

IMMIGRANT ALLY TOOLKIT



INTRODUCTION

In February of this year, [Juan Manuel Montes](#), a DREAMer who had lived in the U.S. since he was 9 years old, with cognitive disabilities, and who had been granted relief from deportation under President Obama's deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) program, was sent back to Mexico. This is the first case of a DACAdocumented youth, *with federal authorization to live and work in the U.S.*, being deported. But it probably won't be the last.

Just this week, on April 19th, a [mother of four U.S.-born American children](#), who had lived in the U.S. for nearly two decades, with no criminal record, was put on a plane and sent to Mexico, separating her from her young children.

The frightening reality is that immigration officers are terrorizing our communities. Raids on immigrant families are escalating. Mothers who have been here for over a decade have been ripped from the arms of their children. Immigrants with lawful status have been unlawfully detained. Deportation forces have targeted parents picking their children up from school and even waited outside of courts to track down domestic abuse victims seeking protection. Because of fear of being detained or deported, immigrants are avoiding going to the doctor when they get sick, parents are pulling their kids out of school, and others are hiding deeper in the shadows.

This is what the Trump agenda represents. And this is why we all have to Rise Up on May 1 and resist. We must defend our communities, citizens and noncitizens alike.

RISE UP: PLANNED NATIONWIDE ACTIVITIES FOR MAY 1

Americans of diverse backgrounds are outraged and hundreds of thousands are planning to [rise up](#) for immigrant and refugee families. On May 1st in 100 cities, towns, and communities across the country, hundreds of thousands of people will rise up in resistance to demonstrate the power, resilience and strength of immigrant communities in America.

INDIVISIBLE PROJECT STANDS WITH IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Indivisible's core mission is to resist Donald Trump's racist, sexist, and xenophobic agenda through local, grassroots congressional advocacy. And the cornerstone of that agenda is the anti-immigrant, xenophobic positions that Donald Trump espoused while a presidential candidate, and that he's put into practice in his first four months in office. As a candidate, Trump focused his energy on demonizing immigrants. Since taking office he's dedicated himself to terrorizing immigrant communities. From the anti-immigrant executive orders to efforts to fund Trump's border wall and expand his deportation force, immigrants are perhaps the most vulnerable members of our society under Trump.

We can only defeat Donald Trump's agenda if we all stick together—if we treat an attack on one as an attack on all. It is for this reason that Indivisible Project stands with immigrants and their families on May 1, and beyond.

RISE UP IS NOT JUST ABOUT IMMIGRANTS—IT'S A DAY OF UNITY

May 1st is also about working families. We will rise up for all those being targeted by Trump's hate. We will rise up for the [DACAmended](#). We will rise up for Muslims. We will rise up in solidarity with our LGBTQ sisters and brothers, for Black lives, for women, and in defense of our planet. May 1st will be a day of unity and solidarity where all movements are welcome to help carry the torch.

For many who are joining, May 1st will be a no-work, no-school day of protest where we will flex our economic muscle and display the collective power and vital centrality of immigrants to the success of America's economy.

This is a powerful moment for us to stand in solidarity with those most under threat by Donald Trump. That's why Indivisible groups nationwide will be rising up May 1st. Show your support for immigrants joining with thousands of other in the pledge. Text WeRise to 69866 to get involved!

To find out more about the events happening near you on May 1, visit: <https://reformimmigrationforamerica.org/rise-up-all-events/>

CONNECTING WITH LOCAL IMMIGRANT RIGHTS GROUPS

We encourage all Indivisible groups to connect with their local immigrant rights groups in the lead up to May 1st events. The immigrant rights community has been working on defending immigrants and their families for years, and they are best able to help provide you with recommendations on how you can be most useful in protecting your communities. Below are a two national immigrant rights organizations with local chapters that are worth checking out.

HOW TO CONNECT WITH A LOCAL IMMIGRANT RIGHTS GROUP

The [Fair Immigration Reform Movement](#) (FIRM) is the largest coalition of grassroots immigrant rights organizations, with over 40 organizations in over 30 states. Since its founding in 2000, FIRM has been a leader in fighting for immigrant rights on the local, state, and federal level. You can find a local group using the FIRM Directory, including Rise Up event links: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12R8q6X_cJTfRnrg-BM1jPvsuyNFQ6yrgq4oicoSmmHM/edit#gid=0

[United We Dream](#) (UWD) is the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the country, with dozens of chapters and affiliates across the country. You can find a local chapter by visiting: <https://unitedwedream.org/groups/>. UWD members are also planning future activities and events inside and outside of DC. You can sign up for one [here](#).

Even if there isn't a FIRM or UWD chapter in your area, chances are that there is an active immigrant rights organizations near you. A quick google search will likely be enough to find one!



