**Naperville, Illinois – 25 June 2019 2019AsylumAssist@gmail.com**

**Purpose**: This document has been created to provide an overview of potential actions that individuals or groups might take to alleviate the humanitarian crisis at the Southern United States border. It is not intended to address the political issues surrounding immigration and naturalization. Specific organizations have not been vetted regarding their economic efficiency. Nor is this list of aid organizations comprehensive. Supplemental information about organizations who are effectively reaching immigrant populations is welcomed. The author is not an expert in immigration issues or laws and this information represents his best current understanding. That said, the document may contain errors and omissions.

**Motivation**: The author wanted to answer two simple questions: If kids at the border need toothbrushes, and I bought those toothbrushes, would they be distributed to the kids in need, or, would they sit a sit in a warehouse? Conversely, would it be more effective to work with local organizations assisting immigrant families once they are reunited? **As of today, it was reported that supplies were turned back and were not allowed to be distributed in the camps. So, how then, can we most effectively assist?**

**Immigration Facts:** This information arises from the website “Freedom for Immigrants “. The site itself has an obvious political POV which does not favor the for-profit incarceration of immigrant individuals. That said, this portion of the website provides interesting statistical information on the size and scope of the incarceration issue.

An oversimplified overview of the likely experience of an asylum seeker is as follows:

1. After crossing the US border form their country of origin, a family is taken into federal custody
2. Children are separated from parents and transported to a camp.
3. Adults are transported to a prison or jail. This could be anywhere in the US and may not be in the same state as their child. They will continue to be held until they can obtain bail, legal representation, and an immigration court date.
4. If they bail out, obtain representation and a hearing date, they are released. They are given a bus ticket to the city in which their trial will be held. (Note: the family may have crossed the border in southern California, the children may be held in Arizona, the parent in Virginia, and their hearing in San Antonio, Texas.)
5. Upon arrival in that city they might be met by members of an aid group (e.g., Catholic Charities) who may assist them with housing, clothing, and food.
6. It is unclear to the author when or how they are reunited with their children.

Note: It is argued that the government has set the level of the bond greater than the amount for common criminal cases. There are multiple advocacy and legal aid agencies that focus on providing pro-bono legal support and funds for immigrants to bond out of jail.

<https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/detention-statistics>

**August 2019 Developments:**

Significant developments occurred the last weeks of July and during early August that further reduce the chances that asylum seekers will be successful in America. They include:

1. The slow start of ICE raids on immigrant homes, which – largely unsuccessful and videotaped by supportive neighbors – have been supplanted by raids on employers (Mississippi August 8th) where approximately 680 individuals were detained. Of note is that many of these poultry-industry workers had minor citizen-children at homes. (See multiple articles in the NYTimes and Washington Post 8 August.) Some families have been reunited, but some parents and children remain separated as of this writing (10 Aug). It may be that refocusing ICE raids on employers (who face penalties for employing undocumented individuals) will be the new ICE strategy.
2. A move by the Trump administration to immediately deport (without review by an immigration judge) asylum seekers who have arrived during the last two years who had not yet applied for asylum nor who had a court date for an immigration hearing. (see NYT Editorial Board Article 24 July)
3. A proposal by the Trump administration to ban asylum requests from all individuals who did not initially seek asylum from intermediate countries they traversed. (see the “Road to No” 24 July).
4. The Trump administration ‘trade deal’ with Mexico to stop asylum seekers on the Mexican side of the border and to house them in camps within Mexico. This negatively impacts the work of individuals (e.g. attorneys and aid workers) who must traverse the border to provide assistance.
5. And, finally, a Department of Justice ruling by Attorney General Bill Barr which indicated that previous asylum cases where the “threat of violence” was given consideration in the asylum decision was inappropriate. The items on the USCIS website which may be considered when granting asylum are:
	* Race
	* Religion
	* Nationality
	* Membership in a particular social group
	* Political opinion

Since many individuals from Guatemala, Nicaragua and other Central American countries are fleeing the threat of violence, this decision – by which all immigration judges must abide since they are DOJ employees will likely further reduce the number of cases where appeals for asylum are granted. (See NYT article 29 July)

The authors’ reflection: It seems clear that the intent of the current administration is to eliminate individuals from Central American to cross the American border to seek asylum. Individuals who have previously done so, but who have not applied for asylum are being identified and deported as quickly as possible. Impacts on citizen children born in the US to such parents does not seem to be a pressing concern. This, combined with the recent Barr ruling against using “threat of violence” as a basis for granting asylum, will likely reduce the number of cases granted to a miniscule level. Regardless, humanitarian and moral sensibilities continue to call us to assist where possible: providing bail money so that incarcerated parents can be released from prison and potentially reunited with their minor children, legal assistance by attorneys certified in immigration law (yes, there is a certification process that attorneys must go through to provide this (often) pro-bono assistance, and material and financial support for those who have been released from incarceration while they are awaiting an increasingly uncertain immigration hearing outcome.

