



# DEPORTATION DEFENSE GUIDE FOR THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Lifting Up Individual Deportation Cases in the Trump Era



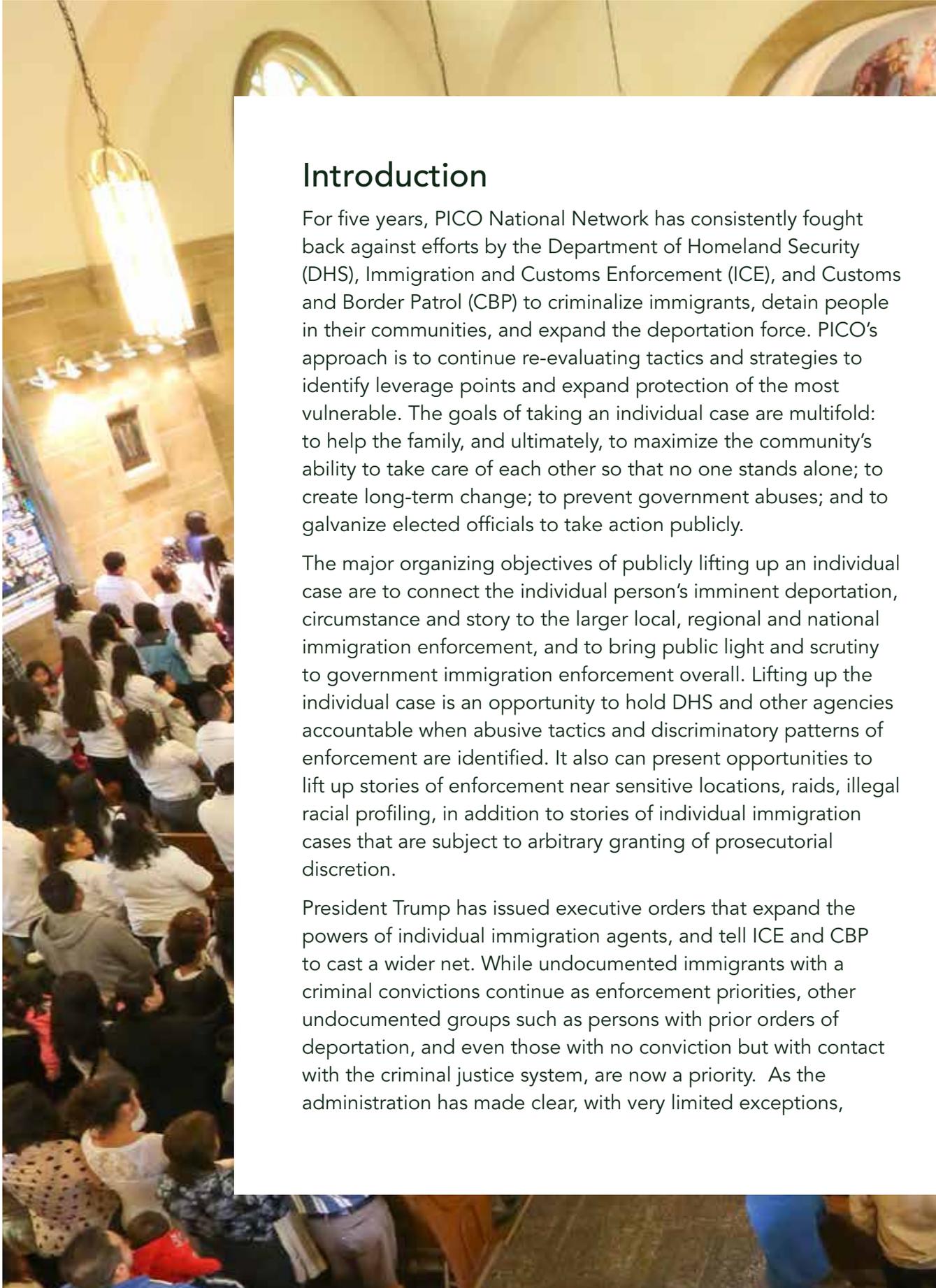
**PICO** National Network  
*Unlocking the Power of People™*





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## Introduction

For five years, PICO National Network has consistently fought back against efforts by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) to criminalize immigrants, detain people in their communities, and expand the deportation force. PICO's approach is to continue re-evaluating tactics and strategies to identify leverage points and expand protection of the most vulnerable. The goals of taking an individual case are multifold: to help the family, and ultimately, to maximize the community's ability to take care of each other so that no one stands alone; to create long-term change; to prevent government abuses; and to galvanize elected officials to take action publicly.

