

# LA MIGRA

*On How to Take Radical Action to  
Disrupt Immigration Raids*



# — LA MIGRA —

The common rhetoric around helping protect our communities from immigration raids seems to be focused primarily within the “know your rights” realm.

Unfortunately, this is problematic. The authorities who are conducting immigration raids have general immunity from wrongdoing. They do not always even care if they violate someone’s legal rights. And... even beyond that we have people in power seeking to eliminate those legal rights entirely, making such advice somewhat moot.

In short, telling migrant/immigrant communities to “know their rights” isn’t really that protective. And it definitely isn’t activism.

**Why Radical Action?**

# — LA MIGRA —

Of course, the best way we know how to help targeted communities is to... be in-community with affected people.

So...When folks invite you into their spaces or host cultural events: show up. Let people from these communities see your face and know you are a safe person.

And when someone in your community says ICE vehicles have been spotted: show up. Go see what they look like. Teach yourself how to spot these folks so you can be someone who reports sightings with integrity.

We cannot only support anti-racism in theory. Show up as often as possible.

**Show up, Show up**

# — LA MIGRA —

Cop watching is a legal action in most municipalities. Please check yours so you know how risky a behavior this would be for you. There are even trainings online on how to do this safely.

The sum of it is: when you hear of an ICE raid show up and video what is happening. This allows you to identify who is taken and who is doing the taking. It may even provide legal assistance to those affected.

A riskier behavior might even be to follow the officers, without interfering with their activities, so you can report on their next location.

Note: Please do not share faces of detainees publicly without consent.

**Cop Watch**

# — LA MIGRA —

Report sightings and be loud. Find out if your local area has a phone line to report ICE sightings. There are also websites, like [juntosseguros.com](http://juntosseguros.com), where you can make reports that go beyond your own social media reach. However, such websites are being targeted by hate-mongers with false reports.

If you do spot ICE vehicles or personnel your responsibility is to LOUDLY shout “La Migra”, repeatedly, if it is safe-ish for you to do so. You should also take pictures of what their vehicles and uniforms look like. Then, please report your sighting online with as many details as possible.

When re-posting a sighting from someone else always verify it is accurate and ongoing.

**Speak Out**

# — LA MIGRA —

Start a phone tree or something similar like an e-mail list on Protonmail for added security or a Signal group. Maybe even use HAM Radio.

But! be careful not to start a list of people that La Migra can come after. Your “phone tree” should be a mix of people so that Undocumented folks, should they choose to be included, can’t be immediately targeted as such should an authority get access to your phone.

This tool can be used to report sightings, to gather folks to disrupt immigration raids, or to offer rides and other forms of support to targeted people.

It would not be going too far to establish codes within this group that have secret subtext only y’all know.

## Communicate

# — LA MIGRA —

When ICE agents come to your neighborhood shouting “La Migra” is useful. But! If targeted communities do not have a chance to leave the area or get inside their homes...then it’s usefulness is limited. Targeted people need a chance to get out of sight of those agents.

So...Distract. Use your phone tree to Flash Mob. Pull a Fire Alarm. Fall and pretend to hurt yourself. Turn on your Emergency Flashers and stall your car (maybe a spider was trying to get at you). Or, if you have privilege, approach the officers and ask questions until they demand you leave. Do whatever you can to give folks time to flee.

This is where your protest tactics might be useful.

**Distract**

# — LA MIGRA —

One thing we do not want to do is advertise what we are doing to help targeted communities. Nobody needs to know. Share only general information relevant to the issue and keep the details strictly secret. This keeps both you and the person you are helping safer.

