



**Massachusetts Communities Action Network  
2017 Sanctuary/Solidarity Congregation Toolkit**

**RAPID RESPONSE/SANCTUARY HOTLINE:  
(857) 293-9876**

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Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

*-Isaiah 43:18-19*

God calls people of faith to remember that they once were strangers in a strange land and they must, must welcome the stranger as an expression of covenant faithfulness.

*-Leviticus 19:33-34*

O believers! Stand firm for justice and bear true witness for the sake of Allah, even though it be against yourselves, your parents or your relatives. It does not matter whether the party is rich or poor - Allah is well wisher of both. So let not your selfish desires swerve you from justice. If you distort your testimony or decline to give it, then you should remember that Allah is fully aware of your actions.

*-Quran Surah 4:135*

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*-Matthew 6:19-21*

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## INTRODUCTION

This toolkit is intended to help outline the establishment of local Sanctuary Congregation Clusters, and delineate the roles of Level 1 and Level 2 Congregations. **This toolkit is just one possible roadmap to follow when planning the structure and logistics of Sanctuary Congregation Clusters.** We offer these suggestions to aid Clusters in the planning process, but ultimately each congregation Cluster will have to decide for themselves how to best organize to provide Sanctuary that respects the dignity and worth of every person involved. For example, congregations may decide to divide and define roles differently, or follow a different chain of communication than is presented here. We hope this toolkit is a helpful resource as Congregation Clusters plan what Sanctuary will look like to them.

This toolkit is designed with the expectation that congregations will be grouped in geographic Clusters, with a number of Level 2 Congregations supporting one Level 1 Congregation. It is up to each Cluster, particularly the Level 1 Congregation, to determine how much support from Level 2 Congregations they would like. For example, in the Harvard Square Cluster, University Lutheran Church committed to being a Level 1 Congregation if four other congregations in vicinity of Harvard Square would commit to supporting them as Level 2 Congregations.

**In building this network, MCAN is ready to support congregations in connecting with one another to form Clusters.** It is not possible to do this work alone, both as individual people and as individual congregations. Building the Sanctuary Network not only offers the possibility to protect people from deportation and to shift the public narrative compassionately in favor of immigrants, but also to build relationships with individuals and other congregations in the community. We hope that with the collective power of strengthened relationships, and a firm stance in solidarity with undocumented people and other marginalized communities, our power as communities of faith who are resisting the unjust federal and local politics of hate and fear will grow.

### Discernment and Preparation

Taking enough time to discern how the congregation is best suited to participate in the Sanctuary Network and stand in solidarity with immigrant communities is vital to the efficacy of our work. It is important that the congregation make the decision together, with input from congregational leaders and ministers, and following the respected decision making channels of the community.

**Prayerful discernment and preparation will ensure that, when called upon, your congregation is ready to answer the call and either house or support an individual or family in Sanctuary.**

When people decide that they would like to seek Sanctuary, they have exhausted all other legal avenues and possible options to live in the US without being deported. There will most likely be very little time, just days or weeks, left for someone before being deported at the time

your congregation is called upon. Thus, proper preparation in order to be ready to embrace the call, both in spirit and in action, is required of congregations seeking to offer and support Sanctuary.

For more information on considerations for offering Sanctuary, please see [this document](#) prepared by the Boston New Sanctuary Movement.

## **A Brief History of the Sanctuary Movement<sup>1</sup>**

Sanctuary is one of the most ancient traditions that we have as a people of faith. The ancient Hebrew people had allowed temples and even whole cities to declare themselves places of refuge for persons accused of a crime they may not have committed, a practice that allowed those wrongfully accused to escape swift and harsh retribution until the matter could be resolved. In the late Roman Empire fugitives could find refuge in the precincts of Christian churches. Later, during the medieval period churches in England were recognized sanctuaries, offering safe haven for a temporary period to accused wrongdoers. In the United States the first practical provision of anything like sanctuary occurred in the years before the Civil War. The Underground Railroad came into being to help slaves flee the South and find safety in many congregations throughout the country. Sanctuary is about providing safe space to those who are victims of unjust laws.