The major organizing objectives of publicly lifting up an individual case are to connect the individual person's imminent deportation, circumstance and story to the larger local, regional and national immigration enforcement, and to bring public light and scrutiny to government immigration enforcement overall. Lifting up the individual case is an opportunity to hold DHS and other agencies accountable when abusive tactics and discriminatory patterns of enforcement are identified. It also can present opportunities to lift up stories of enforcement near sensitive locations, raids, illegal racial profiling, in addition to stories of individual immigration cases that are subject to arbitrary granting of prosecutorial discretion.

President Trump has issued executive orders that expand the powers of individual immigration agents, and tell ICE and CBP to cast a wider net. While undocumented immigrants with a criminal convictions continue as enforcement priorities, other undocumented groups such as persons with prior orders of deportation, and even those with no conviction but with contact with the criminal justice system, are now a priority. As the administration has made clear, with very limited exceptions,



ICE and CBP will no longer “exempt classes or categories of removable aliens from potential enforcement.” An undocumented immigrant encountered during any enforcement action will be detained.

ICE and CBP under the Trump administration has and can exercise prosecutorial discretion when implementing enforcement to minimize harm against immigrant families and communities and to focus resources. However, in practice, the exercise of this discretion is highly inconsistent, and in some regions, non-existent.

The increased enforcement actions that have taken place and the work of the immigration movement to stop deportations and detentions show that the federal government is failing to recognize the hardship and devastation experienced by immigrant families in the United States. Rather than create more and more categories of enforcement targets, DHS should promote public safety by considering family connections, community ties, military service, rehabilitation, education, or employment and then weigh any convictions or negative factors against both these and the resultant hardships of deportation.

Despite repeated request by advocates, DHS provides no clarity about how an individual facing imminent removal can qualify for prosecutorial discretion. DHS’ inconsistency in employing its own prosecutorial discretion guidelines, its decision to categorize people with immigration-related offenses and contact with the criminal justice system as criminals, and its failure to clarify how immigrants can advocate on their own behalf have torn apart thousands of immigrants from their loved ones and devastated entire communities, all without increasing public safety or national security. This is why immigrant rights advocates, legal service providers, and elected officials have chosen to advocate on behalf of immigrants, case-by-case. Advocacy on behalf of individuals facing deportation can make the difference as to whether a family stays together or is torn apart.



# Purpose of Deportation Defense Guide

There are many ways to help a person facing deportation, including but not limited to, finding the person a good attorney, advocating privately to an elected official or accompanying the person to immigration court or a check in. However, this guide is focused on lifting a case publicly in traditional and social media and placing pressure on immigration services with the help of congregations, the community, and elected officials. Although there is no guarantee, PICO has learned that in lifting up a case in the public sphere, each letter of support from a legislator, each newspaper article, each call from a community member to ICE, and each action taken by those advocating can help stop a deportation.



## Selecting Cases

Cases may come from local agencies, attorneys, or from congregations. It is always best to lift up cases of members, leaders, and the local congregation or network.

All immigrants are deserving of protection, and there is no right or wrong answer as to what case to lift up publicly. However, looking for “clean cases” of a person without convictions will only undermine the narrative that all immigrants are deserving. Further, it is futile as all immigrants are now considered “criminals” regardless of criminal history. In practice, the “felons” and “criminal” label is broadly interpreted by immigration enforcement. It can mean expedited deportation for an immigrant with a drug charge and no conviction. It can cover a teen accused of gang membership on the basis of essentially no evidence whatsoever. It can include a citation for being drunk in public, an old conviction for driving under the influence (DUI), or a ticket for driving without a license. Or it can be based on a criminal record on which the only offense is illegal entry or re-entry- a misdemeanor and felony, respectfully- convictions which are becoming increasingly common under this administration.

***Note: Criminal and immigration history is relevant to the organizing. The more contact with the criminal justice system, the more deportation orders the person has, the more they will be a high priority for deportation. Therefore, in order to stop the deportation, the community will have to show more power and support for the person and their family.***

Of highest importance when selecting a case is asking: does the individual’s story meet the organizing objectives of publicly lifting up an individual case? If the answer is “yes” then lifting up the case makes sense regardless of criminal or immigration history.

