

Opportunities to Educate and Act Immigration Detention

FILMS & VIDEOS

Life Inside a Detention Center, an 8-part video series. Produced by The New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta. Using first person testimonies from published reports on ICE detention, these short videos present startling and detailed descriptions of the physical settings and daily routines, as well as access to legal and medical services. The series concludes with a call to action with helpful tips of what individuals and congregations can do to help individuals and advocate for change.

<https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/immigration-video-series/>

Locked in a Box: Immigration Detention (24 mins.) is an award-winning short documentary that follows the stories of individuals held in the U.S. Immigration detention system and those who visit them. The film traces the lives of individuals who fled their homelands in search of safety and freedom only to end up in U.S. prisons under a system run by Immigration Customs & Enforcement (ICE).

<http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/video-immigration-detention/>

Families Held Captive (23 mins.) covers the opening of family detention centers in Texas in 2014 in response to the Central American families seeking asylum in the U.S. The film also features advocacy efforts by people of faith to end family detention. This film is still relevant as the use of family detention continues and is expected to expand. <https://vimeo.com/130391925>

PUBLISHED REPORTS (most recent first)

Cage of Fear: Medical Neglect and Abuse in Stewart Detention Center During the Covid-19 Pandemic (May 2021) by El Refugio.

https://www.erefugiostewart.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/05/CageOfFear_FINAL_English.pdf

Private Prison Company Poisoned Immigrants at Adelanto for A Decade (March 22, 2021 news article) by Earth Justice <https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2021/private-prison-company-poisoned-immigrants-at-adelanto-for-a-decade>

Inside Atlanta's Prison Cages: A Report on the Conditions inside the Atlanta City Detention Center (August 2018)

https://projectsouth.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/08/InsideATL_Imm_Cages_92_DIG.pdf

IMPRISONED JUSTICE: Inside Two Georgia Immigrant Detention Centers (May 2017) by Project South

https://projectsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Imprisoned_Justice_Report-1.pdf

Abuse in Adelanto: An investigation into a town's immigration jail (2015) by Freedom for Immigrants (formerly CIVIC) and Detention Watch Network

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a33042eb078691c386e7bce/t/5a9dad7be4966b064c98e07c/1520283004817/CIVIC_DWN-Adelanto-Report_old.pdf



PCUSA OFFICES

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is a ministry of relief and response to national and international disasters, aid to refugees and displaced persons, refugee resettlement and efforts toward development. PDA partners with Mid Councils and local congregations in the U.S. and with church partners and faith-based relief organizations internationally.

Web: <http://pda.pcusa.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PDACARES/>

General inquiries: pda@pcusa.org

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Email: Susan.Krehbiel@pcusa.org

The Office of Immigration Issues provides legal advice and counsel to mid-councils and congregations regarding immigration issues; coordinates advocacy and education efforts and create worship materials on immigration.

Web: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/>

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Email: Teresa.Waggener@pcusa.org

Office of Public Witness is the public policy information and advocacy office. Its task is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the Presbyterian General Assembly. Read their blog for the most recent news:

Web: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PCUSAWashington/>

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Presbyterians For Just Immigration (PFJI) is a network of Presbyterians addressing the crisis caused by a broken immigration system. PFJI is committed to fostering discussion, sharing resources, promoting advocacy, and writing liturgy on various immigration topics. <https://www.facebook.com/Presbyterians-for-Just-Immigration-354161945856/>

GIVE

To support Presbyterian-connected ministries that work with asylum seekers, people in detention/released and other domestic ministries, donate to US Refugee Emergencies (<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000095/>).



NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & COALITIONS

Detention Watch Network is a national coalition building power through collective advocacy, grassroots organizing, and strategic communications to abolish immigration detention in the United States. <https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/>

Interfaith Immigration Coalition is a partnership of faith-based organizations (including PCUSA) committed to enacting fair and humane immigration reform that reflects our mandate to welcome the stranger and treat all human beings with dignity and respect. Coalition members work together to advocate for just and equitable immigration policies, educate faith communities, and serve immigrant populations around the country. <https://www.interfaithimmigration.org/>

National Immigrant Justice Center (part of Heartland Alliance) is dedicated to ensuring human rights protections and access to justice for all immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. With offices in Chicago, Indiana, San Diego, and Washington, D.C., NIJC provides direct legal services to and advocates for these populations through policy reform, impact litigation, and public education. <https://immigrantjustice.org/>

Undocublack Network is fighting to create space for currently and formerly undocumented Black immigrants to not only survive but thrive. <https://undocublack.org/>

Welcome with Dignity is a new coalition of national and grassroots organizations working together to transform the U.S. asylum system and defend the rights of those seeking protection, to welcome families, children, and adults languishing on our doorstep, and create a more just, humane, and dignified approach to protecting migrants fleeing danger. <https://welcomewithdignity.org/>

CONGREGATIONAL GUIDES

Bring the Sky: A Detention Visitation Guide was specifically written for local congregations and is available for free from Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service. <http://lirs.org/act/visitation/launch-a-visitation-ministry/>

Freedom for Immigrants Guide to Visiting People in Immigration Detention includes background information, how to report what you learn and connecting visitation to advocacy. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eIYRAqnJl_ujzFay6Qa0_TyVjMZu-H_NXEk4CYRE7-Q/edit

[**PDA Accompaniment Toolkit for Congregations \(with people seeking asylum\)**](#)

[**PDA Guidance for Asylum Accompaniment Ministry Teams in a COVID-19 Environment**](#)

Immigo is an App from Immigration Advocates Network available from iTunes that provides an up-to-date directory of immigration legal service providers, relevant information and news updates for practitioners working in the immigrant integration space. <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/probono/>



NATIONAL ADVOCACY

Communities Not Cages – First Ten Campaign <https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/take-action/communitiesnotcages>

PCUSA Action Alert -- FY2022 DHS Appropriations

To sign up for the Office of Public Witness Action Alert please go to:

<https://www.votervoice.net/PCUSA/home>

In the United States, every person should be treated with dignity and respect, but Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) get billions every year to jail, abuse and deport immigrant family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors.

