

IMMIGRANT ALLY TOOLKIT



PIRC

Pennsylvania Immigration
Resource Center

Educating, advocating, ensuring access to justice.

TAKE ACTION

WITH CONCRETE WAYS
TO SUPPORT
IMMIGRANTS

WWW.PIRCLAW.ORG

WELCOME!

Thank you for your interest in becoming an Immigrant Ally! Now more than ever, it is important to have accurate information about immigration and to stand with immigrants. This toolkit will provide you with ways to *become an ally* for immigrants.

- **Why is being informed and becoming an ally so important?**

With so many misconceptions and competing narratives about immigration today, it can be difficult to learn the facts. The first step to becoming an ally is to be informed about immigrants and our immigration process. This toolkit can help you start.

Once you are empowered with accurate information, the opportunities for paying it forward are endless. Sharing information around the dinner table or with co-workers is an action step. Discussing immigration issues with your friends is an action step. You will find opportunities in unlikely places to advocate for immigrants. ***No step is too small!***

- **What does it mean to stand with immigrants?**

To stand with immigrants means: you become informed about the current immigration system and its impact on our community; you speak out and educate when you hear harmful myths about immigrants; and you tell your community leaders that you don't support immigration policies that tear families apart. To stand with immigrants means ***you are giving voice*** to the issues immigrants face in places where there may be no voice.

We hope this toolkit will both inform and inspire you to become an ally for immigrants. Start today. Becoming an Immigrant Ally is a mission we can all take part in!

In peace and alliance,



Mary Studzinski
PIRC Executive Director

PURPOSE

This toolkit is designed to educate and empower. It is for individuals who want to:



BE INFORMED. Understand immigration in the United States and the impact of policies and laws on immigrants.



PAY IT FORWARD. Share your knowledge with others.



STAND WITH IMMIGRANTS and become an Immigrant Ally.



In this toolkit, you will find information and resources to support your efforts to be informed and to become an Immigrant Ally. The toolkit includes:

- ✓ Answers to frequently asked questions about how immigration works and relevant laws and policies in the United States
- ✓ Stories of immigrants that illustrate some of the challenges immigrants face today
- ✓ Resources if you want to learn more.

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This toolkit was designed to encourage respectful dialogue. If you have any comments or questions, please contact [Liz Miller](mailto:emiller@pirclaw.org), PIRC Office Manager/Development Manager, at emiller@pirclaw.org.

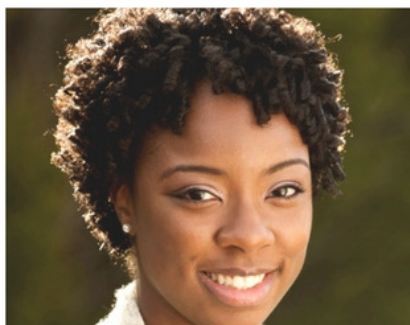
ABOUT US

The **Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC)** is a nonprofit organization based in York, PA that works to provide **equal access to justice for vulnerable immigrants** in detention and in the community through legal services, education, and advocacy.

Access to justice means leveling the playing field so that vulnerable immigrants have access to legal services and education. PIRC educates immigrants in detention and in the community about their legal options to obtain or protect their immigration status and provides access to justice through legal services – direct representation, coordination of pro bono legal help, and pro se assistance. PIRC’s services are transformative for individuals and families and allow the immigrants we serve to fully participate and contribute to the community.

WE BELIEVE:

- **IN FAIR AND CONSISTENT ACCESS FOR ALL** to America's system of justice
- **EVERY PERSON DESERVES** to be treated with respect and dignity
- **EVERY PERSON'S CONTRIBUTION COUNTS** in creating a shared prosperity
- **IN SUPPORTING FAMILY UNITY**, as strong families make for strong communities.
- **IN PROVIDING LEGAL PROTECTIONS** to vulnerable immigrants that create safety for themselves and their families
- **IN HELPING IMMIGRANTS OVERCOME BARRIERS** to services such as physical isolation, language, and cultural differences



DETENTION PROGRAMS

PIRC provides immigrants in detention at the York County Prison in York, PA and immigrant families detained at the Berks County Residential Center in Leesport, PA, with information about their legal rights and potential options for obtaining or protecting their legal status. PIRC attorneys represent asylum-seekers, torture survivors, individuals with physical disabilities or mental illness, and other particularly vulnerable populations before the immigration court.



850 IMMIGRANTS
IN DETENTION
IN SOUTH CENTRAL PA
ON AVERAGE EACH DAY

IMMIGRANTS WITH LEGAL REPRESENTATION ARE
10.5x MORE LIKELY TO
SEEK RELIEF
SUCH AS ASYLUM

AND 6X MORE LIKELY
TO SUCCEED



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS PROJECT

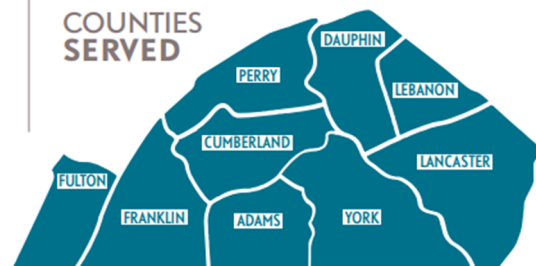
In the community, PIRC provides immigration legal services to immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking in a nine-county region in south central PA through the Immigrant Survivors Project. PIRC partners with domestic violence and sexual assault agencies to connect immigrant survivors with victim services such as emergency shelter or counseling. PIRC also provides referrals and connections to other resources such as family law legal assistance and other victim services. These services enable immigrant survivors and their children to start new lives in the community, free from fear of deportation and violence.

TO DATE:

100% of domestic violence
victims who applied
FOR WORK CARDS
WERE APPROVED



COUNTIES
SERVED



COMMUNITY DEFENSE PROJECT

In 2017, PIRC launched the Community Defense Project in response to the harsh impact felt by immigrant families in our community as a result of the January 2017 Executive Orders on immigration. The Community Defense Project offers resources and education for immigrants in the community at risk of detention or deportation, provides free legal clinics, and serves as a lifeline for family members trying to connect with their loved ones in detention.

