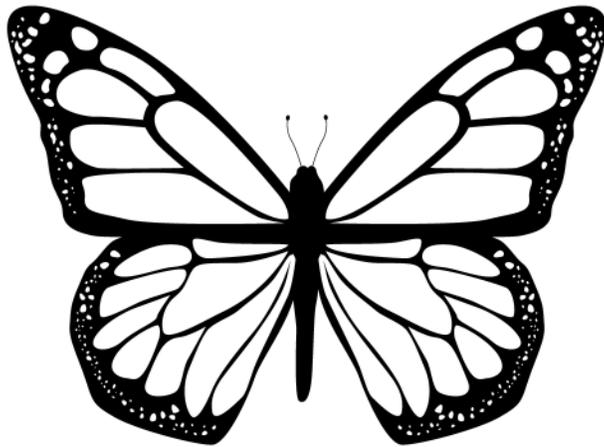


# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement



**LOVE**  
**KNOWS NO**  
**BORDERS**



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

*NOTE: This is not legal advice and does not substitute consultation with a lawyer.*

*This document is for congregations, associations, and conferences within the United Church of Christ to use as a reference on how to respond to immigration enforcement activity in churches during this time of increased surveillance, criminalization, and detention of church and community members who are immigrants.*

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## Love Knows No Borders

In the United Church of Christ, we know that God’s love knows no borders. We proclaim the truth of the sacred stories and identities being violently attacked and disappeared by our own government. We seek justice with and for every neighbor and every community oppressed by the fear and greed of an unholy movement fueled by white supremacy and Christian nationalism. Alone, we are being overwhelmed by an unceasing flood of hatred. Together, we will resist the tide of tyranny, united in the love of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit. God’s love doesn’t stop at artificially drawn borders. God challenges us to break down all barriers that keep us from living out the ‘beloved community’ God intends. Those false barriers are being manufactured by the hour.

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In the UCC, we affirm that democracy, our voice, is sacred. Contempt for due process and the constitution by the very government that should protect and uphold these rights erodes our civil liberties and harms our communities, our institutions, and even our faith. We must not become passively complicit in the sins of our nation by remaining silent in the face of evil. With Jesus as our Rock in this weary land, we will call on a Love greater than the powers of this world to restore compassion and dignity across our nation. As an immigrant welcoming church, the UCC has denounced the federal government’s actions that strip the due process and constitutional rights from immigrants.<sup>1</sup>

Rooted in Biblical witness, we have rejected any actions that deny the human dignity of immigrants, migrants, and refugees, and we have named our responsibility to care for the sojourner as our neighbor.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “RESPONDING TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S ATTACK ON IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANTS, AND REFUGEES”, 2025, [https://generalsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Post-Plenary\\_8.-Immigrants-motion-only.pdf](https://generalsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Post-Plenary_8.-Immigrants-motion-only.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> “CALLING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO OPPOSE THE 2025 IMMIGRATION ROLLBACKS AND SUPPORT IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND PACIFIC ISLAND COMMUNITIES, WHILE AMPLIFYING ANTIRACIST WORK ON BEHALF OF BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR IN RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT SOCIO-POLITICAL BACKLASH”, 2025, <https://uccresolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/COREM-1.pdf>

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

As a UCC General Synod resolution proclaims: **“We have been called by the one God to tear down all the borders we have built between us so that we may see each person as a child of God, so that we may learn to love and welcome all of God’s children as members of one family and one world.”**<sup>3</sup>

The rallying cry “Love Knows No Borders” is a reflection of our values as well as a faithful call to action, intersection, and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.<sup>4</sup>

## The United Church of Christ’s Values on Immigration

The thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution of witness on “Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church.” The resolution “recognizes the ongoing struggles of refugees and migrants who come to the United States seeking safety, security, freedom and opportunity,” and affirms the Christian mandate to show compassion to those who have suffered trauma, fear, and deportation in the immigration process. In a time of negative stereotyping and harassment of immigrants, the resolution also calls on UCC congregations to provide an “extravagant welcome to all God’s Children.”<sup>5</sup>