When refugees from the Civil Wars in Central America began to flee to the United States in the 1980's, the U.S. government did not recognize them as political refugees. Many were deported and received by death squads upon their return. From this dire injustice, the Sanctuary Movement was born. It peaked with over 500 congregations establishing an underground railroad whereby refugees moved through the United States to safe houses and safe congregations. Many clergy in the Tucson area were indicted and eventually acquitted for their involvement in assisting Central American refugees. The Sanctuary Movement sought to remind the United States government of its own asylum and refugee laws, which they were not following when it came to the refugees of Central America.

Drawing on this tradition, communities of faith have once again seen the need to declare Sanctuary for immigrants as the rise of deportations continues to separate families. In the 1980s we were compelled by the call to welcome the stranger, as we opened our doors to newly arriving refugees. Now we are moved by the call to love our neighbors as ourselves, as those who are entering into Sanctuary are most often long term members of our communities - our neighbors.

## **Sanctuary in the Trump Era**

Trump's campaign hinged upon creating and surfacing an imminent sense of fear of immigrants in many Americans. He continued the intentional American project of intentionally criminalizing the act of immigration and immigrants of color themselves in our national psyche. Many of Trump's campaign promises, to build a US-Mexico border wall, to block entry

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Sanctuary Not Deportation's [Sanctuary Movement Toolkit](#)

of Muslims into the US and create a Muslim registry, and to immediately deport millions of “criminal” undocumented immigrants, have begun to come to fruition. Trump’s [Executive Order on Immigration](#), issued on January 27, 2017, caused heightened fear in immigrant communities, and sparked [widespread protest](#) around the country.

There is a lot of uncertainty surrounding how the Trump administration will proceed with ICE raids and deportations, and how it may react to people claiming Sanctuary in congregations. In 2011, [an MOU](#) was written to instruct ICE agents not to enter schools, places of worship, and hospitals, thus respecting the “Sanctuary” status of these locations. *The Trump administration may choose to disregard this MOU, and instruct ICE agents to enter these locations indiscriminately.* Further, a primary goal of the Sanctuary Movement in the past has been to shame local and federal elected officials for their unjust and inhumane treatment of undocumented immigrants. **We use this political act- and organizing tactic- by elevating one case at a time in a very public manner. It lifts up the plight of an individual, putting a face to the fight, and the person in sanctuary is clear that they are a part of a larger strategy.** Their humanity united with the public narrative raised by the congregation potentially helps save their lives while also bringing more attention to the very just fight of ending mass deportations.

The Trump administration has begun to prove that it cannot be shamed. Thus, the tactics for promoting immigrant justice and standing in solidarity with immigrant communities may need to change. **It is important to be aware of and prepared for a multitude of possible actions and outcomes. Providing physical Sanctuary for undocumented immigrants is just one of these possibilities.**

## **The Legality of Sanctuary<sup>2</sup>**

In the era of the Trump administration, we cannot expect consistency in laws and Executive Orders regarding immigration and providing support to undocumented immigrants. Most importantly, you should consistently be in communication with lawyers and legal experts to stay informed about your rights and the rights of those in Sanctuary.

According to an Executive Order from President Trump in January 2017, titled [Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States](#), **helping an undocumented immigrant is unlawful.** Section 6 of the order states that the Secretary shall make regulations for the collection of civil fines and penalties from “those who facilitate the presence” of an undocumented immigrant. This provision may cover activities such as providing legal and other humanitarian assistance to undocumented residents. It’s so broad it could apply to advocates, non-profits, organizers and even congregation. Overall, what we have seen is that the government could fine or prosecute should they want to, but there is no field precedent for the government doing so. However, we are in a new era and anything is possible.

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from [ACT Sacramento](#)’s Sanctuary Congregation Q&A

*Regarding harboring:* Harboring applies to everyone who conceals, harbors, shields from detection persons unlawfully in the country or attempts to conceal, harbor, shield from detention in any building or transportation. It applies to everyone including congregations. Sanctuary/Refuge/Hosting of a family has occurred many times over the last four decades. Overall, what we have seen is that government could fine or prosecute should they want to for harboring, but there is no field precedent for the government doing so. However, again, we are in a new era and anything is possible.

Offering Sanctuary to people who are being sought by ICE for deportation is illegal. Neither MCAN nor your congregation will be able to legally protect you if your congregation decides to provide or support the Sanctuary of undocumented immigrants, and the government decides to take legal action against you.

For more detailed information about the legality of offering Sanctuary, including information about relevant court cases, and example letters to ICE and other officials, please see the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law's [New Sanctuary Movement Legal Toolkit](#).