STEP #1: BE INFORMED

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Immigration is currently a contentious topic of debate and discussion. It can be extremely difficult to separate the fact from fiction, and myths become commonplace. To better understand the current issues related to immigration, it is important to be informed. Below are answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) that we hope will inform and provide insight into the myths and misunderstandings surrounding immigration.

THE U.S. IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

? How do people enter the U.S. legally to live permanently?

Individuals from other countries can only live in the U.S. permanently as legal permanent residents (LPRs) if a family member or an employer has filed a petition for them to be granted an immigrant visa or they have received refugee status. More than 2/3 of the LPRs in the U.S. were petitioned for by a family member and almost 1/3 by an employer. A much smaller number of individuals enter as refugees.

? Are there other ways to enter the U.S. legally?

Yes. A person from another country can enter the U.S. as a nonimmigrant or temporary visitor. Examples of this are tourists (B-2) and business visitors (B-1), students (F-1), temporary workers (H-1B, H-2A, H-2B), and exchange visitors (J-1). Each of these temporary visas have a prescribed period of stay after which the visa holder is to return to their home country.

? Has the basic body of U.S. immigration law changed since 1965?

No. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 was enacted in 1968. While there have been changes made to it through legislative, the basic system or body of immigration law has remained unchanged for the past 50+ years.

? Are there more immigrants in the U.S than there has ever been before?

Over the last four decades, the United States has experienced what many are calling the “second great wave” of immigration. In 1970, there were less than 10MM foreign-born individuals living in the US. By 2010, there were 40MM immigrants living in the US. As a percent of the population, immigrants were only 4.7% in 1970 and in 2010 grew to 12.9%. In 2016, the percent foreign-born was 13.5% and has almost reached the historical high of 1890 of 14.8%. Source: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/immigrant-population-over-time>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

? My grandparents came the legal way. Why don't people just get in the legal line?

Individuals from other countries can only live in the U.S. permanently as legal permanent residents (LPRs) if a family member or an employer has filed a petition for them to be granted an immigrant visa, they have received refugee status, or they have been granted asylum. This is our current legal immigration system. Unlike the immigration rules in place 100+ years ago, a person cannot petition for themselves to live in the United State. The only way to enter and become a legal permanent resident is through a family-based or employment-based petition. And for very few people, as refugees.

? How long must a person wait to enter the U.S. after a petition is filed for them by a family member or an employer?

It depends. For the spouses, parents, and minor children of U.S. citizens, the wait can be as short as one year. For other family members, such as the spouses or children of legal permanent residents, or the adult children of U.S. citizens, the wait can be six years or decades long. For certain employment-based petitions the wait can be less than two years, but some categories of employment-based visas for workers from countries like India are more than a decade. For more information on wait times, see [Department of State Visa Bulletin](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin.html), <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin.html>

? Why is the “legal line” so long?

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 established a visa system that limits the number of immigrant visas that can be issued each year by category. Once the limit for a category is reached in the current year, the individuals waiting for a visa get pushed into the next year. Over time, the legal lines have grown – in some categories exponentially.

TERMINOLOGY

? What is the Immigration and Nationality Act or INA?

The Immigration and Nationality Act, or INA, was created in 1952. Before the INA, a variety of statutes governed immigration law but were not organized in one location. The McCarran-Walter bill of 1952 collected and codified many existing provisions and reorganized the structure of immigration law. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 amended the INA in significant ways, abolishing the prior system based on national origins and creating a seven-category preference system, which gave priority to relatives of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents and to professionals and other individuals with specialized skills. While the INA has been amended since 1965, it is still the basic body of immigration law.

Source: <https://www.uscis.gov/laws/immigration-and-nationality-act>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

? What is an immigrant?

Common definition: a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.

Synonyms: newcomer, settler, migrant

INA definition: [see INA section 101](https://www.uscis.gov/ilink/docView/SLB/HTML/SLB/0-0-0-1/0-0-0-29/0-0-0-101.html#0-0-0-164), <https://www.uscis.gov/ilink/docView/SLB/HTML/SLB/0-0-0-1/0-0-0-29/0-0-0-101.html#0-0-0-164>

? What is a refugee?

Generally, any person ***outside his or her country*** of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear must be based on the person's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion. Refugees, after lengthy processing, are provided with refugee documents that allow them to enter the country to which they have been assigned. For more information: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/refugees>

? What happens to a refugee after they enter the United States?

Refugees who have been provided refugee travel documents to the United States are greeted at the airport by staff members from a refugee resettlement agency. These refugee resettlement agencies, such as Church World Service in Lancaster, PA, assist refugees for a six-month period to find employment, settle into housing, enroll children in school, and enroll in English as Second Language (ESL) classes. Refugee status is a lawful immigration status, and after one year refugees can apply for legal permanent residence, or a "green card". For information about refugees in Lancaster County: http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/lancaster-county-s-years-of-welcoming-refugees-celebrated-by-church/article_0e51e148-9fd4-11e7-b6c2-7b6a8dbab759.html

? What is an asylum-seeker?

A person from another country ***in the United States or at a port of entry*** who is found to be unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution.

? What happens to an asylum-seeker after they enter the United States?

If a person seeking asylum has entered the U.S. with a visa and then requests asylum, they must submit an application for asylum within one year of entry that explains their past persecution or fear of persecution. They are scheduled for an interview with an asylum office to determine whether their asylum application will be approved. This is the **affirmative asylum process**. For more information: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/asylum>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

? What happens to an individual who wants to request asylum but has no entry or immigration documents?

