



For Immediate Release

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Advocates for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence Call on ICE to Stop Raids During Coronavirus Outbreak

NEW YORK- Groups that represent and advocate for survivors of intimate partner violence across New York on Friday sent a [letter to Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf](#) urging him to stop ICE's raids, arrests and detentions during the COVID-19 crisis. The groups say these actions put survivors of violence at greater risk.

The groups said they are concerned that ICE is continuing its arrest operations at a time when many across the nation are confined to their homes. They also said introducing more people into detention facilities will jeopardize the health of people already confined there.

"As service providers and advocates, we have seen firsthand how ICE raids hurt survivors, exacerbated now by COVID-19. By discouraging survivors' participation in courts and governmental agencies, ICE raids make the people we serve LESS SAFE," they said.

The letter was spurred by recent comments from ICE that it would target those posing "public safety risks" and subject to mandatory detention on criminal grounds and concerns that ICE has long used this misleading justification to conduct its raids. Earlier this week on March 16, in an area with documented cases of coronavirus, ICE arrested an individual leaving a Long Island courthouse after he appeared for domestic violence-related charges.

"These arrests only create more fear amongst survivors, who now must choose between inaction and calling the police and risking that a partner or co-parent will be put into ICE detention (where the likelihood of contracting the virus is much higher)," the groups said.



[You can read the full letter to Wolf here.](#)

The letter's signatories are: African Services Committee, Bronx Immigration Partnership, Center for Safety and Change, Central American Legal Assistance, Day One, Immigrant Defense Project, Immigrant Justice Corps, Her Justice, Lawyers for Children, Legal Aid Society of New York City, Legal Aid Society of Westchester, Legal Services NYC, Make the Road New York, My Sisters' Place, New Sanctuary Coalition, New York City Anti-Violence Project, New York Immigration Coalition, New York Legal Assistance Group, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC), Safe Horizon, Sanctuary for Families, Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Families, UnLocal, Inc. and Violence Intervention Program, Inc.

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The Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) is a New York-based nonprofit that works to secure fairness and justice for immigrants in the racially-biased U.S. criminal and immigration systems. IDP fights to end the current era of unprecedented mass criminalization, detention and deportation through a multi-pronged strategy including advocacy, litigation, legal support, community partnerships, and strategic communications. Visit www.immigrantdefenseproject.org and follow [@ImmDefense](https://twitter.com/ImmDefense).