### **Leadership of Those in Sanctuary<sup>3</sup>**

**This is perhaps the most important aspect of Sanctuary: we are not the leaders of this movement, those in Sanctuary are.** It has been the courage and the faith of those who have come out of the shadows to say, "we are undocumented and we are unafraid" that has inspired our work. Those taking Sanctuary are putting everything on the line and are often risking a great deal for the benefit of the larger movement; their leadership, their voice, their opinions and wisdom should be prioritized at all times. **They should be involved in every aspect of the campaign as they choose to be.** Sanctuary is hard work and requires great sacrifice - if at any time a family wishes to leave Sanctuary, their wishes should be respected and celebrated. We should always remember that Sanctuary is not something that we do for our undocumented neighbors; it is something we do with them. This is a great leadership development opportunity for those taking Sanctuary - please share leadership development resources, as you are able with the broader network.

### **Community Support<sup>4</sup>**

Families living in Sanctuary are often in need of support in a multitude of different ways. Most importantly they need the support of our friendship - so plan game nights, hang out with them, do what you can to make them feel at home and a part of your congregational family. It is also important that they are able to retain some normalcy as a family - enabling them to cook for themselves can help with this. You may find that congregation members will want to show their love and support by bringing food, which may be helpful a few nights a week, but it is important that the family is able to care for themselves and control as much as possible in a

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Sanctuary Not Deportation's [Sanctuary Movement Toolkit](#)

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from Sanctuary Not Deportation's [Sanctuary Movement Toolkit](#)

situation that is very much out of their control. Instead of bringing meals, encourage people to bring food that they can cook with.

There may also be the need for financial support, particularly if the individual in Sanctuary normally works. People should be encouraged to give to the family, either directly or through the house of worship (these donations to benefit an individual are not tax deductible). Care should be taken to respect the pride of the family in these situations. It is difficult for all of us to be in a situation where we have to depend on others. We have often reminded individuals that by being in Sanctuary, they are engaged in hard work; both for their families but also for the movement and that work should be compensated.

### **Note on Dignity and Respect**

As people directly and indirectly providing Sanctuary to undocumented people who are living under the immediate threat of deportation, we are not *helping* or *providing charity*. We are building this Sanctuary Network because the criminalization and violent targeting of immigrants in this country is a matter of systemic injustice, which we seek to resist at all times in our lives. Thus, if people are living in Sanctuary, it is *necessary* that they be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. They are human beings, and we create power alternative to the dominant political and legal institutions that seek to exclude and hurt them, by working together, following their example, and centering their needs and experiences. We are committed to creating this alternative power *with* people in Sanctuary, rather than replicating a system in which we have power *over* people in Sanctuary.

### **Note on Purpose and Goal**

The goal of this Sanctuary Network is not to put every person living under the threat of deportation into Sanctuary. If mass deportations happen on the scale at which they are promised to us by the federal government, this will not be possible. However by making public example of a few cases, we seek to shift the public narrative about immigration, and publically shame local and federal politicians for their dehumanization and unjust treatment of immigrants. Please see [Appendix I: Sanctuary Goals and Strategy](#) for more information.

## BUILDING THE NETWORK

Outlined is below is *one example* of how you may choose to structure your Sanctuary Network Cluster. **There is no right answer.** Each Cluster will have to decide for itself how to best determine and structure the necessary roles and tasks.

### Levels of Support

**Sanctuary Network Cluster:** One Level 1 Congregation and a number of Level 2 Congregations committed to supporting the Level 1 Congregation in providing physical Sanctuary to undocumented people under immediate threat of deportation.

**Level 1 Congregation (L1):** Congregations who have committed as an institution to providing physical Sanctuary to people under threat of deportation in their place of worship.

**Level 2 Congregation (L2):** Congregations who are unable to provide physical Sanctuary in their place of worship, but have committed as an institution to supporting Level 1 Congregations, by providing sustained resources, as outlined below.

**Individual supporter:** Individuals not affiliated with L1 or L2 Congregations who have committed their support (time, talent, and/or treasure) to the Sanctuary Network.