If a person seeks to enter the U.S. to request asylum but they do not have an entry document, such as a nonimmigrant visa, they are screened by a Customs and Border Protection agent for fear of return to their home country. If they express a fear of return and they do not have documents for entry, they are placed into removal proceedings and scheduled for a removal hearing before an immigration judge. These asylum-seekers are transferred to the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and many are placed into civil immigration detention facilities such as the York County Prison in York, PA and the family detention center in Leesport, PA. While in removal proceedings, an individual can request asylum from the immigration judge. This is the **defensive asylum process**. (see the stories of Kwame and Karen).

? What is a legal permanent resident?

Any person not a citizen of the United States who is residing in the U.S. under legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant. Also known as "Green Card Holder."

? What is a nonimmigrant?

An individual who is admitted to the United States for a specific temporary period of time. There are clear conditions on his/her stay, such as the conditions on a student visa holder to remain in school full-time to maintain lawful status.

? What does “undocumented” mean?

An undocumented individual does not have the official documents that are needed to enter, live in, or work in the U.S. legally. An individual can be documented and then become undocumented.

? Why refer to immigrants without legal immigration status as “undocumented”?

Words matter. An individual can possess immigration status and then lose immigration status. Describing an individual as being without documents, or undocumented, means they do not possess immigration documents for a current, lawful immigration status. The term undocumented is an accurate description of a person without immigration status. The term illegal is a pejorative and inaccurate term. Illegal could describe a person's actions, but it should not be used to describe a person. No person is illegal.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

? How does a person become undocumented?

A person can have an undocumented immigration status based on either entering the United States without documents – referred to by the government as EWI or entry without inspection – or entering the U.S. with documents, such as a nonimmigrant visa, and staying past the authorized period of time for their visa. Based on Department of Homeland Security reports, which informed the following Center for Migration Studies report: <http://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-visa-overstays-border-wall/> more individuals in the U.S. that are undocumented are now “visa overstays” rather than EWI.

? Can a person be undocumented through no actions of their own?

Yes. PIRC serves two groups of individuals who are undocumented through no fault or actions taken on their own. The first group are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The second group are DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) eligible individuals. Disturbingly, both groups are now more vulnerable to government enforcement and removal based on the 2017 Executive Order and policy decisions.

? Who are Immigrant Survivors and how can they be undocumented?

Immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking often become undocumented after entering the U.S. legally with either a Fiancé visa (K1) or visitor visa (B1/B2). PIRC provides legal assistance to survivors promised marriage to a U.S. citizen who after entering the U.S. with a Fiancé Visa become victims of abuse. Because the law states that the ability for a Fiancé visa-holder to apply for permanent immigration status is completely in control of the abuser/petitioner and must be completed within 90 days of entry, an abuser will allow the Fiancé Visa to expire creating power and control over the now undocumented foreign-born Fiancé (see the stories of Azmera and Gladis). PIRC also works with victims of human trafficking who entered the U.S. with a visitor visa with the promise of immigration status and a job in the United States, but who are then held under the control of criminal traffickers and forced to provide manual labor or sex services. PIRC assists these survivors with applications to request temporary and then permanent immigration status.

? What does DACA mean?

DACA is the acronym for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. DACA is a process for certain immigrants in the U.S. to request deferred action against removal and was established through a June 2012 Executive Order issued by President Obama. For further information about DACA, go to: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2012/08/15/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-who-can-be-considered> AND <https://www.uscis.gov/archive/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>

For updates about DACA, go to the Penn State’s Center for Immigrant Rights: <https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/immigration-after-election>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

? Is DACA the same thing as the DREAM Act?

DACA is an executive order and is not a law. The DREAM Act, which is the common term for legislation introduced by Congress in many forms since 2001, seeks to enact into law a pathway to legal permanent residency for individuals who entered the U.S. without document as minors, subject to certain conditions. For more information about the history of the DREAM act legislation and how it differs from DACA, see The American Immigration Council: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/dream-act-daca-and-other-policies-designed-protect-dreamers>

? Who is DACA eligible and how can they be undocumented?

Individuals who are eligible under DACA, the Executive Order issued by President Obama in June 2012 for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, are individuals who entered the United States before age 16 without documents *based on decisions made by their parents or guardians*. These individuals, as minor children, did not have the ability or the choice to request immigration status. The overwhelming majority of minor children entering the U.S. without documents did so to remain united with their family members. To learn more about advocating for DACA youth, see: <https://unitedwedream.org/>

? What does the term “access to justice” mean for immigrants?

Access to justice means leveling the playing field so that vulnerable immigrants have access to legal services in places where access might not otherwise be possible or available. For PIRC, providing access to justice means providing legal assistance to immigrant survivors and their children in places like a community emergency shelter after they have fled domestic violence. For PIRC, access to justice also means providing legal education and assistance to persons held in immigration civil detention who have fled persecution and violence and who need to request asylum before the Immigration Court. PIRC serves vulnerable immigrants who have no resources or legal representation.

? What is immigration detention?

Immigration detention is a system of civil detention. Immigrants held in this system, in prisons across the U.S., are not awaiting criminal trials or serving prison sentences. The detention of immigrants is to ensure they appear at their immigration hearings and to execute their removal from the U.S. For more info, see <https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/issues/detention-101>

? Do immigrants contribute to the U.S. economy?

Immigrants make significant contributions to the economy that increase the size of the U.S. economy. Immigrants contribute through their spending power, new business start-ups, and taxes paid at the federal, state, and local level. In 2014, immigrants paid \$223.6 billion in federal taxes. To view information about the economic contributions of immigrants, go to New American Economy website for national and local statistics: <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/issues/taxes-spending-power/>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CHANGES IN 2017

? How can I understand the January 2017 Executive Order in simple language?

The Executive Order, “Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States”, issued in January 2017 represents a massive expansion of the immigration detention and deportation system. Anyone apprehended in the interior of the United States who does not have current immigration status can be detained until such time as they are granted immigration relief or are deported. This Executive Order rescinded a prior Immigration and Customs Enforcement Priorities Enforcement Policy Memorandum, and has had the effect that all undocumented persons carry equal enforcement priority. The Executive Order has made all noncitizens – including legal permanent residents - more vulnerable. See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-enhancing-public-safety-interior-united-states/>

? What does the Executive Order mean for immigrants in my community?