Despite years of investigations and well-documented abuse and neglect, the immigration system has only gotten worse. Meanwhile, many of the communities where prisons and detention centers are located are economically depressed. Prisons are the main employers for local residents in places like Lumpkin, GA, Eloy, AZ and York, PA. They need new economic development opportunities.

During this appropriations season, we call on Members of Congress to cut funding to ICE and CBP and re-invest funds in communities. We need you to ensure that FY2022 Appropriations include language that:

- Drastically cuts the funding to ICE and CBP and ends contracts with private prison corporations;
- Ends the use of mandatory detention;
- Invests in federally funded respite and welcoming centers and a trauma-informed approach to asylum processing;
- Invests in community-based services for immigrants while in immigration court proceedings; and
- Invests in economic development in communities dependent upon the prison industry for employment.

COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

National

Asylum-Seekers Sponsorship Project – An independent group that conducts phone screenings to vet potential sponsors and provide training for potential sponsors --

<https://www.asylumsponsorshipproject.org/>

The CWS Resource Call Center is available to connect those awaiting their immigration court dates to resources provided by resettlement offices, member congregations, Sanctuary Churches and other service providers across the country including housing, legal and support services, resource sharing and friendship. To offer services or donations: resourcecenter@cwsglobal.org



Local Organizations and Presbytery Initiatives (by State)

The list below is not comprehensive but includes organizations which are known to have a relationship with Presbyterians or a history of Presbyterian connections.

Arizona:

Casa Mariposa Detention Visitation Program (Florence) - <https://www.facebook.com/cmvisitation>
Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project (Florence, Eloy) – <https://firrp.org/>

California:

Adelanto Visitation Ministry – email: adelanto@freedomforimmigrants.org
CLUE-LA (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) - <http://www.cluejustice.org/>
Matthew 25 So Cal Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry– <https://www.matthew25ocal.org/>
SoCal Presbyterian Immigrant Accompaniment (a Presbytery partnership) –
<https://www.presbywelcome.com/> :

- Presbytery of the Pacific, Congregational and Immigrant Organizing -- Heidi Worthen Gamble heidi@pacificpresbytery.org or Anita Chombeng, rachombeng@pacificpresbytery.org
- Presbytery of San Gabriel and Presbytery of Riverside – presbywelcome@gmail.com

Colorado:

Casa de Paz – www.CasadePazColorado.org

Georgia:

Detention Watch Georgia <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDetentionWatch/>
El Refugio - <https://www.elrefugiostewart.org/>
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights <https://glahr.org/>
New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta - <https://www.facebook.com/New-Sanctuary-Movement-of-Atlanta-443712292645398/>
Project South <https://projectsouth.org/>
South Georgia Immigrant Support Network <https://www.facebook.com/sogaisnetwork/>

Illinois:

Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (Chicago) - <http://www.icdichicago.org/>

Massachusetts:

Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project (Boston) <http://www.pairproject.org/>

Michigan:

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center (Detroit & Pontiac) –
<http://www.detimmigrantcenter.com/>

Minnesota:

The Advocates for Human Rights (Minneapolis) <http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/>
Conversations With Friends (Edina) <https://conversationswithfriendsmn.org/>

New Jersey:

First Friends of New Jersey and New York - <http://www.firstfriendsnjny.org/>



Texas:

Casa Marianella (Austin) - <http://www.casamarianella.org/>

Center for Survivors of Torture (Austin, Dallas, San Antonio) - <http://cstnet.org/>

Interfaith Welcome Coalition (San Antonio) – www.interfaithwelcomecoalition.org

Washington:

Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (Tacoma) - <http://aidnw.org/>

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (Seattle) - <https://www.nwirp.org/>

According to the National Immigrant Justice Center -- Since the inception of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in 2003, ICE's budget has more than doubled and CBP's has more than tripled. The consequences have been deadly, with harms inflicted disproportionately on [Black](#), [Brown](#), and [Indigenous](#) immigrant communities.

(<https://immigrantjustice.org/staff/blog/budgeting-better-way>)

The FY2022 DHS budget includes a request for \$8.4 billion towards ICE and \$16.3 billion for CBP -- both of which are increases from FY21 levels.

- ICE: The DHS budget includes funding for 30,000 adults in detention facilities on any given day -- double the 15,000 daily population when President Biden came into office, **and** funding for the detention of 2,500 families. It includes \$441 million for alternative-to-detention programs but does not ensure those programs follow the best practices of community-based case management programs.
- CBP: On a positive note, it does not include additional funding for the construction of the border wall, and it calls for funds that had previously not been obligated to be rescinded. It does include funds for the expansion of surveillance technology and there are no cuts to the number of CBP agents.