Understanding Sanctuary

PICC EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES

Friday, March 13th, 2020
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ABOUT PICC

The Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition is a diverse coalition of over 60 member organizations across the state. PICC is committed to educating and engaging allies to be more effective advocates for pro-immigrant legislation.

All presentations produced by PICC and its partners are intended for informational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice.
TODAY'S AGENDA

• Overview of Sanctuary and its History
• Creating “Sanctuary” Policies
• Attacks on “Sanctuary Cities”
• Take action!
What is Sanctuary?

**SUPPORTING "SANCTUARY"**
- Physical sanctuary protects individuals and families from deportation
- Policies to limit local law enforcement collaboration and communication with ICE
- Policies to build trust with local law enforcement and other public agencies
- Communities are safer under sanctuary policies

**OPPOSING "SANCTUARY"**
- Common arguments
  - Harbors dangerous criminals
  - Policies violate federal law
  - “Sanctuary” cities should be punished; funding should be withheld
- Policies make communities less safe

**NO LEGAL DEFINITION OF SANCTUARY!**
History of the Sanctuary Movement

The Sanctuary Movement was grounded in physically sheltering and protecting individuals and families from deportation

• 1980s - Church movement to protect Salvadoran refugees fleeing violence
• 1989 - San Francisco became first city to enact sanctuary policy
• Today - 800 churches offer sanctuary nationwide
  ◦ In Philadelphia, there are two families in sanctuary
Creating "Sanctuary" Policies
Policing Policies & Practices

• Limit data and information sharing between local law enforcement & ICE
  ◦ The only exception is when it is mandated by federal law
• Police may only hold people on the basis of judicial warrants – no “ICE Holds” or detainers
• Restrict information local police collect about immigration status
• Prohibit local agencies from signing on to ICE enforcement policies and programs
  ◦ Secure Communities
  ◦ 287g
Monitoring & Limiting ICE Actions

• Monitor ICE’s Sensitive Locations
  ◦ ICE should not be operating in: schools, hospitals, churches, religious or civil ceremonies, public demonstrations
• End participation in Criminal Alien Program
  ◦ Program allows ICE agents access to local jails to screen prisoners’ immigration status

While municipalities and states can limit cooperation and communication with ICE, they cannot stop ICE from making arrests or operating within their jurisdictions.
Ending Immigrant Detention

• Immigrant detention can take different forms:
  ◦ Publicly owned federal immigrant detention facilities
  ◦ Privately owned immigrant detention facilities
  ◦ Publicly owned state and local jails that lease beds or the entire facility to ICE

• Immigrant Detention in PA
  ◦ There are 3 immigration detention facilities in PA: York, Pike, Clinton
  ◦ There is 1 immigrant family detention facility: Berks Family Detention Center
  ◦ ICE contracts with county facilities in Erie, Cambria, and Delaware counties
Welcoming Policies & Services

- Creating a welcoming state or city also means ensuring equal access to social services and legal supports for immigrant communities
- Language Access Policies
  - All public agencies should provide interpreters and translated materials
- Legal Funds and Legal Services
  - Publicly funded legal services for immigrants in detention
  - Legal funds to provide assistance with immigration applications
- Municipal IDs and Driver’s Licenses
- Welcoming Schools
National, States, and Local Response

Rommel Sandino - Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Attacks on "Sanctuary Cities"

- The current administration has promoted an anti-immigrant agenda, including attacks on cities that have passed welcoming policies, including:
  - Executive orders to deny federal funding to “sanctuary cities”
  - Threats to arrest mayors of “sanctuary cities”
  - Threats to enforce mass raids in “sanctuary cities”
  - Increased militarization of immigration enforcement
Ongoing Enforcement Resistance Efforts

- Municipal Police Policies
- Welcoming Schools Campaign
- Campaign to Shut Down Berks
- Driving PA Forward
- Local immigrant bond funds
- Accompaniment programs
- Families in Sanctuary
- Community Defense Zones
- Community Navigator Program
- Increasing access to legal services and building capacity through *PA is Ready!*
Welcoming Schools Campaign

- All children regardless of immigration status have the right to attend public schools
- Schools have a responsibility to ensure that immigrant and refugee students and families feel safe and welcome.
- Currently, 7 schools district in PA have written welcoming policies
- School districts and schools should:
  - Provide translated materials and interpreters – children should NEVER be asked to interpret for parents
  - Provide training for teachers and staff
  - Enact a policy about restricting ICE access to school grounds
  - Provide academic support to immigrant students
- 2020 Welcoming Schools Report: Weds. March 18, 6-7pm
Campaign to Shut Down Berks

- The Shut Down Berks Coalition is a group of organizations and individuals fighting to close the Berks family prison in Pennsylvania and end the practice of imprisoning immigrant families in the U.S.
- Get the latest updates on the campaign:
  - Web page: http://paimmigrant.org/campaign-to-shut-down-berks/
  - Twitter: @ShutDownBerks
  - Facebook: @ShutDownBerksCoalition
  - Instagram: @ShutDownBerksCoalition
  - Text: 717-500-1852
- Newsletter:

  https://www.facebook.com/ShutDownBerksCoalition/app/100265896690345/
Driving PA Forward

• Driving PA Forward is a coalition of organizations working to push the state legislature to approve Driver’s License legislation to allow everyone in PA to drive safely and legally.
• The campaign is coordinated by Movement of Immigrant Leaders in PA (MILPA), and New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia (NSM).
• Follow the campaign on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Driving-PA-Forward-345225962884747/
Families in Sanctuary

• Carmela Libre
  ◦ On December 13th, 2017, Carmela, Fidel, Keyri, Yoselin and Edwin took the prophetic and bold step to enter into Sanctuary at Church of the Advocate, a member congregation of New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia. “I am taking Sanctuary to fight for my family, to protest our deportation orders and the injustices of the immigration systems. Everybody deserves to live with dignity and safety,” said Carmela.

• Oneita, Clive, and their children
  ◦ Oneita and Clive with two of their children have lost their asylum cases. Today, they continue to take Sanctuary to stop their deportation and challenge unjust and immoral immigration laws.

• For more information, contact New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia: https://www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org/
Take Action!
Report ICE Violations

• You may contact ICE directly:
  ◦ Phone at (888) 351-4024
  ◦ Email at ERO.INFO@ice.dhs.gov
• ICE’s Office of Diversity and Civil Rights - Civil Liberties Division
  ◦ Phone at (202) 732-0092
  ◦ Email at ICE.Civil.Liberties@ice.dhs.gov
• VOICE Line: 1-855-48-VOICE
The Role of Allies

• Educate yourself
  ◦ Attend PICC’s bi-monthly educational webinars
  ◦ Download toolkits and materials created by PICC and member organizations: [http://paimmigrant.org/toolbox-overview/](http://paimmigrant.org/toolbox-overview/)
  ◦ Attend a Community Navigator training – see PICC’s calendar of events for schedule
• Support the campaigns and programs of your local immigrant-led organization
  ◦ Always communicate with and defer to immigrant-led organizations before beginning programs or advocacy
  ◦ See PICC membership list for groups across PA: [http://paimmigrant.org/members/](http://paimmigrant.org/members/)
• Educate law enforcement and elected officials
  ◦ Share why it is important to you that your community welcome immigrants and refugees
  ◦ Provide educational materials about welcoming policies
QUESTIONS?
Contact

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