The Executive Order means that immigrant survivors, DACA recipients, mothers and fathers of U.S. citizen children, and other contributing members of our community are being taken from the community and placed into detention and removal proceedings. Before the issuance of this Executive Order, these individuals were not an enforcement priority. Since the Executive Orders, immigrant families are being torn apart, employers are losing long-term employees, and U.S. citizen children are facing permanent separation from their parents causing immeasurable trauma and disruption to families and the community (see the story of Marcos).

IMMIGRATION DETENTION



Laws mandate that ICE maintain at least 34,000 beds on a daily basis.



The U.S. maintains the largest detention system in the entire world.



Average number of days immigrants must wait to have their cases heard.



Immigration detention costs taxpayers \$2 billion per year, with the GEO Group, a company contracted by ICE, receiving the most of any ICE-contracted facility.



Over 74% of asylum cases tried at the York Immigration Court between 2012-2017 have been denied.



84% of immigrants in detention will go before a judge without an attorney.



Family detention cost: Taxpayers pay \$319 dollars per family member per day to detain non-criminal men, women, and children.

IMMIGRANTS IN OUR COMMUNITY



48 percent of recently arrived immigrants who came to the United States between 2011 and 2015 were college graduates.



Refugees come from all over the world. Largest source countries in 2015: 1) Syria, 2) Afghanistan, 3) Somalia.



Top countries of immigrant origin circa 2017: 1) Mexico, 2) China, 3) India, 4) Philippines, 5) El Salvador.



More than half of the foreign-born population are homeowners, and becoming homeowners at a faster rate than the U.S. population.



In 2016, 49% of the foreign-born population were naturalized U.S. citizens.



Immigrants added \$2 trillion to the U.S. GDP in 2016.



In 2017, more than 40% of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants and their children.

STEP #2: LEARN THE IMPACT

STORIES OF IMMIGRANTS

Becoming informed about the way our nation’s immigration system operates and why people choose to come to the United States is important. Equally important is learning about the experiences of those who have come here searching for a better life. Below are a few stories of individuals PIRC has been honored to serve. *

KWAME’S STORY

PROVIDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE: VULNERABLE IMMIGRANTS IN DETENTION



“Kwame” is a gay man from Ghana who fled persecution by an anti-gay group operating throughout the country. He had been kidnapped, tortured, and his home vandalized by members of the group. After fleeing Ghana and making his way to the U.S. border, Kwame was taken into detention at the York County Prison because he didn’t have legal status or legal documents for entry.

A PIRC attorney met with Kwame and helped him prepare his case. With the help of PIRC’s attorney, a PIRC intern, and a volunteer physician, Kwame was provided with a legal brief, a forensic medical report, and other critical evidence to include in his case. PIRC filed the documents on his behalf, and when Kwame presented his case before the court, the Immigration Judge granted him asylum!

**Not actual names and photos to protect clients’ identities*

KAREN'S STORY

PROVIDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE: VULNERABLE IMMIGRANTS IN DETENTION



“Keren” grew up an orphan in Eritrea, living in an orphanage until she was sent to a military school at age 20. When two students from the school escaped, she was falsely accused by the school of helping the students run away. Keren was tied up, beaten, and taken to a prison camp for 9 months without any official trial or conviction.

The conditions at the prison camp were unbearable. Keren was beaten almost daily and subject to harsh interrogations by the prison officers who accused her of being against the Eritrean government. She was threatened with death and raped. During a dust storm, Keren was amazingly able to escape, unharmed by the gunfire that followed her.

She walked 5 days to reach neighboring Sudan, where she stayed with a friend. Keren stayed for almost 6 years, unable to work or leave the house because she had no legal status and would risk additional torture or death if found. She was eventually able to save enough money and make the connections to start another long journey, traveling to Brazil, then through South and Central America and Mexico until she made it to the U.S. border. She requested asylum and because she did not have entry documents, she was sent to the York County Prison to be scheduled for a deportation hearing. A PIRC attorney met with Keren, listened to her story, and took on her case.

Keren was able to tell her story to the immigration judge with the help and advocacy of a PIRC attorney. **And Keren was granted asylum! Keren is now living with her cousin in the U.S., changing her journey into one of hope and safety.**

GLADIS' STORY

PROVIDING IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS IN OUR COMMUNITY WITH HOPE



"Gladis" and her two children came to the United States from Guatemala approximately 10 years ago. She made the difficult decision to relocate her family when local gang members repeatedly raped young girls in their neighborhood. After living in the U.S. for several years, Gladis was raped after rebuffing an acquaintance's advances but was too ashamed and fearful to come forward about the violence. After suffering flashbacks and panic attacks from the assault,

Gladis sought counseling at a PIRC partner agency. With the support of an advocate, she found the courage to make a report to the police. When PIRC connected with Gladis, PIRC worked hard to obtain the necessary documentation and filed a U Visa application on her behalf. After years of living in the shadows, Gladis now has hope that she and her children will obtain permanent legal status and feel more at peace in the country they now consider their home.

AZMERA'S STORY

PROVIDING IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS IN OUR COMMUNITY WITH HOPE



“Azmera” was studying at a university in West Africa when she met a naturalized U.S. citizen from her country. After a brief courtship, she arrived in the United States on a fiancé visa. While her fiancé was kind and respectful during their courtship, he assaulted and abused her

from the first day she arrived. He kept her locked in the house with no phone and forced her to work all day. She became pregnant and during one of her prenatal doctor visits she spoke about the violence she was experiencing. A PIRC attorney met with Azmera and explained that American laws would allow her to file for immigration status – that there was a way to safety that would allow her to remain in the U.S. with her daughter. PIRC connected Azmera to support and shelter, and filed for her immigration status. **Azmera now has a work card and lives in her own home where she and her daughter Mia can live without violence. She is hoping to someday pursue her dream of becoming a nurse.**

MARCOS' STORY

KEEPING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES TOGETHER



“Marcos” is a working father of two young children who was taken into immigration custody because he had recently received a traffic ticket. He had paid the ticket and he had a temporary legal status, but it didn’t matter. He was taken to the York County Prison.