The UCC has a long history of encouraging its members to take action for immigration justice, with a pronouncement to that effect in 1981 forming the foundation of many more related resolutions at General Synod in the years since. Resolutions affirmed at Synod by majority vote have urged congregations to action by highlighting the importance of forming relationships with immigrants, collaborating with immigrant-led organizations, working with U.S. Representatives and Senators on comprehensive immigration reform, and providing humanitarian aid on the border. Other UCC resolutions further urged congregations to provide services for immigrants in need or facing deportation processes and to partner with coalitions and organizations/institutions that advocate for justice across the breadth of issues surrounding immigration.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> “A CALL FOR A MORE HUMANE US IMMIGRATION POLICY; END MIGRANT DEATHS; SUPPORT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES”, 2007, <https://uccresolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/07-GS-33.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> “Love Knows No Borders”, 2025, <https://www.ucc.org/love-knows-no-borders/>

<sup>5</sup> “ON BECOMING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CHURCH”, 2017, <https://new.uccfiles.com/pdf/GS-31-immigrant-welcoming-denominatinon.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> “A CALL FOR A MORE HUMANE US IMMIGRATION POLICY; END MIGRANT DEATHS; SUPPORT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES”, 2007, <https://uccresolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/07-GS-33.pdf>

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

## Actions Under This Administration (January 2025- January 2026)

Beginning immediately upon the inauguration of the new presidential administration in January 2025, policies and enforcement regarding immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, and other migrants began to wreak devastating impacts on the lives of hundreds of thousands around the world.

Since Sensitive Locations protections were rescinded in January 2025, immigration enforcement can now conduct operations in churches and other houses of worship, hospitals, and schools. Schools are seeing a sharp rise in chronic absenteeism, due to parents' and kids' fears of being taken. Missing school hurts children's long-term well-being, outcomes, and learning. Churches are also witnessing lower attendance, reflecting the same fears. Sacred spaces are no longer safe for the most marginalized.

Dire, unsafe conditions in detention centers have led to medical neglect, malnutrition, violent attacks against migrants, and even deaths. For the tens of thousands in detention, fluorescent lights shine around the clock, rotten, spoiled food is served for meals, there is dirty drinking water, necessary medical care is lacking, and there are multiple reports of physical and sexual violence against detainees.

At the end of January 2026, ICE reported more than 70,000 people were detained in 225 ICE facilities throughout the U.S., excluding short-term border facilities, courtrooms, ICE field offices, and other temporary ICE accommodations. As of this report, more people have been detained by ICE now than ever before in U.S. history. The growth in the number of ICE detainees is driven largely by people with non-criminal history. Contrary to the president's campaign promises, his administration's mass deportation efforts have not focused on "the worst of the worst," but instead are focused on driving up numbers, meeting quotas, and doing so by indiscriminately targeting the easiest-to-detain undocumented immigrants: those who make themselves vulnerable to ICE interactions by seeking to play by the rules.

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

Along these lines, the administration has pursued a range of policies aimed at increasing the number of undocumented non-citizens and discouraging legal immigration to the U.S. From revoking Temporary Protected Status from Haitians and many others, to moving to denaturalize foreign-born U.S. citizens, the Trump administration has further complicated an already byzantine and dysfunctional immigration system. The administration has shut down all immigration from 75 countries, which led to tragic scenes of permanent residents born in those countries being prevented from taking their citizenship oath at their citizenship ceremonies. The administration has also decimated the refugee resettlement program and ended legal asylum-seeking. By the end of 2025 more than 1.6 million legal non-citizen residents had lost their right to stay in the U.S. However, the most brazen act of the administration must be the president's day-one executive order purporting to revoke the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment, which guarantees citizenship to almost all persons born on U.S. soil regardless of the citizenship status of their parents, at the stroke of a pen. While it is important to decry the administration's brutal actions against undocumented immigrants, we would be remiss not to point out how this administration's agenda negatively impacts all foreign-born Americans, not just those who are undocumented.

With the passage of the One Big Brutal Bill in June 2025, ICE was given \$48.5 billion and 100,000 detention beds. ICE has become the most well-funded U.S. law enforcement agency in U.S. history, better-funded even than some countries' militaries.

The escalation of militarized and violent force against immigrants from Border Patrol, Immigration Customs and Enforcement, and the National Guard is the harshest, most inhumane action against immigrants we've seen in modern history. The horrific scenes of masked agents separating families by violently throwing people to the ground, breaking car windows, and abducting people from church parking lots have now become daily occurrences.

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

We are left questioning if we have masked vigilante groups in our communities because the secret police and unmarked cars no longer present badges nor warrants. Government power is being marshaled to target specific peoples, justify mass removals, and normalize cruelty under the guise of “order.”