**Legal Aid groups**: The following two paragraphs of information was excerpted from an article by the Editorial board of the New York Times 24, June, 2019: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/24/opinion/border-kids-immigration-help.html>

Many immigrants are not informed of their legal and civil rights as they pursue asylum or face deportation. Several nonprofits are providing free legal representation and other services for immigrants and the families of those detained. [United We Dream](https://unitedwedream.org/), the [American Civil Liberties Union](https://www.aclu.org/), [Mijente](https://mijente.net/), [Immigrant Families Together](https://immigrantfamiliestogether.com/) and the [Immigrant Justice Corps](https://justicecorps.org/) are coordinating advocacy and services at a national level. Local organizations providing legal aid include the [New Sanctuary Coalition](https://www.newsanctuarynyc.org/) in New York, [Las Americas in El Paso](https://las-americas.org/) and [RAICES](https://www.raicestexas.org/donate/) in Texas, [Americans for Immigrant Justice](http://www.aijustice.org/) in Florida and the [Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund](http://www.denverfoundation.org/Nonprofits/Grants-What-We-Fund/Other-Grant-Programs/Denver-Immigrant-Legal-Services-Fund) in Colorado.

Pilar Weiss, project director of the National Bail Fund Network, says one of the most effective ways to reunite immigrants separated from their families is to assist with paying their bail, which can cost anywhere from $1,500 to $80,500. You can find and donate to a bail fund in your city through the [National Bail Fund Network](https://www.communityjusticeexchange.org/nbfn-directory).

**Inform yourself and your community.** The A.C.L.U., which joined forces with [Brooklyn Defender Services](http://bds.org/), has shared a [“Know Your Rights”](https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights/ice-and-border-patrol-abuses/we-have-rights) page for encounters with ICE. It has also provided a [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pW4uixi4b_E) to help understand your rights and what to do if ICE officials come to your home.

**Texas Civil Rights Project**: Is a group of attorneys and volunteers focused on civil rights issues in the state of Texas. Their three main areas of focus include: Voting rights, racial and economic And criminal justice reform. they are particularly focused on tracking children who have been separated from their parents in Texas. They have created a record on the results of the “zero tolerance” Separation policy. The report can be downloaded here: <https://texascivilrightsproject.org/familyseparations-report/> More specific information about their work can be downloaded from their website here: <https://texascivilrightsproject.org/>

**Religious-based groups**: Many religious traditions/denominations have a history of working with immigrants. the following information was garnered from a cursory overview of denominational websites. Not all denominations are listed, and it cannot be assumed that all field programs would be represented on a national web instrument.

**American Baptists**: The AB website contained in general statement of support regarding immigration issues. No program-specific information, aside from the following, contact could be found.

**For additional information about ABHMS’ Immigration and Refugee Ministries, contact Tina Harp, administrative coordinator, Intercultural Ministries, at 610.768.2414**

**Baha’i**: The Bahai faith (which focuses on the oneness of humanity) helps sponsor the Tahirih Justice Center – an advocacy-based organization focused on the rights of women and girls. They have strongly opposed the separation of children from their parents. The first Tahirih link below provides information about the center, the second tells what they are doing to respond to the current situation.

<https://www.bahai.us/>

<https://www.tahirih.org/about-us/>

<https://www.tahirih.org/give/buildingbridges/>

**Buddhist**: A Google search showed several instances of Buddhist opposition to current immigration policy. If the reader is aware of Buddhist-based national or local programs that support immigrants and asylum seekers, please share that information. As is true for the other faith traditions, local sangas may be actively engaged in this issue.