Marcos made the decision to travel to the U.S. from Mexico to work after both his parents died in accidents. In the U.S., Marcos met and married

Valerie, a U.S. citizen with whom he has two children. Valerie told Marcos she would file the applications for his green card, but after their marriage began, she became physically violent and threatened to have him deported if he reported his treatment.

Marcos sought the help of a PIRC Immigrant Survivors Project attorney, who listened to Marcos’ story and told him about the laws that protect immigrant victims of domestic violence. Through PIRC’s help, he received a temporary legal status while he waits for his green card.

Before changes in immigration enforcement policies, a survivor with a temporary lawful status would not have been taken into immigration custody. Under current enforcement policies, one traffic ticket caused this domestic violence survivor, father of two, household “breadwinner” with a form of legal status, to be detained. An attorney from PIRC’s Detained Programs prepared Marcos for his deportation hearing, advocated for him, and Marcos was granted bond! Marcos was released from detention and has been reunited with his children and returned to work. With PIRC’s support behind him, Marcos will continue to fight for his legal status.

STEP #3: TAKE ACTION

Use the ideas below to start your own action plan, or to brainstorm other ideas about how you can get involved and make a difference. Know that no action is too small. Sometimes it is the conversations you have around your dinner table or with friends that can start to build greater understanding and identify common areas of agreement about the value that immigrants bring to our communities.

CREATE A SPACE FOR CONVERSATIONS

- ✓ In your everyday life. Encourage others to share both their misconceptions and their knowledge of immigration.
- ✓ Share this toolkit as a starting point in a shared conversation about what it means to be an immigrant today.

HAVE A PARTY!

- ✓ Get to know your neighbors! Host a potluck at your place to become acquainted with the people who live around you. Celebrate the diversity of your experiences.
- ✓ Open your home and encourage friends to bring food that reflects their own heritage and take turns sharing stories of how family members first came to the United States.

HOST A BOOK OR FILM CLUB

- ✓ Invite friends, coworkers, neighbors, and families in reading a book or watching a film and host a discussion group to discuss the ways the book or film relate to the issues and challenges we see today.
- ✓ Use the resources section to find a list of books and films relating to immigration.




FUNDRAISE FOR A CAUSE SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS

- ✓ Ask friends and family to donate to an organization/individual in need of assistance in addition to/in lieu of birthday, holiday, or wedding gifts.
- ✓ If you're an Amazon shopper, start at <https://smile.amazon.com/> to do all of your shopping and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the organization of your choosing.
- ✓ Partner with a community group, your family, or a circle of friends. and plan a fundraiser to support the organization which supports immigrant rights.
- ✓ **[Donate to support PIRC's work. \(http://pirclaw.org/donate\)](http://pirclaw.org/donate)**

VOLUNTEER

- ✓ Organizations like PIRC who advocate and serve immigrants rely on volunteers to serve more people. Consider volunteering as an interpreter or translator, teach English in your community, become a volunteer with an immigrant detention visitation program, provide legal representation as a pro bono attorney, contact a local immigrant-focused organization, and offer your time and talent, or start a mission at your church focused on helping immigrants. The possibilities are endless!
- ✓ Sign up to volunteer with PIRC. (http://pirclaw.org/get_involved/volunteer)

SPREAD THE WORD

- ✓ Through conversations, social media platforms, etc.: Share what inspires you about immigrants, share your own family's immigrant history, share what you were most surprised to learn from this toolkit, and follow organizations who work with immigrants and inspire you with their mission.
- ✓ Follow PIRC on social media:   
- ✓ Invite speakers to your church and community organizations to speak about immigrants and immigration today. Organize panel discussions to engage groups in the community.
- ✓ Introduce issues about immigration through leading discussions with people of all ages through a school curriculum, community group discussion, or at home with your own family. Use the resources as the end of this toolkit to get you started!

SUPPORT IMMIGRANT-LED ORGANIZATIONS/EVENTS

- ✓ Follow immigrant-led organizations to support their activities in the community.
- ✓ Participate in community events celebrating diversity and immigration issues.
- ✓ Stay informed by signing up for updates and mailings from organizations you support that assist immigrants.

“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT’S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.”

– MARGARET MEAD

RESOURCES

In the next few pages you will find resources to inform, share, and spark ideas for action. The list of books, films, and websites is by no means exhaustive and serves only as a starting point!

BOOKS

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

- ✓ ***Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale* by Duncan Tonatiuh:** Pancho the rabbit is waiting for his Papa Rabbit to return from his trip up north to look for work. Almost two years without his father, Pancho goes on a mission to reconnect with his lost father.
- ✓ ***My Diary from Here to There* by Amada Irma Pérez:** This story focuses on the bond held between family members as they deal with stressful and difficult times, moving from Mexico to California.
- ✓ ***My Shoes and I* by Rene Colato Lainez:** Leaving El Salvador, Mario is traveling to the United States with his father to live with his mother. Before the trip, Mario's mother sent him a new pair of shoes. Mario and his new shoes go on a journey.
- ✓ ***The Quiet Place* by Sarah Stewart:** Moving to the United States with her family, Isabel starts missing the old home she left in Mexico. Although Isabel's life has changed, she learns to appreciate the small things her new home has to offer.
- ✓ ***When This World Was New* by DH Figueredo:** In his first day in America, everything feels strange to Danilito. Moving from the Caribbean to New York City, his sights change from the big ocean to tall skyscrapers. Dealing with this big move, Danilito and his family learn to adjust to the American lifestyle, even it means overcoming hardships and new obstacles.
- ✓ ***This is Me: A Story of Who We Are and Where We Come From* by Jamie Lee Curtis:** A teacher retells the story of her great-grandmother's migration from their home country to a new one, packing only one suitcase.
- ✓ ***The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi:** As the new kid in school, Unhei is nervous because she doesn't know anybody. Leaving her old life behind back in Korea, she comes up with a strategy to get to know her classmates called "The Name Jar". Each week, she will choose a new name and will practice being that name. However, once her "Name Jar" tactic is discovered, she decides to use her real name and explain the true meaning behind it.
- ✓ ***Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation* by Edwidge Danticat:** Saya, a young girl finds pleasure in listening to the bedtime stories her mother sends her since she is sent to immigration detention center. With the inspiration from her mother's Haitian folklore stories and her father's help, Saya is determined to write her own story to reconnect her family together.