As the United Church of Christ, it is a critical moment to speak out and take action in response to the increasingly anti-immigrant policies this administration is setting forth.

## Definitions

### **Immigrant v. Undocumented Immigrant:**

An immigrant is a person living in a country other than that of their birth, whereas an undocumented immigrant is someone who lives or works in another country when they do not have the legal right to do this.

### **Dreamer:**

A dreamer is an immigrant who came to the United States as a child and is eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

### **Asylum-Seeker v. Refugee:**

An asylum-seeker’s protection has not yet been decided by the country where they have applied for asylum. A refugee has been legally recognized as needing protection from persecution. In other words, an asylum-seeker is seeking protection and asylum, and a refugee is someone who has already been granted protection. A refugee’s application is processed in second countries before they begin to enter the United States, whereas asylum-seekers apply for asylum either in the United States, or through U.S. border authorities.

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

## **Asylee v. Asylum-Seeker:**

An asylee is someone who has applied for asylum and was granted asylum, proving they experienced persecution or fear of persecution in their country. An asylum seeker is someone who is seeking asylum but has not yet been granted that status by an immigration court.

## **Judicial vs. Administrative Warrant:**

A judicial warrant is issued by a state or federal court and signed by a judge or magistrate (not an immigration judge). Judicial warrants authorize arrests, seizures, or searches, and there is a legal obligation to comply. Administrative warrants are issued by a federal agency such as DHS, not a court, and authorize arrests and seizures, though not searches. A federal agent, such as an ICE agent, must have a judicial warrant to enter a building's private spaces without permission. You can find illustrations of these different types of warrants online from the National Immigration Law Center.

## **What is ICE?**

### **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):**

A federal law enforcement agency under the United States Department of Homeland Security. ICE was formed in 2003 in response to 9/11.<sup>7</sup> The purpose was to further secure the United States from national security threats and terrorist attacks. As one of the newest federal government agencies, it has received generous funding over the last few years, and its budget continues to grow.<sup>8</sup> The One Big Brutal Bill Act added \$101.7 billion to the Department of Homeland Security to fund increased activity by ICE and presence on the U.S.-Mexico border.<sup>9</sup> You may also see acronyms like CBP (Customs and Border Patrol), ERO (Enforcement and Removal Operations), and HSI (Homeland Security Investigations) on the outerwear of individuals or groups conducting detainment and removal actions in the community.

7 "WARRANTS AND SUBPOENAS: What to Look Out for and How to Respond", 2025, [https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-Subpoenas-Warrants\\_.pdf](https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-Subpoenas-Warrants_.pdf)

8 "The History of ICE in American Immigration History", 2023, <https://www.passage.law/the-history-of-ice-in-american-immigration-history/>

9 "What's in the Big Beautiful Bill? Immigration and Border Security Unpacked", 2025, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/big-beautiful-bill-immigration-border-security/>

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

*NOTE: This is not legal advice and does not substitute consultation with a lawyer.*

## Your Rights as a House of Worship and FAQs<sup>10</sup>

### **Are places of worship required to enforce immigration laws?**

No. Places of worship are not required and cannot be forced to enforce immigration laws.

### **Can immigration officials enter my house of worship without a warrant?**

ICE agents and others may enter the public spaces of a church or other place of worship without a warrant, but not private areas. If an ICE agent or other law enforcement officer wants to enter those private spaces, they must present a hard copy of a warrant signed by a federal judge. It is strongly recommended that places of worship identify and distinguish (ideally with legal advice) their private spaces from their public ones, if any. This can be done by placing signs identifying private areas, or by placing security guards tasked with signing in visitors at main entrances.

### **Can an immigration agent access a nonpublic area in a place of worship?**

No. Only if they have a valid judicial warrant, which should be reviewed and validated by legal counsel before decisions about access are made. A deportation order or arrest order is not the same as a judicial warrant and does not permit an agent to enter.

### **What if a judicial warrant is presented?**

Staff should consult with legal counsel before taking any action.

### **Am I required to talk to a police officer or ICE agent if they enter the congregation and ask questions?**

No. You are not required to answer any questions and you should seek advice from a lawyer before answering any questions from law enforcement authorities. You are not required to tell them anything about anyone's immigration status.