See, [Appendix: Initial Interview Form](#) for an initial interview form that will help you identify cases and relevant facts.

# Roles in a Public Campaign

The goal of the public campaign is to raise the community's voice so strongly that immigration has little choice but to stop the person's deportation. This can only be achieved with the family, the community and elected officials working together. Each role is important and understanding the roles of the family, the faith community, and elected officials, and how each work together, will help build a stronger campaign.



## Role of Family

The family and individual must support and explicitly consent to lift up the case publicly. A case does not go public until the family determines it is in their best interest, and is comfortable with and understands the organizing steps that will be taken. Conversely, once the matter is public if the family decides to stop public pressure, the family's wishes will be respected. The family must be part of the organizing planning and play a role as they feel comfortable. The family, or the person facing deportation, should:

- Participate in all planning meetings
- Provide media interviews
- Be front and center of any actions such as vigils
- Make all final decisions



## Role of Community

The community and congregation play a significant role in a stopping a deportation. It is through the efforts of members of the community and congregations that elected officials and immigration feel the most pressure. Although we cannot change a case's basic facts or a person's immigration history, community advocacy, the support of clergy and the local community working with the family through a public campaign can:

- Highlight the factors that should make a person a "low priority" for deportation by communicating with immigration about the case;
- Raise public awareness in the community and in media;
- Help the person in deportation proceedings show significant ties and contributions to the community by gathering signatures and letters of support from elected officials, community leaders, and allies;
- Encourage individuals to make calls and send emails to show that the community is watching, and that the person has community support;
- Accompany the person to an ICE interview or court.



## Role of Clergy and Faith Leaders

Whether or not clergy are a part of the initial planning and strategizing, faith leaders play an important role. Clergy can:

- Meet with ICE, elected officials to discuss case;
- Act as spokesperson;
- Lead actions;
- Create tension with ICE officials in public actions;
- Provide pastoral care to the family.



## Role of the Attorney

It is recommended that the individual or family have legal representation. The attorney will file legal documents such as stays of removal or applications for relief, represent the individual in court or at ICE check-ins and help organizers, leaders and clergy understand procedural history of the case and legal strategy. Having a full understanding of the case from a qualified attorney will help with planning the deportation defense. With the permission of the family the deportation defense team should speak with the legal representative as early in the process as possible. Attorneys can act as spokespersons for the family and should be asked to speak at vigils or press conferences.

### Tips for Working with Attorneys

Some attorneys have never worked with organizers and may not understand the process of a public campaign or community organizing. It is recommended that you:

- Speak with legal representative early in the process.
- Clarify the role of the organization or congregation, i.e., organize public support to stop the deportation of individual.
- Explain what a public campaign may look like, using this guide.
- Explain the organization's role is not to represent the individual but will leave all legal questions and representation to the attorney.
- Ask the attorney to give the legal strategy of the case, including dates of filings and other relevant legal information to help inform the organizing.
- Regularly check in with the attorney to discuss ongoing organizing, and vice versa, legal strategy.



## Role of Elected Officials

A public campaign should include pressure on local and national elected officials to stand with the family. Elected officials, in particular members of Congress and their staff, can obtain necessary information regarding ICE operations through inquiries into the status of a case and why a person is a priority for deportation. As part of a public campaign to defend a person from deportation, public officials can:

- Release statements or letters in support and highlight the factors that should make a person a "low priority" for deportation;
- Join a press conference with the person or the family of the person facing deportation;
- Accompany the person to an interview or court;
- Support a resolution denouncing raids, enforcement, and deportations;
- Highlight the person's story on the floor of Congress.

More than ever elected officials are needed to support immigrant families publicly. If they are not willing to publicly stand with the family, elected officials should be held accountable.

# A Case is Identified: Planning to Stop the Deportation

Gathering all interested persons, whether in a meeting or a call, to discuss a plan of action for defending a person facing deportation is very important. In the meeting, details of the imminent deportation, of the individual's story, and of their legal history will be shared, as well as, a plan to defend the person.

## **Suggested Persons for initial meeting:**

- Individual facing deportation (or family member)
- Lead Organizer
- Leaders and clergy that will take a role in defense
- Attorney (if person is represented)
- PICO National Staff

## Planning and Strategizing

Upon identifying a deportation case, there's a series of delicate legal and organizing steps that must be taken in order to turn up the pressure.