YOUNG ADULT NOVELS

- ✓ ***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan:** Esperanza is forced to flee her wonderful life in Mexico and move to California with her mother during one of the hardest times in the U. S's economic history. In California, they settle in a camp to look for work. While times get hard, Esperanza must find ways to support and maintain for her family when new challenges arise.
- ✓ ***Journey of Dreams* by Marge Pellegrino:** The lives of Tomasa and her family members are put in danger once invaders enter the Guatemalan village. Running in despair, Tomasa and her family move to the United States. This novel highlights her journey and the gripping details of escaping the Guatemalan army.
- ✓ ***Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston:** A community called Manzanar was established in California to house Japanese Americans during the second world war. Houston retells the experiences her and family had through her childhood eyes.
- ✓ ***The Good Braider* by Terry Farish:** Viola's story transitions through Sudan, to Cairo with Portland, Maine being the last stop on her journey. Struggling to adapt to a new country, she establishes her identity between two cultures.
- ✓ ***The Red Umbrella* by Christina Gonzalez:** This story takes on a journey on 14-year-old Lucia Alvarez who moves from Cuba to the United States under the regime of Fidel Castro and the operation of Pedro Pan.

MEMOIRS

- ✓ ***Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok:** Kimberly Chang lived a double life in Brooklyn. She worked at the sweatshop in the evening and was also a full-time student. Keeping the hardships of her life a secret, she is struggling to pursue her own personal desires while maintaining her responsibilities.
- ✓ ***The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande:** After her mother leaves to chase the American Dream, Reyna Grande and siblings are left behind in the care of their grandmother. However, in the pursuit of her own dreams Reyna also takes a dangerous trip crossing the border with her father.
- ✓ ***Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant (Latinos in Chicago and Midwest)* by José Angel:** José Angel crossed the border illegally and settled in San Diego in the 1990s. This book highlights his struggles, the realities, and the adversities he had to overcome.
- ✓ ***My Journey: A Memoir* by Olivia Chow:** At age thirteen, Chow and her family moved to Toronto from Hong Kong. Starting a new life in Canada, she takes on a political platform fighting for injustices and for social change.
- ✓ ***Roots: The Saga of An American Family* by Alex Haley:** Haley tracks back the history of family made up from slaves, freedmen, farmers blacksmiths, lumbermill workmen and Pullman porters-six generations of the past.

BOOKS

NON-FICTION

- ✓ *Ellis Island Nation: Immigration Policy and American Identity in the Twentieth Century*
- ✓ *Detained and Deported: Stories of Immigrant Families by*
- ✓ *Foreign Relations: American Immigration in Global Perspective*
- ✓ *Strangers No More: Immigration and the Challenges of Integration in North American and Western Europe*
- ✓ *Border Rhetorics: Citizenship and Identity on the US- Mexico Frontier*

FILM

FILMS

- ✓ **Under The Same Moon (La Misma Luna):** This film focuses on nine-year old Carlitos and his mother Rosario. Looking for better opportunities Rosario left Mexico and came to the United States to work in order to send money for her family back in Mexico. Under unextreme surprises, Carlitos flees Mexico to reunite with his mother in U.S.
- ✓ **Bread and Roses:** As an undocumented Immigrant Maya, works as a janitor in a non-union company allowing working conditions to be unsafe and abusive. Maya decides to take a stand against the company with the help of a political organizer named Sam. However, her sister Rosa doesn't support her stance, creating tension between the two.
- ✓ **The Visitor:** Professor Walter Vale returns to New York to find surprise guests living in his apartment. These two surprise guests are to illegal immigrants who were tricked to into living there. Vale grows fond of them as time goes on and does everything in his power to save them from being deported.
- ✓ **In America:** The Sullivans moved to New York City from Ireland in order for father Johnny to achieve his dreams of being an actor. Living in small apartment, the family adapts to their new lifestyle despite their difficult living arrangements. The daughter Christie captures every moment of their new lives on camera
- ✓ **The Kite Runner:** Amir stills holds onto his childhood memories with his best friend Hassan. Feeling bad for breaking the promise he made to Hassan, he returns to his homeland to look after Hassan's son after finding out Hassan and his wife were killed by the Taliban.

DOCUMENTARIES

- ✓ **Made in Los Angeles:** This documentary focuses on the lives of three Latina immigrants who are working inside sweatshops and are fighting for labor protection rights.
- ✓ **The New Americans:** This documentary highlights the lives of immigrants from different parts of the world as they try adapting to their new lives in the U.S.

FILM

- ✓ ***The Other Side of Immigration:*** Explores the experiences of people from rural towns in Mexico who immigrated to the U.S.
- ✓ ***Which Way Home:*** About 25% of immigrants who travel across the border are children. This documentary focuses on the journey immigrant children go through.
- ✓ ***Documented: A Film by an Undocumented American:*** Jose Antonio Vargas, a well-known journalist takes us on the roots of his immigration journey and his role as a reform activist. Migrating from the Philippines at such a young age, he had to make any sacrifices along the way.
- ✓ ***Homeland: Immigration in America:*** Stories of immigrants who are seeking the American Dream while fearing deportation.
- ✓ ***Well-Founded Fear:*** An inside look into immigrants' quest for asylum as they navigate the U.S. immigration system.