**Catholic**: The Catholic Church has an extensive history of working with immigrant populations through the organization Catholic Charities at a national and local level. The Catholic Charities website largely focuses on how to donate to many on-the-ground programs. It uses zip codes within states to locate local program resources. This approach is especially helpful if you wish to identify a program near you or in a city/region of concern. Catholic Charities appears especially active in meeting the needs of persons awaiting their immigration hearing.

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/our-ministry/immigration-refugee-services/>

DONATE PAGE: <https://secure2.convio.net/ccusa/site/Donation2?df_id=2000&2000.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&s_src=CCUSASITE&_ga=2.254371144.1783388338.1561429156-211678771.1561429156>

The San Diego Catholic Diocese has also established a migrant travel fund. The Diocese can be reached at: <https://www.sdcatholic.org/>

The Catholic Legal Immigrant Network Inc. (CLINIC):<https://cliniclegal.org/>

CLINIC looks broadly at immigration issues to the US. However, they specifically sponsor the CARA Family Detention Pro-Bono Representation and Advocacy Project see: <https://cliniclegal.org/about-us/programs> It is the author’s impression that this is a national center that strengthens local programs through training and support services.

Archdiocese of Chicago: (please also check with your local diocese)

Human Dignity and Solidarity Project – Immigration Ministry <https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/immigration-ministry/about-us>

Provides education to parishes and individuals regarding immigration issues, advocacy, and direct assistance to immigrants through local parishes.

**Hindu:** The Hindu American Foundation (HAF) has an extensive website addressing Hindu immigration to America and the position of the foundation on protecting the rights of immigrants and asylum seekers. The specific topics covered in his website outline the Foundation’s history of advocacy and policy making re: immigration, gun safety, and hate crimes. There appears to be less information on this side about specific programs to benefit immigrants and asylum seekers on a city-specific basis.

<https://www.hafsite.org>

**Jewish:** The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HAIS)Was founded in 1881 to assist Jewish individuals fleeing pogroms in Russia and it continued this work during the 1st and 2nd world wars. in the 2000s HAIS as expanded its reach to non-Jewish refugees and immigrants particularly in regions of world crisis and conflict. There are extensive descriptions of support provided to refugees and immigrants on the website. Their foci appear to be policy development, pro bono legal assistance for refugees seeking asylum and the series of resettlement and social support services once citizenship is granted. The site is extensive and complex. I encourage your exploration.

<https://www.hias.org>

**Lutheran**: There are multiple Lutheran denominations in the USA. The following information is sourced from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America website. Within the ELCA, the Lutheran Immigration and Resource Services (LIRS) organization is specifically dedicated to these issues.

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

The following sub-link addresses immigrant detention: <https://www.lirs.org/detention/>

The following sub-link shows the location of detention programs and partnership supported organizations within the same communities. Please note there are often multiple detention centers in most states.

<https://www.lirs.org/detention/visitation-ministry/>

The site also lists resources made available to immigrants after detention in the following section

<https://www.lirs.org/detention/life/>

The ELCA ‘whole-church’ effort focused on the care of immigrant minors is known as AMMPARO. This effort has several foci summarized from their website here:

**Become a Welcoming Congregation** to accompany these children and families through their transition to life in the U.S. [www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO](https://www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO)

**Advocate** for justice for migrant children and families. [www.elca.org/Advocacy](https://www.elca.org/Advocacy)

**Accompany** migrant children and families through the Guardian Angel Program as the physical presence of the church in the courtroom. <https://Vimeo.com/157458987>

**Give** to AMMPARO to provide opportunities for children and families in Central America and in the U.S. <https://community.elca.org/donations/ammparo-donate>

**Methodist**: A Methodist Church website contains multiple statements regarding immigrants and refugees. The site has multiple levels which makes negotiation somewhat difficult. However, the following links provide valuable information.

Statement of support: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/how-united-methodists-can-help-immigrant-families> and <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/civil-and-human-rights/global-migration>

United Methodist Women Resources: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/immigration>

Church World Service is a Methodist resource that specifically addresses immigration issues. The following 3 links are particularly helpful.

<https://cwsglobal.org/our-work/refugees-and-immigrants/>

<https://cwsglobal.org/our-work/refugees-and-immigrants/welcoming-communities/welcoming-refugees/>

<https://cwsglobal.org/our-work/refugees-and-immigrants/supporting-immigrants/>

**Muslim:** The author could not find a website detailing overarching programs for Central American asylum seekers sponsored by the Muslim community. Many Google search results dealt with Muslim immigrants coming to America, banning Muslim immigration to America, and the difficulty Muslim individuals encounter as refugees or asylum seekers themselves in obtaining Americans citizenship. If the reader knows of resources within the Muslim community regarding Central American asylum seekers, please share them. Readers are also encouraged to reach out to individual mosques which may be actively engaged in this issue.