If you are able to be a safe person you can then offer direct support to targeted populations. For example, if La Migra is in your area then neighbors might need rides to work so they don't have to use public transport, they might need you to go grocery shopping for them or watch their children instead of send them to school. Also, this allows a greater chance of you (or someone) being present if they are stopped by Immigration authorities. In any case, be sure to ask if they have someone they want you to contact should that happen

**Keep Secrets**



# — LA MIGRA —

Unfortunately, we will not be able to protect all people from being detained, not until we do better as a society. So, a critical skill to learn is how to locate people who have been detained. Figure out what websites you can use, what agencies you can call, what authority you can enact to maintain tabs on those who are detained. ESPECIALLY if it is someone from your neighborhood or friendship circle.

Then, find out if you can make contact with them or visit them. Find out how they are being treated, if you can share their information, and if they need anything you can provide.

Knowing that someone with more privilege than you is watching out for you, is keeping tabs on you, provides hope.

**Stay in Contact**

# — LA MIGRA —

When we are staying in contact with our friends and community members who have been detained we have options to take our involvement an extra step further.

For example:

- You can try to find a friend on the “inside” who can privately report detainee conditions to you.
- You can have noise parties outside the facility to let detainees know you are there for them and increase their mood.
- You can expand your reach by asking the person you are communicating with inside the facility, friend or worker, if there are any detainees who currently have no support and convincing a friend to take on that role.

**Take it Further**

# — LA MIGRA —

Another way we can provide assistance is to raise funds for targeted folks to have legal representation. The extent to which legal representation can help them is always in flux but it is FAR better to have it than not.

And! if we can take it a step further....even better. To do so we can contact local immigration attorneys and ask, even pressure, them to take cases for free or at reduced cost. Many people have been successful at this because ultimately that is why these people get into this field in the first place...to help people in need.

**Obtain Legal Aid**

# — LA MIGRA —

While immigration raids are generally started by the federal government, and as such are not limited by city laws, we can still demand that our towns and cities be places of sanctuary. In fact, many places that were previously established as “sanctuary cities” are the ones doing their most to not cooperate with immigration authorities. It may not be enough to stop the raids but it sure does help to have your city officials defending you.

How do you make a Sanctuary City?  
With your city council. And, if they haven't gone this course already, they are going to need some pressure. That is something we can work on! Attend city council meetings, contact city council members, and organize others to do the same.

**Demand Sanctuary**

# — LA MIGRA —

If you are an outgoing person, or a person who can be outgoing when they have a cause, a good way to put your skills to use is to check-in with local schools, churches, malls, community centers and etc. to see what their plan is to protect their patrons/students should ICE visit their facility.

Then...get other people involved in pressuring the places with poor policies to do better. You can even provide these businesses with examples of more effective polices that people in the local area are using. Some people do better when they know better.

Also, don't forget to share your results with the community! This information is invaluable.

**Community Check-In**

# — LA MIGRA —

It's critical we remember that immigration authorities have names and addresses. So do store managers, CEOs, school superintendents and all people who allow ICE raids to happen in their facilities without a plan to keep folks safe.

What we can do is learn those names and find out how to locate these people and object to what they are doing, then disrupt their lives until they are as miserable as we are. We already know, historically speaking, what happens when good people do nothing and when authority figures state they are "just following orders". And we no longer accept that.

If we make it too uncomfortable for people to hold these positions then we have less people working against our interests.

**Fiercely Object**

# — LA MIGRA —

There are some actions that cannot be recommended. So, some things that I cannot recommend you do are:

- Markup ICE vehicles so they are clearly visible to passerbys
- Learn De-Arrest techniques from YouTube vids and practice them with your friends
- Form community defense teams that train together in the same way homegrown militias do
- Use concrete mixers freely, perhaps in front of detention facilities
- Block roadways with heavy farming equipment

These types of solutions live vibrantly in our imaginations even if they cannot be recommended.

**Keep Yourself Safe**

# — LA MIGRA —

One of the critical components about helping vulnerable communities that we do not belong to ourselves is... they don't always like the way we help.

IF you start to engage in an action to aid someone and they ask you to stop, or tell you that you are endangering them in any way, you **MUST** be willing to change the way you are doing things.