<sup>10</sup> Cited with permission from the ACLU. "Immigration Enforcement Guidance for Places of Worship", 2025, <https://www.aclu.org/documents/immigration-enforcement-guidance-for-places-of-worship>

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

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## **Can immigration officials be stationed outside or near a place of worship?**

Yes. If there are ICE agents outside or near your establishment, you can send a designated, well-trained staff member outside to ascertain the identity of the individuals. If they are able to confirm that they are immigration agents, that person can reenter and remind people of their rights or prepare should the agents attempt to gain entry.

## **If a faith group publicly declares its place of worship as a “sanctuary” for immigrants, can that provide any additional legal protection to the congregation or to immigrants?**

No. The concept of “sanctuary” in a place of worship is not recognized by federal law and it provides no protection from prosecution for members of the congregation.

## **Are there any risks that could result if a faith group makes a public declaration as a “sanctuary” for immigrants?**

It depends. A declaration itself probably would not justify a prosecution, but it may put the congregation on the government’s radar. Importantly, most courts have found the federal harboring and transporting statutes have an “intent” requirement, which means that to convict someone, the prosecutor must prove that the person or organization providing shelter to or transporting an undocumented immigrant intended to help the immigrant to remain unlawfully in the United States.

## **What Your Congregation Can Do**

### **Create an ICE Congregational Response Guide for Your Congregation**

Create a document that will act as a resource and reference for the church in the event that immigration enforcement enters your building. This document should be reviewed and approved by the leadership and by the congregation to ensure its implementation.

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

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**Step 1:** Designate each room in your church as a “private” or “public” space and clearly mark these spaces using signs.

See UCC General Counsel Heather Kimmel’s webinar, “Sanctuary: Legal Considerations for Faith Communities” for more information on private and public spaces.<sup>11</sup>

1. Walk through each room in your church.
2. Any room that has programming that is open to the public (during the program’s duration) is a public space (ex: Sanctuary, hallways, bathrooms, living room, community hall during Sunday morning worship or other events, etc.)
3. Any room that has programming that is not open to the public is a private space and cannot be entered by ICE without a judicial warrant (ex: kitchen, chapel, tenant offices at all times, narthex, etc.)
4. Rooms change from public to private depending on their use.
5. Walk through each room in your church and mark which rooms are public
6. Walk through each room in your church and mark which rooms are always private.
7. Put up signage designating private rooms as private and public rooms as public after designating each room.
8. Hang a sign on the doorknob of each room in addition to signage that says private or public rooms.
9. Public spaces cannot be designated as private through use of a sign without a corresponding change in use and access of the space.

**Step 2:** Have your church create a standard operating document using the following template. Ensure you are also consulting with an immigration attorney as your church considers supporting immigrants in this way.

<sup>11</sup> “Sanctuary: Legal Considerations for Faith Communities”, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55vzvLuiZt0>

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

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## **Theological Grounding**

Provide theological grounding as to how your church has welcomed and served immigrants, and why this document is important. You are welcome to draw grounding from UCC General Synod Resolutions (search key words such as immigration to pull up relevant resolutions).<sup>12</sup>

## **Public Spaces vs. Private Spaces Designation**

For the purposes of our policies, “public” spaces would be open to the general public entering from outside of the building. This includes: [insert designated public spaces]. Private spaces include: [insert designated private spaces]. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers or other officers acting on their behalf will not be permitted into any private space without a judicial warrant.

## **Responding to ICE**

If an ICE officer or other officers acting on their behalf request entry to private spaces, all staff and volunteers will respond, “This is a private space; you do not have permission to enter without a judicial warrant.” Any staff or volunteer who responds in this way will immediately contact the [insert the leaders in the church who will be on call and notified] to report the attempted entry. Our emergency Immigration Attorney, [your immigration attorney], should also be contacted immediately at [insert phone number of immigration attorney]. [list two designated people who are responsible for reporting this] will be responsible for reporting this to Immigration Rapid Response Hotline: [insert number for your state] so our partner organizations are aware of ICE presence.

If an ICE officer forces entry, staff and volunteers will not attempt to stop the forced entry with the use of force; though they may employ nonviolent de-escalation tactics. Staff or members should not sign any ICE documents.