**Presbyterian:**  There are several Presbyterian denominations in the United States. The PC USA website contains the following link with sub-links for asylum seekers as well as with sources and educational program links. The second link is to Church World Service with whom the PCUSA church partners. The bottom of the post provides further links to orgs providing direct services including wish lists of needed items.

<https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/refugee-ministry/#WhatWeDo>

<https://cwsglobal.org/5-ways-to-help-families-and-children-seeking-asylum-at-the-border/>

**Southern Baptists:** The author found multiple Southern Baptist “resolutions of support” for migrant populations. However, little specific information for specific programming was available on the national site. Readers are encouraged to check local congregational activities.

<http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/2298/on-affirmation-of-foundational-and-compassionate-commitments-in-several-submitted-resolutions>

**Politics:** The following information is not intended to be partisan in nature…

**Dept. of Health and Human Services Report on conditions in Children’s internment camps:**

Released in the spring of 2019, this government report reported on the conditions in the privately-run internment camps.

**Who is my Senator? How do I contact them?**

Use the following website to find names and DC contact info:

<https://www.senate.gov/index.htm>

**Who is my Representative? How do I contact them?**

Ditto:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Understand where political candidates stand on immigration issues. (also excerpted from the 24 June 2019 NYT Editorial Board article cited previously.)

**Hold political candidates accountable.** While the presidential primaries are at least seven months away, you can prepare to cast your ballot for a more humane border policy by following what each candidate has [shared](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/19/us/politics/2020-democratic-candidate-interviews.html?module=inline) about his or her plans for immigration reform.

There are a variety of House and Senate committees dealing with immigration issues. They include:

**Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs** – (Arizona, Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Wisconsin (both senators) and Wyoming.

**House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security** – Similar in role to the senate committee, with 16 states represented (Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Texas) There are frequently multiple representatives from the same state.

**House of Representatives Committee on Oversight & Government Reform** – National Security Subcommittee – focus on National Security issues (California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oklahoma, Tennessee & Texas).

**House of Representative Committee on Appropriations – Homeland Security Committee** - (Sets Homeland Security Budget including ICE funding) California, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and Utah.

**Non-Governmental Organizations = Not-For-Profits = 501c3 (alpha order based on name)**

**Al Otro Lado**: <https://alotrolado.org/>

“We are a bi-national, direct legal services organization serving indigent deportees, migrants, and refugees in Tijuana, Mexico. The bulk of our services are immigration related.  However, the needs of the people we serve are diverse, so we also coordinate with attorneys and non-legal professionals in a range of areas such as family law, labor law, criminal law (particularly post-conviction relief), and employment law.  We also assist families with aspects of reunification in Mexico when it has been determined by U.S. authorities that it is in the best interest of the child to live with his or her parent in Mexico.  We work with non-custodial deported parents to ensure their rights as parents are protected in the United States family court system.”

**American Civil Liberties Union:** <https://www.aclu.org/> <https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights>

When the government has the power to deny legal rights and due process to one vulnerable group, everyone’s rights are at risk. The ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project is dedicated to expanding and enforcing the civil liberties and civil rights of immigrants and to combating public and private discrimination against them.

Using targeted impact litigation, advocacy, and public outreach, the ACLU protects the rights and liberties of immigrants. For more than 25 years, the ACLU has been at the forefront of almost every major legal struggle on behalf of immigrants’ rights, focusing on challenging laws that deny immigrants access to the courts, impose indefinite and mandatory detention, and discriminate on the basis of nationality. In addition, we have challenged constitutional abuses that arise from immigration enforcement at the federal, state, and local levels, including anti-immigrant “show me your papers” laws at the state level and unconstitutional enforcement tactics by the federal government and local agencies.

**American Red Cross**: <https://www.redcross.org/>

The ARC has been surprisingly absent from the discussions. In conversation with my senator's office he suggested that we lobby the Red Cross so that they become engaged in the current situation.

**Annunciation House – El Paso**: <https://annunciationhouse.org/>

Original post: Beginning in summer 2018, we have seen an increase in the flow of refugees arriving at the El Paso border. As ICE detention facilities filled, the number of refugees being released by ICE increased.  As of the end of February 2019, 400-700+ refugees per *day* are being sent to Annunciation House.

