

Some ways to help immigrants and refugees

Support immigrant advocacy and legal aid organizations -- do a fundraiser!

- Voces de la Frontera (Wisconsin-based) offers immigrant support and community organizing/advocacy around ICE raids, immigration policy, etc. <https://vdlf.org/>
- The Community Immigration Law Center offers legal aid in Madison: <https://www.cilcmadison.org>
- Centro Hispano Immigrant Defense Fund in Madison supports immigrants with wrap-around services including legal defense: [Support the Immigrant Defense Fund | Every.org](https://supporttheimmigrantdefensefund.org)
- The National Immigrant Justice Center offers legal aid to low-income immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, Dreamers, etc. and advocates for immigration policies that respect human rights. <https://immigrantjustice.org/chicago-legal-protection-fund>
- The American Civil Liberties Union brings lawsuits against agencies that violate human/civil rights. <https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights>
- Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) supports unaccompanied minors with legal and other assistance <https://supportkind.org/>
- Others: Amnesty International, National Immigration Law Center

Educate yourself and prepare to play an active role in defense of your immigrant neighbors

- Participate in Know Your Rights, Upstander, ICE activity verifier, Peacekeeper/nonviolent protester/de-escalation training in the event of an ICE raid or immigration protest in your community. Training organizations include ACLU, Voces de la Frontera, DC Peace Teams, Training for Change, etc.
- Keep “red cards” in your wallet to remind you of your rights and to share with immigrants who might find them useful. (Available online in multiple languages).
- Join or help organize local immigrant support actions (protests, Rapid Response to ICE, vigils)

Accompany your immigrant neighbors -- with humility and preparation

- Find out who is already doing this work in your area and educate yourself first.
- Possibilities include offering English instruction; supporting food pantries; helping churches already accompanying immigrants; paying for legal assistance; accompanying immigrants to hearings and USCIS and ICE appointments; supporting families who have lost an adult to ICE detention or deportation; distributing “organize your affairs” packets to help families prepare for the orderly management of bank accounts, medical care, real estate, child custody, etc. in the event of a detention.

Support refugee resettlement

- Refugee resettlement and most federal support for refugees who are already here is largely halted. Volunteer with or donate to your local refugee resettlement agencies (World Relief, Catholic Charities, Church World Service, Episcopal Migration Ministries, Jewish Family Service, etc.)
- Support refugees in overseas camps (International Rescue Committee, UNHCR, Doctors Without Borders, World Central Kitchen)

Spread the word, help make a better conversation happen

- Share what you know with others. If you can, go across the aisle and listen. Find common ground by focusing on basic values and goals. Build relationships. Write a letter to your local paper.
- Explore whether your county or municipality is cooperating with ICE or considering it. If so, ask for details on how implementation has worked. (There are 3 different models of collaboration. The Warrant Service Officer option is the least problematic, the Task Force model is the worst.) Communicate your concerns or approval.
- Call or write to your legislators. Support candidates who support your views on immigration.
- Find more audiences for this presentation. Contact Kat Griffith at katgriffith@hotmail.com