### **Level 1 or Level 2?**<sup>5</sup>

As defined above, Level 1 Congregations are congregations that are prepared to house people seeking Sanctuary, and Level 2 Congregations are congregations that are prepared to support the Level 1 Congregation in a multitude of ways. Determining whether your congregation is best suited for Level 1 or Level 2 is an important step in the discernment process.

Ideally, the family will have space on the grounds of the Level 1 Congregation that will not be used for any other purpose for the duration of Sanctuary. They should be encouraged to arrange the room in whatever way they would like and to make it as much like home as they can. Easy access to showers, bathrooms, and a kitchen should be considered in designating a space for the family (sometimes showers will need to be configured in some way for those locations without permanent showers). Because the entire purpose of declaring Sanctuary is to keep a family together, the entire family is invited to stay at the house of worship. While the individual(s) living in Sanctuary does not leave the premises, the family comes and goes as they choose. At times visitors and media can overwhelm the family. They should be encouraged to establish whatever boundaries they need.

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<sup>5</sup> Adapted from Sanctuary Not Deportation's [Sanctuary Movement Toolkit](#)

## Roles

Each Cluster is led by a **Team Captain**, who is a member of the L1 Congregation. L1 Congregations choose their own Team Captain, and they are chosen by the clergy and any other governing body of the congregation. It is the responsibility of the Team Captain to organize and activate the other captains. Within a local Sanctuary Cluster, final decision making authority belongs to the Team Captain and their congregational leadership.

Working with the Team Captain is a number of **Role Captains**, who are members of L1 and L2 Congregations who volunteer to be captains of various specific aspects of the network, as outlined below. Role Captains are determined by their Cluster and approved by the Team Captain.

## Intake

**MCAN's Rapid Response Hotline Number is: (857) 293-9876. This number will be managed by MCAN until the Rapid Response Network is activated.**

There are a variety of ways the Network could be activated. Some possibilities include:

- People seeking Sanctuary, or their legal representation, could contact MCAN directly
- They could call the MCAN Sanctuary/Rapid Response Hotline
- They could contact a member congregation (L1 or L2) directly

No matter how the Network is reached, the same next steps should apply.

- Whoever is the first responder should hear the entire story of the people seeking Sanctuary, and make sure that they know that Sanctuary is not a hiding place - it is a political act.
- If the person seeking Sanctuary is working with an attorney, the attorney may be the primary contact for the congregations. If not, the congregations or MCAN will find legal counsel.
- A face to face meeting should be organized immediately with the people seeking Sanctuary, their legal counsel, and the L1 Congregation decision makers. MCAN can be involved in this meeting, but the decision ultimately rests in the hands of the congregation and the people seeking Sanctuary.

If ultimately the decision is reached between the people seeking Sanctuary, their legal representation, and the L1 and L2 Congregations, to bring someone into Sanctuary, all the involved people should prepare to welcome those going into Sanctuary.

## Preparing to Welcome

Once a good candidate for Sanctuary is determined by the lawyer, the pastor and the Team Captain are alerted and they then notify the Role Captains. The time between determining that someone will enter Sanctuary, and their arrival at the congregation may vary from

immediately to a number of days. However long it is, all congregations in the Cluster should spend time preparing to welcome the individual or family to the Sanctuary.

**Specific cultural competency training**, relevant to the people who are entering Sanctuary, should be undergone in order to best meet the needs of people in Sanctuary, and ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect. If this training cannot be done before people enter Sanctuary, it should be done as soon as possible thereafter.

Also, depending on who is entering Sanctuary, congregations may need to find members or non-members who **speak the same language** and can communicate with people in Sanctuary. It is important to begin identifying these people early in the process. It is also encouraged for members of the congregations who do not speak the same language as the people entering Sanctuary to begin studying in order to most fully build a relationship with them.

During this time of preparation, Role Captains should continue their work of gathering volunteers and creating the necessary schedules and systems so that their roles are ready to begin from the moment people enter Sanctuary. Preparation is an ongoing process, and no matter how long Clusters have been formed and preparing, they can continue to train and prepare people, if provided Sanctuary is abruptly needed and agreed to.

## Welcoming

On the day people enter Sanctuary, a small Welcoming Committee should be prepared to witness and support the transition into Sanctuary. This small group of Role Captains should prepare the Sanctuary space. They are led by the Team Captain, who is in communication with the pastor of the L1 Congregation, the lawyers representing the people entering Sanctuary, and the people entering Sanctuary themselves.