A NOTE ON BEING RESPECTFUL IN THIS SPACE

Remember: Indivisible Project's believes in non-violent resistance to the Trump agenda. This is especially important when joining in immigration rallies and events. As allies, it's important to keep in mind that undocumented immigrants participating in these activities are exposed to additional risks. Be supportive and respectful of undocumented immigrants who choose to stand up and speak up at these events.

WHAT YOUR INDIVISIBLE GROUP CAN DO ON MAY 1 TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

March. You can begin by finding a local Rise Up [event near you](#) and make plans to attend with your group. Participating in the May 1st rallies and marches is a powerful way to show your solidarity with immigrant families. Meet with your group in the days leading up to May 1 to plan out your activities.

Advocate. It's also important to translate that energy into congressional action. MoCs will care more about groups showing up in their offices than of people gathering in downtown. Ultimately, Trump needs Congress to fund his immigration crackdown—and that gives you a lot of constituent power. This May 1, as you plan your marches and rallies, we encourage you to also plan activities directed at your MoCs. Here are just a couple of suggestions on things you can do on May 1:

- » **Plan District Office Meetings.** Plan to visit your MoCs' offices with your group after the march. Your MoC will likely be out of the office, but their staff will be there to meet with you and hear your concerns. Make sure you let them know that you oppose Donald Trump's mass deportation force.
- » **Co-Host Immigration-Focused Town Halls.** Work with local immigrant rights organizations to hold an immigration-themed town hall. Invite your MoCs to discuss how they'll protect immigrants in your community. As always, be ready to hold a constituent town hall in case your MoC doesn't show up—check out our [tips](#) on how to do that here.

TELL YOUR MOCS: NOT A PENNY MORE FOR TRUMP'S DEPORTATION MACHINE!

In order for Donald Trump to be able to build up his mass deportation force, he needs Congress to fund it. He has already asked Congress to add billions of dollars—on top of the \$20 billion already budgeted—to build a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border and speed up his deportation machine. It has been estimated that building the wall alone will cost \$21.6 billion. And, he wants to pay for these things by slashing funding for other vital programs, like meals on wheels, financial aid for college students, through massive cuts to the EPA's budget, and through devastating cuts to other crucial services for children, families and the elderly.

Tell Congress that you don't want your taxpayer dollars used to *build walls, rip families apart, fill detention beds in private prisons, and terrorize our neighbors by ramping up the number of immigration agents on the streets.* Instead of funding a wall that divides us, the U.S. government should put our taxpayer dollars towards helping our families and communities.

Suggested hashtag: #NoBootsNoBedsNoWalls

Example Talking Points

Ask your MoCs to say NO to Trump's request for more money for his anti-immigrant agenda. It will be harder and harder to fight his demands for more money in the years to come if we do not stop him now. Here are some talking points to use:

- » **Stop Funding the Deportation Machine.** Stop Tearing Families Apart. Congress should not add a single penny more to the current budget to pay for Trump's deportation machine.
- » **No Down Payment on the Deportation Machine.** Any funding to pay for a wall or increased immigration enforcement will just enable Trump to ramp up his anti-immigrant, racist and xenophobic agenda. In the coming years, Trump will come back to Congress again and again asking for more taxpayer money.
- » **No Boots.** President Trump wants to dramatically ramp up the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents. More agents will do nothing but create more fear in our communities. We should not fund more ICE boots in our communities to build up a militarized deportation force.
- » **No Beds.** Trump plans to increase the number of detention beds by 30,000, contingent upon the availability of funding. If there are 30,000 new beds, they will find 30,000 more immigrants to fill them.
- » **Fund Families, Not Walls.** Our taxpayer dollars would be better spent investing in families, our children and our future. This funding could go to creating jobs, rebuilding our failing infrastructure, and strengthening our health care system. It could also go to education and for our children, meals for older Americans, child care programs, and cleaning up our environment.

We understand not everyone will be able to make it out to May 1st or attend a District Office meeting. If you can't attend in person, you can still continue to call your representative and two senators. Make sure they hear from you. Tell them you oppose Trump's detention centers, increase in ICE agents, and his border wall

HOW YOU CAN BE AN IMMIGRANT ALLY LOCALLY

While making sure that Congress doesn't fund Trump's immigration priorities is important, there are also local policies your group can support that will help protect immigrant families. Below are a few recommendations. But remember, if your group is interested in pursuing any of these activities in your city or town, the first step is to reach out to local immigrant rights organizations to see whether there is an existing campaign and to find out how you can support ongoing efforts.

PROMOTE SANCTUARY POLICIES

In response to federal enforcement actions, local governments have begun resisting pressure to participate in the federal government's mass deportation program by passing legislation or enacting policies to protect their local immigrant communities. Jurisdictions with policies like these have come to be known as "[sanctuary cities](#)." Traditionally, a sanctuary policy is one that limits the extent to which police will help federal immigration authorities deport people. But increasingly, communities are thinking more broadly about the concept of sanctuary, and pushing their local elected officials to not only stop police from collaborating with ICE, but to make a wide range of changes to improve the lives of immigrant communities and to promote racial justice more broadly.