We are urgently seeking additional short-term volunteers to help us provide hospitality to these refugees.

**Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP):** <https://asylumadvocacy.org/>

ASAP provides legal advocacy on behalf of asylum seekers. In part, this is accomplished by providing online communities where asylum seekers and advocates can share information. They also provide emergency legal assistance and work for systematic reform of the asylum and immigration system, including filing lawsuits against current policy positions.

**Border Network for Human Rights**: <http://bnhr.org/>

The Border Network for Human Rights, founded in 1998, is one of the leading human rights advocacy and immigration reform organizations located at the U.S./Mexico Border. BNHR has over 7,000 members in West Texas and Southern New Mexico. **Offices Located at: 2115 N Piedras St, El Paso, TX 79930**

**Ciudad Nueva – El Paso**: <https://ciudadnueva.org/>

Ciudad Nueva is a faith-based program in El Paso that started about ten years ago with a focus on providing after-school activities and long-term mentorship for children attending El Paso schools. They are also involved in job readiness training, and community improvement projects. CN is also responding to recent actions by the Mexican government to stop asylum seekers on the Mexican side of the borders. These Mexico-based camps need of basic supplies. CN is gathering needed supplies, legally passing them through the border and providing them to needy individuals in the camp. They can take both monetary donations as well as donations of needed physical products.

**Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA):** <https://www.chirla.org/>

“For more than 30 years, CHIRLA has been working to expand immigrant rights and defend our community against attacks from those who seek to scapegoat and blame us for systemic problems. In California and the nation, we drive the quest for fair, comprehensive immigration reform that acknowledges the contributions of our people and recognizes that this country is multi-ethic, vari-colored and enriched by the diverse heritages of generations of immigrants.” A number of services are listed on the CHIRLA website, but there is an extensive focus on legal representation for immigrants, asylum seekers and DACA renewals.

**El Paso Community Foundation (Migrant Families Relief Fund):** <https://epcf.org/>

The EPCF provides services to El Paso, Southern New Mexico and Ciudad Juarez region. They sponsor many projects, but the MFRF: “…in partnership with The Prudential Foundation to support a regional migrant services volunteer coordinator position with the United Way of El Paso County and operating support for Annunciation House.”

**Families Belong Together**: <https://www.familiesbelongtogether.org/>

A coalition of approximately 250 organizations dedicated to keeping asylum-seeking families together. The site primarily appears to be providing resources for volunteers who support asylum seeking efforts.

**Florence Project (FIRRP**): <https://firrp.org/>

The Florence (Arizona) Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project (FIRRP) project provides free legal and social services to detained men, women and children under threat of deportation. Offices are located in Florence, Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona.

**Human Rights First**: <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/asylum>

Although focused on a variety of human rights issues, HRF has a specific focus on asylum seekers. They provide direct legal services to asylum seekers, training in immigration law to lawyers providing free support to asylum seeking individuals and advocacy regarding immigration reform. Their website contains extensive resources, testimony transcripts and position papers.

**Immigrant Defense Project:** <https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/>

This website is highly modular and focused on providing legal defense for immigrant individuals, information for communities and training for attorneys who are supporting immigrants and asylum seekers. It appears to the author that there is a focus on providing legal advice and defender support (although training for attorneys, advocacy, impact litigation and community defense programs are also listed). The program is in New York, NY and it is not immediately clear what total geography is covered. Regardless, because the site is so modular in nature, it provides an important and quick reference for individuals pursuing specific immigration law topics.

**International Rescue Committee**: <https://www.rescue.org/>

 The International Rescue Committee responds to the world’s worst humanitarian crises and helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and gain control of their future. In more than 40 countries and in 26 U.S. cities, our dedicated teams provide clean water, shelter, health care, education and empowerment support to refugees and displaced people.

**Kids in Need of Defense (KIND):** <https://supportkind.org/>

KIND staff and our pro bono attorney partners at law firms, corporations, and law schools nationwide represent unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children in their deportation proceedings. Together, we ensure that no child stands in court alone.