The Welcoming Committee consists of:

- **Food Captain**
  - At first, responsible for providing an initial meal to be ready when people arrive in Sanctuary.
- **Basic Needs Captain**
  - At first, responsible for preparing beds, linens/blankets, pillows, toiletries, and readying the physical space in which people will sleep, eat, and stay.
- **Emotional Support Captain**
  - Within the first day, the Emotional Support Captain is responsible for doing a “needs intake” with the culturally competent volunteer and the Team Captain. What do the people need and want to be comfortable? What do they want to eat? What do they want to do? Are there people they would like to see (family, friends)? If there are children, will they need transportation to and from school? The people who are claiming sanctuary have autonomy and the power to decide and define their own needs and wants. We do *not* make decisions on their behalf. They must be treated with dignity.

- **Overnight Stay Captain**

- The Overnight Stay Captain should be prepared to spend the first night in the Sanctuary with the people, or is responsible for finding someone else who can.

### **Within the First Week**

As part of its goal and strategy of providing physical Sanctuary, it is intentionally an act of political resistance and civil disobedience. As people who open our congregations as places of Sanctuary, we are entering a movement led by immigrants. Thus, with the consent and lead of people in Sanctuary, other congregations and the media should be alerted to the fact that the L1 Congregation has chosen to offer Sanctuary from deportation to people being sought after by ICE. This is the role of the Publicity Captain with the Team Captain and legal counsel.

The Sanctuary Network is a community effort, and this should be made known in the publicity of this act of political resistance. It increases the power that immigrant communities and the congregations providing Sanctuary have to be seen as a unified coalition.

As well as making the Sanctuary public, the Publicity Captain's is responsible for facilitating an introduction between the congregation and the people in sanctuary. This may happen at the first worship service following the people's arrival in sanctuary. This welcome should be planned with the Team Captain and culturally competent Emotional Support Captain.

## MAINTAINING THE NETWORK

Bringing someone into Sanctuary is a potentially very long term project, and requires popular support from all participating congregations. We've identified certain areas that can be managed by Role Captains. Each area will require a different number of people supporting the Role Captain to be fulfilled effectively. From the moment the Cluster is activated, the Team Captain is responsible for alerting the other Role Captains. Their roles and responsibilities are Described here:

### **Priority Roles**

- **Food Captain**
  - The Food Captain is responsible for organizing other volunteers to have committed to providing groceries and preparing meals. It may be helpful to use an online calendar service like [Lotsa Helping Hands](#). The Food Captain should work closely with the Team Captain and Emotional Support Captain to make sure that the food being provided meets the needs, wants, and norms of the people in sanctuary.
  - It will be important to determine *with* the people in Sanctuary how often they would like groceries, if they need other cooking supplies, and generally structure their meal schedule to best suit their needs.
- **Basic Needs Captain**
  - The Basic Needs Captain is responsible for organizing everything people might need for their daily routine, aside from food. This may include toiletries, linens, blankets, pillows, etc.
  - They must also ensure that the people have access to laundry facilities, or that there is a system in place for their laundry to be done.
- **Overnight Captain**
  - It is *crucial* that there be at least one documented US Citizen in the Sanctuary at all times. The Overnight Captain is responsible for communicating with the L1 and L2 Congregations to develop a schedule of people who will stay in the Sanctuary with people, to address any needs that may arise, and to be present if ICE or other law enforcement agents arrive on the premises.
  - People planning to spend the night in the Sanctuary must be trained to respond calmly and effectively in escalated situations with law enforcement agents, and know who to contact immediately.
  - At an early Sanctuary Network training, the idea was offered that military veterans could offer support to the overnight stays. They are well trained to remain calm in escalated situations, and the presence of military veterans has, in the past, caused the government to better respect marginalized people's rights and sovereignty, such as at Standing Rock.
- **Entertainment Captain**