WEBSITES

- ✓ **PIRC's website:** Stay up to date on PIRC events, issues about immigration, resources, and opportunities to get involved! (<http://pirclaw.org/>)
- ✓ **ACLU:** The immigration section of this website contains information regarding current immigration issues (<https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights>)
- ✓ **American Immigration Council:** This site allows users to search for specific issues related to immigration (<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/topics>)
- ✓ **Center for American Progress:** Contains updated studies and statistics on immigration issues in the United States (<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/view/>)
- ✓ **Detention Watch Network:** Learn about immigration detention from this active national membership organization (<https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/>)
- ✓ **National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights:** Contains updates on immigration policies and activities centered around immigrant rights throughout the country (<http://www.nnirr.org/drupal/>)
- ✓ **Penn State Law's Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic:** Find a list of updated resources and information about the latest immigration policies and their impact (<https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/immigration-after-election>)
- ✓ **Scholastic:** This teacher's activity guide contains interactive tools and ideas to enhance children's' learning about immigrants/immigration (<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/index.htm?>)
- ✓ **Teaching Tolerance:** Includes lesson plans to expand children's' understanding of diversity and immigration (<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/exploring-young-immigrant-stories>)

STEP #4: PAY IT FORWARD

Cut out the FAQ flashcards on the next pages and distribute or leave them in places where others can easily see and read them. Encourage others to pass them on!

Q.



How do people enter the U.S. legally to live there permanently?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



Are there other ways to enter the U.S. legally?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



Has the basic body of U.S. immigration law changed since 1965?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



Are there more immigrants in the U.S. than there has ever been before?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



My grandparents came the legal way. Why don't people just get in the legal line?

Q.



How long must a person wait to enter the U.S. after a petition is filed for them by a family member or an employer?

Yes. A person from another country can enter the U.S. as a nonimmigrant or temporary visitor. Examples of this are tourists (B-2) and business visitors (B-1), students (F-1), temporary workers (H-1B, H-2A, H-2B), and exchange visitors (J-1). Each of these temporary visas have a prescribed period of stay after which the visa holder is to return to their home country.

A.

Individuals from other countries can only live in the U.S. permanently as legal permanent residents (LPRs) if a family member or an employer has filed a petition for them to be granted an immigrant visa or they have received refugee status. More than 2/3 of the LPRs in the U.S. were petitioned for by a family member and almost 1/3 by an employer. A much smaller number of individuals enter as refugees.

A.

Over the last four decades, the United States has experienced what many are calling the “second great wave” of immigration. In 1970, there were less than 10M foreign-born individuals living in the US. By 2010, there were 40MM immigrants living in the US. As a percent of the population, immigrants were only 4.7% in 1970 and in 2010 grew to 12.9%. In 2016, the percent foreign-born was 13.5% and has almost reached the historical high of 1890 of 14.8%.

A.

No. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 was enacted in 1968 and while there have been changes made to it through legislative amendments, the basic system or body of immigration law has remained unchanged for the past 50+ years.

A.

It depends. For the spouses, parents, and minor children of U.S. citizens, the wait can be as short as one year. For other family members, such as the spouses or children of legal permanent residents, or the adult children of U.S. citizens, the wait can be six years or decades long. For certain employment-based petitions the wait can be less than two years, but some categories of employment-based visas for workers from countries like India are more than a decade.

A.

Individuals from other countries can only live in the U.S. permanently as legal permanent residents (LPRs) if a family member or an employer has filed a petition for them to be granted an immigrant visa, if they have received refugee status, or if they have been granted asylum. This is our current legal immigration system. Unlike the immigration rules in place 100 years ago, a person cannot petition for themselves to live in the United State. The only way to enter and become a legal permanent resident is through a family-based or employment-based petition. And for very few people, as refugees.

A.

Q.



Why is the “legal line” so long?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What is the Immigration and Nationality Act or INA?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What is an immigrant?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What is a refugee?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What happens to a refugee after they enter the United States?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What is an asylum-seeker?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) was created in 1952. Before the INA, a variety of statutes governed immigration law but were not organized in one location. The McCarran-Walter bill of 1952 collected and codified many existing provisions and reorganized the structure of immigration law. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 amended the INA in significant ways, abolishing the prior system based on national origins and creating a seven-category preference system, which gave priority to relatives of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents and to professionals and other individuals with specialized skills. While the INA has been amended since 1965, it is still the basic body of immigration law.

A.

The Immigration and Nationality Act established a visa system that limits the number of immigrant visas that can be issued each year by category. Once the limit for a category is reached in the current year, the individuals waiting for a visa get pushed into the next year. Over time, the legal lines have grown – in some categories exponentially.

A.

Generally, any person outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear must be based on the person's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion. Refugees, after lengthy processing, are provided with refugee documents that allow them to enter the country to which they have been assigned.

A.

Common definition: a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.
Synonyms: newcomer, settler, migrant

A.

A person from another country ***in the United States or at a port of entry*** who is found to be unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution.

A.

Refugees who have been provided refugee travel documents to the United States are greeted at the airport by staff members from a refugee resettlement agency. These refugee resettlement agencies, such as Church World Service in Lancaster, PA, assist refugees for a six-month period to find employment, settle into housing, enroll children in school, and enroll in English as Second Language (ESL) classes. Refugee status is a lawful immigration status, and after one year refugees can apply for legal permanent residence, or a "green card."

A.

Q.



What happens to an asylum-seeker after they enter the United States?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What happens to an individual who wants to request asylum but has no entry or immigration documents?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What is a lawful or legal permanent resident?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What is a nonimmigrant?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What does “undocumented” mean?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



Why refer to immigrants without legal immigration status as “undocumented”?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

If a person seeks to enter the U.S. to request asylum but they do not have an entry document, such as a nonimmigrant visa, they are screened by a Customs and Border Protection agent for fear of return to their home country. If they express a fear of return and they do not have documents for entry, they are placed into removal proceedings and scheduled for a removal hearing before an immigration judge. These asylum-seekers are transferred to the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and many are placed into a civil immigration detention facility such as the York County Prison in York, PA and the family detention center in Leesport, PA. While in removal proceedings, an individual can request asylum from the immigration judge. This is the defensive asylum process.

