

How To Be A Positive Active Bystander In Situations With Immigration Officers

You don't have to be an immigrant to be an ally, Owning your identity, and the power you can access, is a great way to be an ally to immigrant peoples.

1. **Come out as an ally:** To be a good ally, you have to be active — allyship is futile if no one knows about it. Being vocal in your role is what helps bring change.

Examples: Get familiar with Know Your Rights information, Share Know Your Rights information, Come out as an ally publicly, Work with your community to promote policies that protect your local immigrant communities. More information about all these examples can be found below.

2. **Learn the correct terms to use:** Using the terms "illegal" or "alien" to describe immigrants dehumanizes them, and is a tool of xenophobia and oppression. More appropriate vocabulary to use when describing immigrants is "undocumented" or "unauthorized." When in doubt, simply ask how an individual would like to be described.

3. **Get Know Your Rights Training:** Everyone living in the U.S. has certain basic rights under the U.S. Constitution. Undocumented immigrants have these rights, too. Understanding what a person's rights are, regardless of their immigration status, can help protect them from being deported or detained.

You can find Online resources to do this on the American Civil Liberties Union website: Visit <https://www.aclu.org/> > In the top part of the website Click on 'Know Your Rights' > Click on the Link you want to learn about (you can find them in multiple languages!). More resources-

- National Immigration Law Center (NILC): Know Your Rights (multiple languages).
- Immigrant Defense Project: Know Your Rights (additional languages).

Additionally, you may have family, friends or coworkers who could be affected, and should share this information with them. As an informed ally, you can help by watching for ICE abuses or by helping to train others.

4. **Promote Policies That Protect Your Local Immigrant Communities:**

In response to federal enforcement actions, local governments have begun resisting pressure to participate in the federal government's mass deportation program by passing legislation or enacting policies to protect their local immigrant communities. A few examples are:

- A prohibition against holding any person in custody solely due to a request by ICE.
- A prohibition against local police sharing a person's release date with ICE.
- A prohibition against inquiring into or gathering information about an individual's immigration status.
- A prohibition against joint operations between ICE and local law enforcement agencies.
- A prohibition against allowing ICE access to jail facilities, or to persons in local custody, for the purpose of investigating violations of federal immigration law.
- A prohibiting against deputizing of police to act as ICE agents, and terminating any existing 287(g) agreements between the local jurisdiction and ICE.

Link to a toolkit that can help:

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/sanctuary-city-toolkit/>

5. **If Needed Go With Immigrants To ICE Check-Ins:** Many undocumented immigrants have regular check-ins with immigration officers. There are several reasons for why a person might have these and you should *never assume that it's because they've done something wrong*. People have been taken into ICE custody at their check-ins and detained until they are deported. If this happens it can be difficult to notify family and friends, to gather clothes, a suitcase, important documents, and to find legal assistance quickly. Without people

to monitor them, ICE will be even more likely to operate without transparency or accountability. Check with your local immigrant rights organization if you're interested in going with a person to an ICE check-in.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE ACCOMPANYING PERSON(S)?

- Be present to show ICE that the person checking in has community support. It does not include engaging with immigration officers or staff, unless the person that you are accompanying asks you to do so. You should feel free to take notes about the encounter with immigration officers.
- Another way to help a person going to an ICE check-in is to work with them to develop a “rapid response plan” to use in case the person is detained by immigration. The plan should include:
 - Contact information for a family member, loved one, or friend. If applicable, a community organization that should be notified.
 - Contact information for an attorney or legal organization.
 - Where to find their important documents such as passport, children’s birth certificates, prescriptions, etc.
 - Remember to ask for the person’s full name, date of birth, country of origin, and alien registration number (“A” number). That way you or their loved ones can find out where they are by using this ICE detainee locator website—<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>
 - If the person wants, to bring additional Indivisible members to the check in. Some people might prefer to have just one person to go with them while others might want a larger group to accompany them. Ask them what they prefer.

6. **Carry a know-your-rights card and show it if an immigration officer stops you:**

The card can be found here

<https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/rights-card.png>. This family preparedness packet is also a good starting place to create a plan

<https://www.ilrc.org/family-preparedness-plan> (available in English, Spanish, and Chinese).

7. **Practice solidarity:** During raids, ICE will question everyone in the vicinity and there’s power in numbers and immigrant allies can help by standing with immigrants getting approached by ICE and remaining silent and refusing to answer questions until an attorney is present. Practice doing so with family, friends, or Indivisible members.
8. **Report and document raids and arrests:** If it is possible and safe for you to do so, take photos and videos of the raid or arrest. Also take notes on what happened. Call United We Dream’s hotline to report a raid: **1-844-363-1423**. There may also be a local raids hotline in your area that you can call. You can send text messages to 877877.

Sources:

<https://mashable.com/2016/05/15/undocumented-immigrants-allies/#VLTAMvFcmqi>

<https://www.indivisible.org/can-immigrant-ally-locally/>

https://www.google.com/amp/s/articles.al.com/news/index.ssf/2017/05/ice_watch_event_teaches_what_t.amp

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