- According to needs and wants to people in Sanctuary, there should be a variety of entertainment options available, possibly including TV, movies, books, magazines, etc. The Entertainment Captain works with the Team Captain, Emotional Support Captain, and people in Sanctuary to determine best options.
- The Entertainment Captain can also provide opportunities for congregation and community members to develop closer and more authentic relationships with people in Sanctuary, if they would like company and companionship.
- **Publicity captain**
  - Sanctuary can be a very public act. By uplifting the immorality and injustice of deportation through the story of a small number of individuals and families, we are hoping to shift the public opinion and subsequently policy about immigration compassionately for the rights of immigrants.
  - It is important to keep pressure on ICE to win a case. The public aspect of the declaration of Sanctuary is key because by bringing attention to the particular case and mobilizing the community to stand in solidarity and to advocate for the individual is how cases have been successfully closed.
  - We must also remember that this is up to the individual or family seeking Sanctuary too. At times the family can become overwhelmed by visitors and media. They should be encouraged to establish whatever boundaries they need.
- **Emergency Response Captain**
  - Once the declaration of Sanctuary is made, the Emergency Response Captain should work with the Team Captain to maintain a list of all congregation and community members that will be ready to show up in an emergency situation with ICE or other law enforcement agents. It may be important to offers trainings and discussions with different congregations about how to respond to emergencies.
  - The Emergency Response Captain can also take the responsibility of gathering members for the Rapid Response Network.
- **Emotional Support Captain**
  - The Emotional Support Captain is responsible for people's overall emotional well being throughout their time in Sanctuary. It is not possible to know what these needs might be, and how they are best met. Working with the Team Captain, the Emotional Support Captain can remain conscious of people's emotional health and needs, connecting them with their family, friends. Who might people in Sanctuary most want to see? How can we get them to the Sanctuary? What are the routines and boundaries that people need to be comfortable?
  - The Emotional Support Captain, with the Language/Interpretation Captain and Team Captain, also should organize cultural competency trainings to make sure that everyone involved in the Network is prepared to ensure that the needs and dignity of the people in Sanctuary are respected at all times.

## ***Other Potential Roles/Needs***

- **Language/Interpretation Captain**
  - After the general cultural competency training for the L1 Congregation, the Language/Interpretation Captain, with the Emotional Support Captain, should plan to offer a specific cultural competency training with the L1 and L2 Congregations who are intending to participate in the network. This will be specific to the culture and needs of the people in Sanctuary.
  - It is not possible to know ahead of time what the linguistic needs will be, so the key is to be prepared and to be flexible to the situation as it arises.
- **Services Captain**
  - The Services Captain maintains a database of social workers, doctors, tutors, lawyers, and other people professional services who have agreed to be available should their services be required. The first place to start looking for people who can provide these services is in the congregations that constitute the Cluster itself.
  - When certain services are needed, the Team Captain will contact the Services Captain to tap into this network.
- **Transportation Captain**
  - Transportation needs will depend entirely upon who is in Sanctuary. They may have family members who need to be brought to the Sanctuary to visit, or children who are living with their parents in Sanctuary who need to be brought to school.
- **Childcare Captain**
  - According to needs of people in sanctuary, childcare may need to be organized for children living in the Sanctuary with their parents/guardians.
- **Information/Research Role**
  - Policy and public opinion about immigration is constantly shifting. This is as true as every in the era of the Trump administration. There is a need for people to be continually researching and updating the newest policy, and continually updating the Sanctuary resource kit.
  - If there are one or more people who are enthusiastic about this kind of research work, they could be in charge of managing a listserv of people in the Cluster or larger Network to stay informed and updated.

## FROM SANCTUARY TO SOLIDARITY

### Emergency Confrontation with ICE agents

**Should ICE come to the door of the sanctuary, the person who is staying with the people in sanctuary should immediately call the Team Captain and the Emergency Response Captain.** This will trigger the Rapid Response Network from all congregations and other community members.

ICE is very strategic about when they show up. Their goal is to enact as much chaos and uncertainty as possible. The person staying in witness to the sanctuary must be trained to remain calm and act in a calculated manner in that situation. They should use stalling tactics, such as reminding the agents that this is a place of sanctuary, asking for a warrant, and, if it is still valid, providing a physical copy of the MOU that informs ICE agents not to enter places of worship, schools, and hospitals, by sliding it under the door. **Under absolutely no circumstance** should the door be opened to ICE agents. If the door is opened, the protection of sanctuary is essentially lifted.