A.

If a person seeking asylum has entered the U.S. with a visa and then requests asylum, they must submit an application for asylum within one year of entry that explains their past persecution or fear of persecution. They are scheduled for an interview with an asylum office to determine whether their asylum application will be approved. This is the **affirmative asylum process**.

A.

An individual who is admitted to the United States for a specific temporary period of time. There are clear conditions on their stay, such as the conditions on a student visa holder who must remain enrolled in school full-time to maintain lawful status.

A.

Any person not a citizen of the United States who is residing in the U.S. under legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant. Also known as "Green Card Holder."

A.

Words matter. An individual can possess immigration status and then lose immigration status. Describing an individual as being without documents, or undocumented, means they do not possess immigration documents for a current, lawful immigration status. The term undocumented is an accurate description of a person without immigration status. The term illegal or illegals is a pejorative and inaccurate term. Illegal could be used to describe a person's actions, but it should not be used to describe a person. No person is illegal.

A.

An undocumented individual does not have the official documents that are needed to enter, live in, or work in the U.S. legally. An individual can be documented and then become undocumented.

A.

Q.



How does a person become undocumented?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



Can a person be undocumented through no actions of their own?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



Who are Immigrant Survivors and how can they be undocumented?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What does DACA mean?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



Is this the same thing as the DREAM Act?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



Who is DACA eligible and how can they be undocumented?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

PIRC serves large groups of individuals who are undocumented through no fault or actions taken on their own. The first group are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. And the second group are DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) eligible individuals. Disturbingly, both groups are now more vulnerable to government enforcement and removal based on 2017 Executive Order and policy decisions.

A.

A person can have an undocumented immigration status based on either entering the United States without documents – referred to by the government as EWI or entered without inspection – or entering the U.S. with documents, such as a nonimmigrant visa, and staying past the authorized period of time for their visa.

A.

DACA is the acronym for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. DACA is a process for certain immigrants in the U.S. to request deferred action against removal and was established through a June 2012 Executive Order issued by President Obama.

A.

Immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking often become undocumented after entering the U.S. legally with either a Fiancé Visa (K1) or visitor visa (B1/B2). PIRC provides legal assistance to survivors promised marriage to a U.S. citizen, who after entering the U.S. with a Fiancé Visa become victims of abuse. Because the law states that the ability for a Fiancé visa-holder to apply for permanent immigration status is completely in control of the abuser/petitioner and must be completed within 90 days of entry, an abuser will allow the Fiancé Visa to expire creating power and control over the now undocumented foreign-born Fiancé.

A.

Individuals who are eligible under DACA, the Executive Order issued by President Obama in June 2012 for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, are individuals who entered the United States before age 16 without documents *based on decisions made by their parents or guardians*. These individuals, as minor children, did not have the ability or the choice to request immigration status. The overwhelming majority of minor children entering the U.S. without documents did so to remain united with their family members. To learn more about advocating for DACA youth: <https://unitedwedream.org/>

A.

DACA is an executive order and is not a law. The DREAM Act, which is the name of legislation introduced by Congress in many forms since 2001, seeks to enact into law a pathway to legal permanent residency for individuals who entered the U.S. without document as minors, subject to certain conditions.

A.

Q.



What does the term “access to justice” mean?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



Do immigrants contribute to the U.S. economy?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



How can I understand the January 2017 Executive Order in simple language?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What does the Executive Order mean for immigrants in my community?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



Who are human trafficking victims and can they be undocumented?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Q.



What is immigration detention?

www.pirclaw.org
Stand with immigrants. Know the facts.

Access to justice means leveling the playing field so that vulnerable immigrants have access to legal services in places where access might not otherwise be possible or available. For PIRC, providing access to justice means providing legal assistance to immigrant survivors and their children in places like a community emergency shelter after they have fled domestic violence. For PIRC, access to justice also means providing legal education and assistance to persons held in immigration civil detention who have fled persecution and violence and who need to request asylum before the Immigration Court. PIRC serves vulnerable immigrants who have no resources or legal representation.

A.

Immigrants make significant contributions to the economy that increase the size of the U.S. economy. Immigrants contribute through their spending power, new business start-ups, and taxes paid at the federal, state, and local level. In 2014, immigrants paid \$223.6 billion in federal taxes.

A.

The Executive Order means that immigrant survivors, DACA recipients, mothers and fathers of U.S. citizen children, and other contributing members of our community are being taken from the community and placed into detention and removal proceedings. Before the issuance of this Executive Order, these individuals were not an enforcement priority. Since the Executive Orders, immigrant families are being torn apart, employers are losing long-term employees, and U.S. citizen children are facing permanent separation from their parents causing immeasurable trauma and disruption to families and the community.

A.

The Executive Order, "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States", issued in January 2017 represents a massive expansion of the immigration detention and deportation system. Anyone apprehended in the interior of the United States who does not have current immigration status can be detained until such time as they are granted immigration relief or are deported. This Executive Order rescinded a prior ICE Priorities Enforcement Policy Memorandum, and this has had the effect that all undocumented persons carry equal enforcement priority. This has made all noncitizens – including legal permanent residents - more vulnerable.

A.

Immigration detention is a system of civil detention. Immigrants held in this system, in prisons across the U.S., are not awaiting criminal trials or serving prison sentences. The detention of immigrants is to ensure they appear at their immigration hearings and to execute their removal from the U.S. See link below for more info:
<https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/issues/detention-101>

A.

PIRC works with victims of human trafficking who have entered the U.S. with a visitor visa with the promise of immigration status and a job in the United States, but who are then held under the control of criminal traffickers and forced to provide manual labor or sex services. PIRC assists these survivors with applications to request temporary and then permanent immigration status.

A.