This doesn't mean you have to listen to ALL criticism. There are a whole lot of people who do not want radical action to be centered and have these wild imaginations where law will suddenly work for justice. The people we **DO** want to listen to are those targeted people who are immediately affected by our actions

**Take Feedback**



# — APPENDIX 1 —

## REMEMBER

**S**ize

“There are 6 officers”

**A**ctions/activity

“Standing by the bus station near Walmart”

**L**ocation

“Crossgates Commons Plaza”

**U**niform (clothes)

“Wearing a vest labeled “Department of Homeland Security”

**T**ime (date of observation)

“@ 4 PM 1/20”

**E**quipment (weapons)

“three of them have handcuffs on their belts” ->

**Reporting**

# — APPENDIX 2 —

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

### WHEN YOU FACE ICE!



Important information about your rights during interactions with ICE officers!

Stay informed so you can assert your rights confidently, no matter the situation.

#### #1

You do not have to open the door

ICE does not have the right to enter your home without a valid warrant signed by a judge. You can ask them to slip the warrant under the door.

#### #2

You can ask them to leave

If they do not have a warrant and go inside your home, you can ask them to step outside and let them know you do not consent to a search. In the workplace, ICE does not have the right to enter employee-only areas without permission.

#### #3

You can stay silent

The 5th Amendment protects the right to remain silent and to not incriminate yourself.

#### #4

You do not have to share personal info

You are not obligated to provide personal information like your immigration status, place of birth, or criminal history if asked. Anything you say or do can be used against you. You should not lie.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: This document is for general informational purposes only. Its contents are not legal advice. If you are in need of legal advice, please contact an attorney.

*Abundant*  
OCASIO-CORTEZ  
ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE

# Rights

# — APPENDIX 3 —

## IF LAW ENFORCEMENT KNOCKS, DON'T OPEN!

### STEP 1: REQUEST WARRANT

- ☒ Say: "Slide the warrant under the door"
  - ☒ If they enter without permission, do **NOT** run or resist. Say:  
"I do not consent to a search. I'm not talking without my lawyer"
- Then - **REMAIN SILENT**

### STEP 2: INSPECT WARRANT

#### IMMIGRATION MAY USE FAKE WARRANTS

Warrant to <u>search</u> the location <b>MUST</b> have: ✓ that <u>address</u> <b>AND</b> ✓ that <u>date and time</u> <b>AND</b> ✓ be <u>signed by a JUDGE</u>	Warrant to <u>arrest</u> or " <u>seize</u> " a person <b>MUST</b> have: ✓ that <u>address</u> <b>AND</b> ✓ that <u>date and time</u> <b>AND</b> ✓ be <u>signed by a JUDGE</u> <b>AND</b> ✓ name <u>the person who stays there</u>
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Warrants must be signed by a \* **JUDGE** \* or \* **COURT** \*  
NOT the "Department of Homeland Security" or "Immigration Officer"

- ☒ If no valid warrant, **KEEP THE DOOR CLOSED**. Say:  
"I will not speak to you or open the door. Slide your card under the door and leave."

### STEP 3: RESPOND TO WARRANT

Search Warrant	Arrest Warrant
Let them in. Say: "I'm not talking without my lawyer. I do not consent to a search" STAY SILENT. DON'T INTERFERE. You can film/take notes if able to.	DO NOT LET THEM IN. Person listed on the warrant says: "Move away from the door. I am stepping outside" Person should step outside, close door behind them, and surrender. Or tell officer if person isn't home.



SCAN ME

In Chicago Call ICIRR's Hotline 1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY (1-855-435-7693)

For more information about your rights, visit:

[bit.ly/ImmigrationKYR](https://bit.ly/ImmigrationKYR)

**MJF**

# Warrants

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You may print and distribute it at will so long as it is for a  
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**¡ VIVA LA RAZA !**