<sup>12</sup> <https://uccresolutions.org/all-resolutions/>

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

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Your church should identify a few people in the church authorized to speak to ICE. If an ICE officer or other officers acting on their behalf enter a public space during events open to the public, the designated staff or volunteers will ask them to leave, citing our concern that their presence creates anxiety and undermines our ability to welcome all people into the safety of our sanctuary. The response from anyone apart from those authorized people would be, "I am not authorized to speak about that/answer that question, but I can locate the [authorized person] who can speak to you."

If the officer refuses to leave, staff or church leaders who have undergone de-escalation training will sit or stand near the officer and, as soon as possible, report the officer's presence to the Immigration Rapid Response hotline.<sup>13</sup> Suggested language to officers includes, "We ask you to leave this space. You are in a church, and your presence is creating anxiety. Please leave this space."

## **Documentation**

Staff and executive leadership should document all interactions with ICE, noting that sometimes they may appear in plainclothes, but often will wear a vest with ICE or Police on it. If possible, documentation by video would be preferred. If not possible, or if the situation seems too volatile, documentation by photograph is appropriate with a write-up to follow. All situations should be written up, including ICE tactics and strategies. Please attempt to get the official's name, title, and office.

## **Partner Organizations**

[Insert your church's name] is committed to acting in concert with trusted partner organizations already on the ground with impacted people. These organizations include [insert partner organizations]. Through these organizations we will come together with other people of faith to advocate, train, respond to emergent situations, and work to accompany the vulnerable.

<sup>13</sup> "Rapid Response Network Hotlines across the US", 2025, <https://publicdefenders.us/app/uploads/2025/01/Hotlines-RRN.doc.pdf>

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

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We also recommend that churches identify community resources that can provide immigrants with culturally informed spiritual, emotional, and mental health care.

## **Response to those Seeking Sanctuary**

[Insert response based on individual decisions made by your church] If you do not have one, you can list:

At this time, we have not established policies to respond to those who may arrive at our doors seeking sanctuary. However, our practice articulated above remains: we will not ask anyone to disclose their immigration status.

## **Important Numbers**

List the numbers of those listed above who will be involved in responding to ICE, as well as any emergency immigration attorney you may have.

## **Action Steps:**

- \*During Public Events, public spaces include: [insert public spaces in your church]
- \*At all other times, all spaces with the exception of the [any public space that is always unlocked and open to the public] are private spaces.
- \*If ICE officers seek entry to private spaces, staff should respond: “This is a private space; you do not have permission to enter without a judicial warrant.”
- \*If ICE officers enter a public space, staff or leadership should respond: “We ask you to leave this space. You are in a church, and your presence is creating anxiety. Please leave this space.”
- \*Staff or leaders should document any interaction with ICE on our premises.
- \*Immediately report ICE presence to rapid response hotline, [insert people to report this to].
- \*Write up documentation following the incident and submit it to [insert people who should see the incident report].
- \*Consider providing spiritual care for those who witnessed the action.

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

## **Provide signage that signifies your values of welcoming the immigrant**

Congregations can make and display lawn signs to display their views, values, and messages on immigration. The First Amendment protects the right for individuals within the church to display the signage on their own property outside of the church, and within church walls.

## **Become an “Immigrant Welcoming Church”**

Contact Noel Anderson, the Immigration Justice Minister, [andersenn@ucc.org](mailto:andersenn@ucc.org). More information on how to become an “Immigrant Welcoming Church” [here](#).<sup>14</sup>

## **Join immigration trips to educate yourself on southern border issues.**

The UCC and Border Community Alliance provides annual trips to Nogales, Mexico and Arizona to learn from those who have experienced issues at the border, and who are in immigration shelters. Please click [here](#) for more information.<sup>15</sup>

## **Support refugees and resettlement organizations**

The refugee resettlement program is currently on pause, but refugees already resettled in the U.S. still require care and support, and due to staff cuts, much of the work of refugee resettlement organizations is now reliant on volunteers. Volunteer with your local refugee resettlement organization and provide them with support during this uncertain time. Explore ways in which your congregations can partner with local organizations to increase their impact.

## **Join local mutual aid and organizing to support immigrants**

Immigrants may need rides or accompaniment to immigration hearings, and those in detention may not have family able to visit them. Work with your local immigration assistance nonprofits to organize your congregations to visit detained immigrants, provide rides to those who need to go to immigration court, and other opportunities for support, such as providing meals and grocery delivery. Contact Megan Bergert, Minister for Refugee and Migration Services at [bergertm@ucc.org](mailto:bergertm@ucc.org) for more information about grant opportunities or for assistance in connecting with organizations in your area.

