



IMMIGRANT DEFENSE PROJECT

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"I just want to continue living my life, grow old with my wife, see my kids go off to college. If it was just to be taken away from me, because of a mistake I did 19 years ago, that I paid for as a teenager, it is going to destroy my life... Being deported, I'm going to lose everything..."

--José, who has lived in the U.S. since he was adopted here as an infant, while in deportation proceedings

"Every night that she goes to bed, there is a chance that she could wake up and I could be gone again. Can you imagine what trauma that brings to a child? You wake up in the morning and everything changes..."

--Khalil, a social worker and advocate taken away from his family by ICE during an early morning home raid



WHO ARE WE?

Founded 20 years ago in response to an emerging human rights crisis that has now reached a fever pitch under the current Administration, the Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) fights for justice and the human rights of immigrants in both the criminal and immigration systems.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In 1996, Congress passed harsh immigration laws, rooted in the racialized and punitive tenets of the War on Crime: mass incarceration, unforgiving sentences, and deportation for a wide range of offenses.

The U.S. government now maintains the world's largest immigrant detention and deportation system. Permanent residents, people seeking refuge from persecution, and undocumented people with deep connections in the U.S. are all targets.

WHY SUPPORT OUR WORK NOW?

The current administration has created a new war on immigrants, driven by fear, racism, hatred, and lies. IDP's strategies have evolved to fight back against this new wave of mass criminalization, detention, and deportation and continues to create change where it's needed most.

WELCOME TO THE U.S. IMMIGRATION SYSTEM, WHERE:



You can be locked up for years without ever seeing a judge



You have no right to a lawyer if you can't afford one



You have to navigate complex laws alone, sometimes not speaking the language



You may face mandatory detention and deportation for smoking pot, shoplifting, or using fake papers to work



You can be punished again for a mistake made 20 years earlier

OUR CONNECTED STRATEGIES



LEGAL ADVICE & TRAININGS: We educate immigrants, advocates, and lawyers on the complex intersection of federal immigration and state criminal law to help prevent thousands of deportations each year.



IMPACT LITIGATION: We orchestrate the strategy behind litigation in the Supreme Court and Circuit Courts (including 5 recent victories) and challenge unfair laws to expand our reach exponentially.



POLICY & ADVOCACY: We advocate for laws and policies that protect human rights, including some of the first successful sanctuary policies and decriminalization efforts, and the current pardon and "ICE out of the courts" campaigns.



COMMUNITY DEFENSE: We support communities and grassroots groups with valuable resources, such as multilingual Know Your Rights trainings and materials, manuals on navigating these systems with cutting-edge legal arguments, and campaigns that have successfully kept José and Khalil (above), DREAMERs, and others back home with their families.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS: We counter the demonization of immigrants and people with criminal convictions and change the conversation by exposing the human toll of unjust policies.

IDP BY THE NUMBERS

THIS YEAR

2,000+

HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

8,000+

ADVOCATES & COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED

6,000+

UTILIZED OUR RAIDS TOOLKIT

5,000+

DOWNLOADED OUR PODCAST SERIES

1,000's

DEPORTATIONS PREVENTED