If the situation becomes an active deportation, when the Rapid Response Network is assembled, they are there to bear public witness to the event. They can videotape, pray, sing, and otherwise observe and respond to the conduct of the ICE and other law enforcement agents. MCAN is asking members of the Sanctuary Network to bear public witness and document deportations. The decision to participate in further civil disobedience is up to each individual and each congregation. *If you are going to participate in civil disobedience, it is highly encouraged that you be trained appropriately.*

### Beyond Sanctuary: When and How to Show Up

#### **Rapid Response Network**

**MCAN is in the process of organizing a Rapid Response Network. Joining this network is a crucial way to be in solidarity with undocumented immigrants in Massachusetts.** We want to create a way for people of faith to respond to the fear and anxiety in our community as a result from the upcoming increase in immigration enforcement and the new round of raids. Targets of an immigration raid can't leave their home or workplace to seek Sanctuary in a congregation, so we are bringing the congregation and the community to them! Rapid Response Networks will verify the raid/deportations, be moral and legal observers, and connect people being targeted and their families to legal resources and accompaniment teams. ***If you want to join: [jcarreiro@mcan-pico.org](mailto:jcarreiro@mcan-pico.org).***

#### **Know Your Rights**

It is imperative to educate all immigrant communities on know-your-rights resources. The most important information is **DON'T OPEN THE DOOR** to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), police or anyone else if they do not have a warrant signed by a judge. Here

are some resources that can be used to educate yourself and others about legal rights in the face of ICE and other law enforcement agents.

- [AFSC- Know Your Rights- Conozca Sus Derechos](#)
- [United We DREAM Know Your Rights](#)
- [Guide to sharing your story of rights abuses, raids and deportation](#)
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XC2NgdEgD94>

### **Other**

MCAN is building the Sanctuary/Solidarity Network in collaboration with [Cosecha](#), a national immigrant justice movement. There are many organizations around Massachusetts who have been in this fight for a long time, and we suggest you find local groups in your area to support.

### **Links, Resources, and More Information**

While we've done the best we can to provide you with much of the necessary information you will need to most effectively participate in the Sanctuary Congregation Network, this cannot be a complete resource. The Sanctuary Movement has a long, recorded history, much beyond the scope of MCAN, and Massachusetts. Following are some links and resources for you to learn more about the Sanctuary Movement and the work of immigrant justice in the US, its history, and its possibility.

#### *Resources:*

- BNSM [Considerations for Offering Sanctuary](#)
- National Sanctuary Movement's (NSM) [Sanctuary Toolkit](#)
- NSM [Sanctuary Tactics and Strategy](#)
- Sanctuary [legal toolkit](#)
- For Immigrants: [Rights, Links to Legal Resources](#)
- Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice [Resources for Advocacy and Education](#)

#### *Articles:*

- [Sanctuary 101](#)
- [US Immigration Sting on Church Breaks with Policy on 'Sensitive Locations'](#)
- [NYC Sanctuary Movement](#)

#### *Videos:*

- [Sanctuary In a Trump Era](#) NSM 11/21/16 webinar
- [One Border One Body: Immigration and the Eucharist](#) John Carlos Frey and Father Daniel Groody
- [Video on Sanctuary](#) from the 1980s and present: Theo Rigby (password: sanctuary)

## **Appendix I: Sanctuary Strategies and Goals<sup>6</sup>**

**As the faith community, we are called to accompany our community members, congregants and neighbors facing deportation.** By offering Sanctuary we can fight individual cases, advocate to stop deportations, and make it possible to win deferred action at a case-by-case level to keep families together.

Amplify the moral imperative to stop deportations by lifting up the stories of sanctuary cases and ensuring the prophetic witness of the immigrant taking Sanctuary is heard at the national level.

Defend administrative policies such as [Prosecutorial Discretion](#) so that we can still win stays of deportation case by case and keep sacred spaces and schools protected under the [Sensitive Locations](#) guidelines.

Work alongside undocumented students to defend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program (DACA).

Support local work to defend Sanctuary cities or local detainer policies and push back against unjust enforcement policies such as the [Priority Enforcement Program](#) or [287g in the jails](#).

Participate and help create protection networks to provide know your rights education, sanctuary space, legal assistance, housing assistance, family planning and bail support funds.

Stop the Trump border wall and any attempt to increase criminalization or mandatory sentencing for immigrants.

Defend asylum seekers by pushing back against expedited removal and helping provide critical resources such as legal assistance so they can defend and win their case.

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<sup>6</sup> Adapted from Sanctuary Not Deportation's [Sanctuary Movement Toolkit](#)