<sup>14</sup> “Immigrant Welcoming Congregations”, <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/refugee-and-migration-ministries/immigrant-welcoming-congregations/>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/volunteer-ministries-old/volunteer\\_mission-trip-opportunities\\_arizona/](https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/volunteer-ministries-old/volunteer_mission-trip-opportunities_arizona/)

# Preparing Your Church to Respond to Immigration Enforcement

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**Thank you for putting your faith into action. Our prayers are with you and your immigrant neighbors. The UCC is here as a resource.**



**LOVE**  
**KNOWS NO**  
**BORDERS**



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



# KNOW YOU'RE LOVED



The following is from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center. Everyone – regardless of immigration status – has rights in this country.

**1. You have the right to remain silent.**

Exercising your right to remain silent when approached by ICE can protect you from saying something that they may use to deport you. If ICE approaches you clearly state that you are choosing to remain silent. ICE will likely continue to ask you questions. Remain silent and answer none of their questions until you speak with a lawyer if you're detained, especially about your birthplace, immigration status, or how you entered the United States. ICE may use intimidation tactics to get you to speak or incriminate yourself through actions (e.g., line up according to immigration status). Continue to remain silent and do not fall for their tricks. If you are arrested, your decision to remain silent may change depending on the facts of your case (e.g., your length of time in the United States, if you have a fear of returning to your country, etc.). Speak with an attorney and make a plan to prepare for this situation.

**2. Remain calm and do not run away.**

If ICE approaches you on the street, do not run away, as this could be a reason for ICE to arrest you. Do not consent for them to search your person or property. Do not provide any foreign or false documents. If ICE questions you on the street, ask if you are free to leave. If they say you are free to leave, calmly and silently walk away. Make a plan with an attorney on how to prepare for this situation.

**3. You have the right to demand a judicial warrant before letting ICE into your home.**

You have the right under the U.S. Constitution to be protected from unreasonable searches and seizures. This means ICE cannot enter your home without a valid judicial warrant. An ICE warrant is NOT a judicial warrant. An ICE warrant does NOT give ICE the authority to enter your home and conduct a search. If ICE claims they have a warrant, do not open the door (even a little) for them to show it to you. Ask them to slip it under the door or show it through a window.

**4. You have the right to speak with a lawyer if you are arrested.**

If you are in ICE custody, do not sign anything without speaking with an attorney first as it could eliminate your right to speak with a lawyer or have a hearing in front of an immigration judge.

**5. U.S. Citizens can play a vital role.**

You have a right under the First Amendment of the Constitution to record or take photos in public view of law enforcement and ICE so long as you don't interfere with an arrest. Obtain important information about what you witnessed (names, phone numbers of any witnesses, badge numbers, etc.).

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The following affirmations were developed by the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

**You are part of God's beautiful creation and made in the image of God.**

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. -Psalm 139:14*

**You are loved as a part of this community, and you contribute to this community.**

*So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God. -Ephesians 2:17-19*

**You are not alone. God walks with you.**

*Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. -Matthew 28:20*

**In times of darkness, you can draw comfort from God.**

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. -Psalm 23:4*

**In times of trouble, God will protect you and be with you every step of the way.**

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. -Isaiah 43:2*

**The United Church of Christ (UCC) is here for you: we see you, we support you, we value you, we love you, and God loves you.**

*Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. -1 John 4:11-12*



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# CONOCE TUS DERECHOS

El siguiente viene del Immigrant Legal Resource Center. Todas las personas – sin importar su estatus migratorio – tienen derechos en este país.

## 1. Tiene derecho a guardar silencio.

Su derecho a guardar silencio es un derecho poderoso bajo la Constitución de los Estados Unidos (EE.UU.). Ejercer este derecho cuando ICE se le acerque puede protegerlo de decir algo que ICE pueda usar en su contra para deportarlo. Si ICE se le acerca, declare claramente que ha decidido guardar silencio. ICE probablemente seguirá haciéndole preguntas. Guarde silencio y no responda a ninguna de sus preguntas hasta que hable con un abogado (especialmente si llegara a ser detenido), especialmente no conteste respuestas sobre su lugar de nacimiento, su estatus migratorio o como ingreso a los EE.UU. ICE puede usar tácticas de intimidación para que usted hable o se incrimine con sus acciones (por ejemplo, pedirle que se forme en una línea según su estatus migratorio). Siga guardando silencio y no caiga en sus trucos. Si es arrestado, su decisión de guardar silencio puede cambiar dependiendo de los hechos de su caso (por ejemplo, cuanto tiempo ha vivido en los EE.UU., si tiene miedo de regresar a su país, etc.). Hable con un abogado y elabore un plan para prepararse para esta situación.

