



Immigration Raids Rapid Response: For Faith Allies



Immigration Raids Are Beginning to Happen Under the Trump Administration

As the faith community, we must continue to be in solidarity with immigrants and refugees as increased attacks come down from the Administration. We know from Trump's Executive Orders and announcements that immigration enforcement will increase deportations, likely through large scale raids. This may take place through workplace raids, home raids, neighborhood-wide raids, or even checkpoints. We've heard of raids already beginning to happen. As faith allies, we are called to be in solidarity and help stop these raids should they occur through rapid response mobilization.

How Can We Prepare?

1. Make sure you are part of an organized network of faith communities who are working closely with immigrant-led organizations.
2. Create a hotline number where faith allies can be reached in case of an emergency, but don't just wait to be contacted. Especially when there are rumors of raids, keep an eye on the social media accounts of local immigrant rights organizations and/or watch for key hashtags like #ICEin[city name] and #MigraWatch
3. Make a plan, in consultation with immigrant-led organization, for how allies can show up together to a raid and what you can do to help stop the raid from happening.
4. Make sure you know your rights and that you know the rights to which all immigrants are entitled (see below).

How to be Organized

- Make sure you are meeting regularly and outreaching to new congregations interested in immigrants rights or the [Sanctuary Movement](#)
- Always stay linked to a trusted immigrants rights organization. There are many great networks such as [UWD](#), [FIRM](#), [NDLON](#), [Mijente](#), and [DWN](#), but it's always best to be connected to local organizations who will know your local context.
- To be a good ally, make sure to always engage with and take leadership from impacted people.
- Contact someone from the [The National Lawyers Guild](#) to see if they can be legal observers.

Hotline and Rapid Response

- Figure out the best way to do rapid response through the following: assigning a point person, setting up a text thread and/or setting up a hotline number
- Create a way to rotate volunteers of people who are on call
- One way to set up a hotline is through google voice. The number that people are given stays the same, but you can change the forwarded number on the back end.

What to do once you arrive to the raid

- Have an identified spokesperson to talk with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and/ or the media if necessary
- Come equipped with prayers, songs, scriptures and spoken word ready to publicly share; this will likely intimidate immigration enforcement.
- You have a right to witness and video record the enforcement action which will help create public pressure that could help stop the raid, though rights do vary by state, so make sure to [know your rights about video recording](#)

- Consider the level of engagement you would like to have: do you want to stand in front of ICE at the door or will you maintain a prayerful distance from afar? Consider having specific people designated to de-escalate, should conflict arise.
- Record badge numbers, license plates, and everything that happened in the incident by writing it down and video taping. As much as possible, try to learn and document what role ICE officers and local law enforcement played. For local advocacy, it is important to note the role of local law enforcement, including indirect support like blocking traffic.

Know Your Rights Resources for Immigrants

See Resources from [United We DREAM](#)

1. DO NOT OPEN DOOR: ICE can't come in without a warrant. They can only come in if you let them come in.
2. REMAIN SILENT: Anything you say can be used against you in court. Plead the 5th amendment to remain silent.
3. DO NOT SIGN: Don't sign anything ICE gives you without talking to an attorney.
4. REPORT AND RECORD: If you see a raid happening call your local hotline, alert your community (national hotline is 1-844-363-1423). Record the badge numbers of agents, type of car, and exactly what happened.
5. FIGHT BACK! Get a trustworthy attorney, engage the local community to advocate alongside you. If you are detained you may be able to get bail and be released, don't give up hope.

Also, see these very helpful Know Your Rights (KYR) resources in English, Spanish, French, Punjabi, Arabic, Mandarin, and Haitian Creole, as well as a "Defend Against ICE Raids and Community Arrests" toolkit and Community Responses models, from the Immigrant Defense Project at:

<http://www.immdefense.org/raids/>

Know Your Rights for Allies

1. If you see a raid happening, call your local hotline (national hotline is 1-844-363-1423). Record the badge numbers of agents, type of car, and exactly what happened.
2. You have a right to be present, observing, bearing witness, praying, photographing and video taping (though your right to videotape a law enforcement action may vary by state). If ICE warns you and asks you to step back while videoing/photographing, it is best to follow directions, as they may confiscate your camera.

Questions? For additional resources, contact:

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