A few examples of local sanctuary policies include:

- » A prohibition against holding any person in custody solely due to a request by ICE
- » A prohibition against local police sharing a person's release date with ICE
- » A prohibition against inquiring into or gathering information about an individual's immigration status
- » A prohibition against joint operations between ICE and local law enforcement agencies
- » A prohibition against allowing ICE access to jail facilities, or to persons in local custody, for the purpose of investigating violations of federal immigration law
- » A prohibiting against deputizing of police to act as ICE agents, and terminating any existing [287\(g\) agreements](#) between the local jurisdiction and ICE

The Center for Popular Democracy has created a comprehensive toolkit that discusses each of these policy components in detail and goes step by step through the process of crafting a strong sanctuary ordinance or resolution. It is available [here](#).

[Local Progress](#), a national network of progressive local elected officials that is uniting elected officials working on sanctuary policies, can provide support to your elected officials and connect them to peers advancing similar policies in other cities.

GOING WITH IMMIGRANTS TO ICE CHECK-INS

Many undocumented immigrants have regular check-ins with immigration officers. What's important to remember is that there are several reasons for why a person might have these and *you should never assume that it's because they've done something wrong*. It could be that a person was released from an immigration detention center while their case is pending and one of the conditions of release is periodic check-ins. Many immigrants with these mandatory check-ins are afraid that, under Trump, complying with these check-ins might lead to their deportation.

Increasingly, allies of immigrants are going with immigrants to check-ins with ICE officers. This helps by providing immigrants with moral support, but it also allows allies to monitor interactions with immigration officials to ensure there aren't any violations of an immigrant's rights. Keep in mind that the rules at these offices vary, and there may be restrictions on who can enter.

People have been taken into ICE custody at their check-ins and detained until they are deported. If this happens it can be difficult to notify family and friends, to gather clothes, a suitcase, important documents, and to find legal assistance quickly. Without people to monitor them, ICE will be even more likely to operate without transparency or accountability. Check with your local immigrant rights organization if you're interested in going with a person to an ICE check-in.

What is the role of the accompanying person(s)?

The most important part is being physically present to show ICE that the person checking in has community support. It does not include engaging with immigration officers or staff, unless the person that you are accompanying asks you to do so. You should feel free to take notes about the encounter with immigration officers.

Another way to help a person going to an ICE check-in is to work with them to develop a "rapid response plan" to use in case the person is detained by immigration. The plan should include:

- » Contact information for a family member, loved one, or friend
- » If applicable, a community organization that should be notified
- » Contact information for an attorney or legal organization
- » Where to find their important documents such as passport, children's birth certificates, prescriptions, etc.

- » Remember to ask for the person’s full name, date of birth, country of origin, and alien registration number (“A” number). That way you or their loved ones can find out where they are by using this ICE detainee locator website—<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>
- » If the person wants, to bring additional Indivisible members to the check in. Some people might prefer to have just one person to go with them while others might want a larger group to accompany them. Ask them what they prefer.

GET “KNOW YOUR RIGHTS” TRAINING

No matter who is president, *everyone living in the U.S. has certain basic rights* under the U.S. Constitution. Undocumented immigrants have these rights, too. Since the elections, many people have been attending Know Your Rights workshops, or have been trained to provide Know Your Rights presentations. Understanding what a person’s rights are, regardless of their immigration status, can help protect them from being deported or detained. As an informed ally, you can help by watching for ICE abuses or by helping to train others.

To learn more about these rights, see the following resources:

- » National Immigration Law Center (NILC): [Know Your Rights](#) (multiple languages)
- » Immigrant Defense Project: [Know Your Rights](#) (additional languages)

Additionally, you may have family, friends or coworkers who could be affected, and should share this information with them:

- » **Carry a know-your-rights card** and show it if an immigration officer stops you. The card explains that you will remain silent and that you wish to speak with an attorney. The card can be found here—<https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/rights-card.png>.
- » **Create safety plans.** Encourage people who are at risk of deportation to create emergency and safety plans. This family preparedness packet is a good starting place—<https://www.ilrc.org/family-preparedness-plan> (available in English, Spanish, and Chinese).
- » **Practice solidarity!** During raids, ICE will question everyone in the vicinity and there’s power in numbers and immigrant allies can help by standing with immigrants getting approached by ICE and remaining silent and refusing to answer questions until an attorney is present. Practice doing so with family, friends, or Indivisible members.

- » **Report and document raids and arrests.** If it is possible and safe for you to do so, take photos and videos of the raid or arrest. Also take notes on what happened. Call United We Dream's hotline to report a raid: 1-844-363-1423. There may also be a local raids hotline in your area that you can call. You can send text messages to 877877.