## 2. Mantenga la calma y no huya.

Si ICE se le acerca en la calle, no huya, ya que esto podría ser una razón para que lo arresten. No de su consentimiento para que revisen su cuerpo ni sus pertenencias. No entregue ningún documento falso ni de otro país. Si ICE le hace preguntas en la calle, pregunte si es libre de irse. Si le dicen que sí, retírese en silencio y con calma. Haga un plan con un abogado para prepararse en caso de que se encuentre en esta situación.

## 3. Tiene derecho a exigir una orden judicial antes de permitir que ICE entre a su hogar.

Usted tiene el derecho, bajo la Constitución de los EE.UU., a estar protegido en contra de revisiones y confiscaciones irrazonables. Esto significa que ICE no puede entrar a su hogar sin una orden judicial válida. Una orden de ICE NO es una orden judicial. Una orden de ICE NO le da autoridad a ICE para entrar a su hogar ni para realizar un registro de su persona u hogar. Si ICE dice que tiene una orden, no abra la puerta (ni siquiera un poco) para que se la muestren. Pídale que la pasen por debajo de la puerta o que la muestren por una ventana.

## 4. Usted tiene derecho a hablar con un abogado si es arrestado.

Si está bajo la custodia de ICE, no firme nada sin antes hablar con un abogado, ya que podría perder su derecho a hablar con un abogado o tener una audiencia ante un juez de inmigración.

## 5. Los aliados ciudadanos pueden desempeñar un papel vital.

Usted tiene el derecho, bajo la Primera Enmienda de la Constitución, de grabar y/o tomar fotos de ICE o la policía si están en un lugar público, siempre y cuando no interfiera con un arresto. Si presencia una detención, trate de anotar información importante como los nombres, números de teléfono de testigos, número de placa de los oficiales de ICE, u otros detalles importantes.

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# ERES AMADO/A/E

Las siguientes afirmaciones fueron desarrolladas por los Ministerios Nacionales de la Iglesia Unida de Cristo.

**Eres parte de la creación hermosa de Dios y has sido creado/a/e a la imagen de Dios.**

*¡Te alabo porque soy una creación admirable y maravillosa! ¡Tus obras son maravillosas y esto lo sé muy bien!. -Salmos 139:14*

**Eres amado/a/e como parte de esta comunidad y contribuyes a esta comunidad.**

*Él vino y anunció las buenas nuevas de paz a ustedes que estaban lejos y paz a los que estaban cerca. Pues por medio de él tenemos acceso al Padre por un mismo Espíritu. Por eso, ustedes ya no son extranjeros, ya no están fuera de su tierra, sino que ahora comparten con el pueblo santo los mismos derechos, y son miembros de la familia de Dios. -Efesios 2:17-19*

**No estás solo/a/e. Dios camina contigo.**

*Recuerda, yo estoy siempre contigo, todos los días, hasta el fin de los tiempos. -Mateo 28:20*

**En tiempos de oscuridad, puedes encontrar consuelo en Dios.**

*Aunque ande en valle de sombra de muerte, no temeré mal alguno, porque tú estás conmigo; Tu vara y tu cayado me infunden aliento. -Salmos 23:4*

**En tiempos difíciles, Dios te protege y te acompaña en cada paso del camino.**

*Cuando pases por las aguas, yo estaré contigo; si pasas por los ríos, no te ahogarán. Cuando pases por el fuego, no te quemarán, ni la llama arderá en ti. -Isaías 43:2*

**La Iglesia Unida de Cristo (UCC) está aquí para ti: te vemos, te apoyamos, te valoramos, y te amamos, y Dios te ama.**

*Amados/as/es, si Dios nos ha amado así, debemos también nosotros amarnos unos a otros. Nadie ha visto jamás a Dios. Si nos amamos unos a otros, Dios permanece en nosotros, y su amor se ha perfeccionado en nosotros. -1 Juan 4:11-12*



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