KIND will achieve our vision by:

* Ensuring that no child appears in immigration court without high quality legal representation;
* Advancing laws, policies, and practices that ensure children’s protection and uphold their right to due process and fundamental fairness; and
* Promoting in countries of origin, transit, and destination durable solutions to child migration that are grounded in the best interests of the child and ensure that no child is forced to involuntarily migrate

**La Union Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE):** <http://lupenet.org/organizing/immigration-reform/>

Originally created to foster farm-worker unionization in the 70’s, LUPE has expanded its mandate to become an advocate for low-income individuals. They have a key focus on immigration issues given their origins and the fact that a significant number of immigrants do pursue farm work.

**Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center**: <https://las-americas.org/>

Founded in 1987, Las Americas is a homegrown non-profit dedicated to serving the legal needs of low-income immigrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, victims of crime, and families seeking reunification. Las Americas’ attorneys and staff are committed to providing legal representation to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. The El Paso port-of-entry sees the second highest number of people crossing into the United States by land, second only to San Diego. Since our inception, Las Americas has provided representation to more than 30,000 low-income immigrants in El Paso. Las Americas’ clients come from all over the world, and our staff has helped clients from countries as far as Burma and Cameroon.

**National Immigration Justice Center:** [**https://www.immigrantjustice.org/**](https://www.immigrantjustice.org/)

* “Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) is dedicated to ensuring human rights protections and access to justice for all immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.
* With offices in Chicago, Indiana, and Washington, D.C., NIJC provides direct legal services to and advocates for these populations through policy reform, impact litigation, and public education. Since its founding three decades ago, NIJC has been unique in blending individual client advocacy with broad-based systemic change.
* Thanks to the support of hundreds of pro bono attorneys from the nation's leading law firms, NIJC has made critical advances in the lives of hundreds of thousands of vulnerable immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. NIJC provides legal services to more than 10,000 individuals each year and maintains a success rate of 90 percent in obtaining asylum for those fleeing persecution in their home countries. NIJC and its pro bono attorneys have been on the vanguard of federal impact litigation and advocacy, setting positive precedents for those seeking human rights protections within our borders.”

**National Immigration Law Center:** <https://www.nilc.org/>

Established in 1979, the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) is one of the leading organizations in the U.S. exclusively dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of immigrants with low income. With a focus on advocacy and law, the NILC website contains substantial resources for advocates, including information that could assist advocates relative to ICE raids and asylum seeker detentions. These are complex issues, so having clear and easily accessible information is helpful. See: <https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/>

**National Partnership for New Americans:** <https://partnershipfornewamericans.org/>

A coalition organization of 37 large immigration and refugee rights organizations in 31 states. As such, they are significantly focused on advocacy and information sharing. The author noted with interest their “Community Navigators Program” which provides training to community individuals to effectively access assistance for immigrants. See: <https://partnershipfornewamericans.org/community-navigator-training-model/>

**San Diego Rapid Response**: <http://www.rapidresponsesd.org/>

The San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN) is a coalition of human rights and service organizations, attorneys, and community leaders dedicated to aiding immigrants and their families in the San Diego border region.

San Diego is the largest land border crossing in the world and has been a highly active location for deportations, rights violations, and abuse by Customs Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The SDRRN was activated to respond to increased immigration enforcement activities within San Diego County and humanitarian issues arising at the border, including widespread family separation and unjust deportation of asylum seekers presenting at the Port-of-Entry.

**Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights**: <https://www.theyoungcenter.org/>

“The Young Center is a champion for the rights and best interests of unaccompanied immigrant children, making sure that wherever they land, whether here in the U.S. or in their home country, they are safe.” The YC provides direct legal services on behalf of children when appointed as a “Guardian ad Litem”. Their website is sophisticated and provides both significant information and resources re: immigration, asylum and advocacy.

**Women’s Refugee Commission:** <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/>

“For 30 years, the Women’s Refugee Commission (WRC) has been on the front lines of ensuring the rights and protections of displaced women and children. Our work transforms the lives of women, their families, and their communities—from the current crisis at the U.S. border to conflicts around the world.”

**World Relief** – (local offices across the US – e.g., in Chicagoland) <https://worldreliefdupageaurora.org/>

Christian faith-based organization that works with local churches to relocate refugee and immigrant families. Typically partnering with families over a two-year period after citizenship is granted, World Relief words to integrate refugee and immigrant families into their new environment. they provide: legal aid, housing assistance, English as second language training and job training. Local congregations often work with immigrant/refugee families beyond the two-year period. The attached website shows the world relief programs for my local area.