental part of dignity and self-determination for undocumented migrants and all those who face poverty and precarity. We believe that the practice of denying services to people, including at food banks, is deeply discriminatory.

Part of the struggle to break down borders within our city is to ensure that people have access to services without fear. Food services should be accessible for all Montréalers, regardless of immigration status. In building a Solidarity City, we are opposing fear, isolation, precarity, and division.

In addition to working to ensure food banks are accessible to all, we also work to challenge the systems that create the very inequities that necessitate the need for food banks in the first place.

We demand access to healthy food for everyone, regardless of immigration status!

HOW TO SUPPORT

► Implement a “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy – do not ask for immigration status, and do not share information with immigration authorities.

► Endorse our Solidarity City Declaration, which can be found online here: http://www.solidarityacrossborders.org/en/solidarity-city/solidarity-city-declaration

► Invite members of Food for All to give a presentation on our campaign to your staff, board of directors, or members. Write us at food4allmontreal@gmail.com

► Join us! If you would like to attend meetings, help present workshops, or organize events, get involved in our campaign!
**The Campaign**

The Food For All campaign works with a variety of Food Banks and community organizations to fight for accessibility to food services for all—especially for those with precarious immigration status.

We recognize the difficulties and daily indignities that are thrust upon people without status, and are committed to transforming services in general, and Food Banks in particular, into safe spaces where anyone can access services without fear.

**Why Food For All?**

There are an estimated 40-50 thousand non-status Montréalers. These people live here, work here, have families, friends and communities here, but are invisible, excluded from the standard set of legal, political, economic, and social rights enjoyed by citizens, and lack access to essential services such as healthcare, housing, education, and emergency food aid.

Many food aid organizations ask for government-issued ID, an address, or even proof of immigration status to access their services. These are documents that non-status residents generally do not have. Being unable to provide these documents enhances the stigma of being labelled “illegal” and the fear of being reported to immigration authorities.

The Food For All campaign strives to ensure access to food for all city residents. We believe that everybody in Montréal, regardless of immigration status, has the right to food security. We see food security as access to healthy, low-cost, and culturally appropriate food.

We therefore invite food banks, soup kitchens, collective kitchens, and other food-service providers to work with us to ensure access without fear by putting an end to the discriminatory practice of asking for ID or immigration status and publicly declaring their food bank to be off limits to the CBSA (The Canadian Border Services Agency). Immigration enforcement is not the job of service providers. For service spaces to be truly safe and accessible, immigration authorities should therefore not be admitted.

**Solidarity City**

Our efforts to open up food services for all non-status Montréalers is part of a wider campaign known as “Solidarity City”. Solidarity City is an effort to dismantle the borders that exist within our city by building networks of mutual aid and support.