### 1. Determine Objective

The major organizing objectives of publicly lifting up an individual case are to connect the individual person's imminent deportation, circumstance, and story to the larger local, regional and national immigration enforcement, and to bring public light and scrutiny to government immigration enforcement overall. Therefore, below are some questions to help identify your objectives:

What is the narrative you are trying to lift up? See section on Narrative.

What is the moral crisis? (Family separation, raids, enforcement in sensitive locations)

Who is going to be held accountable? (Define your targets)

What are you asking for? (Relief and demands)

See Appendix: [Sample Plan Of Action](#)

### **Suggested Meeting Agenda:**

1. Family and attorney share immigration history and ties to the United States
2. Decide if family wants to go public
3. Make a list of congregations and organizations/community figures that can help in this particular case. How many people are willing to fundraise? Or gather volunteers for a public action? Or go out and gather community support from leaders, public figures?
4. Divide roles: How many people are willing to work on this case? Who are the leads in what? What is their time commitment?
5. Get commitment from family members to engage others such as friends, family, and colleagues in deportation defense and organizing efforts.



Photo: Kelly Gluek

## Narrative

Every case will have two narratives: the congregation's (positive and humanizing) and immigration enforcement's (negative and dehumanizing). A humanizing, detailed history and timeline that lifts up the many ties of the individual to the community and congregation will win over elected officials and the larger community. Furthermore, the same narrative will frame all of the traditional and social media, talking points and letters to officials. The narrative and timeline may include:

- Length of residency and employment
- Family ties: married, children, citizen family members or children with DACA
- Ties to and activities as part of the congregation
- Disability or immediate family members with a disability
- Primary income earner
- Explain where, how, and what the person was doing when they were detained
- Length of detention, and whether or not they were granted bail
- Legal steps taken to halt deportation
- List any contact with ICE officials and other advocacy efforts to move the case forward

*The narrative should be written for easy reference and used consistently by all participants and on social and traditional media.*

[See Appendix: Sample Clergy Letter](#)

## 2. Decide on Team Roles

Publicly lifting up a case is a lot of work, moves quickly, and requires the commitment of 6-10 people, plus the support of congregations and community organizations. A division of labor is critical. Some key roles (each role can have more than one person):

- Lead organizer(s)
- Social media: including memes, invites for actions
- Writer: writes letters, petitions, scripts
- Traditional media
- Family liaison
- Attorney liaison
- Event organizer such as vigil, press conference, protest
- Clergy organizer
- Phone banking lead
- Videographer and editor

### 3. Build a Campaign Plan

Here are some key components to think about as you plan the campaign:

- What is the timeline? How much time there is to organize and execute?
- What is our social and traditional media plan?
- When will we engage elected officials, both privately and publicly?
- When will we engage immigration officials, both privately and publicly?
- What is the strategy for legal defense and relief ? (This will be informative in terms of asks to public officials and immigration)
- What will be the role of clergy and faith leaders? What actions might they take?
- How are congregations and community going to be involved? Some options: town halls, vigils, press conference, civil disobedience, phone banking, a petition delivery

### 4. Identify a Target: Public Officials

Publicly lifting up cases presents a great opportunity to mobilize against a local immigration official or remind elected representatives about the cost of their inaction. In identifying who your local target will be, it will be helpful to answer the following questions:

Who is the local ICE officer presiding over this case? Can we call them out by name?

Is the case taking place in or near a target Congressional district? Is there a local Member of Congress we can call out in addition or separately?

What is the ask of the elected officials? To take a public stance? To join a vigil? To go to a check in? Be aspirational.

Note: As people of faith we want to always approach public officials in good faith. Before publicly targeting officials, is there an opportunity to meet with them? If so, how will you prepare for that meeting? What might need to happen after the meeting?

### 5. Engage Clergy

Some clergy will take a bigger role than others, but providing space for clergy to express moral outrage, provide a prophetic vision, and drive a positive narrative of the immigrant family is key. As with leaders and organizers, identifying roles will help. Some key questions:

What faith tradition is the family? Have you asked the clergy of the family's place of worship to join the organizing and act as a spokesperson?

Who are key clergy in the community? Will they act publicly to defend the family?

Which clergy will act as spokespersons?

What action will the clergy take? Will they hand deliver a letter to immigration? Ask for a meeting? Contact elected officials with an ask?

How can clergy engage other clergy to take action?

Will clergy participate in a vigil, press conference, civil disobedience?



## 6. Vigils, Press Conference, Protest

The best way to draw media attention to a particular case is by creating events. In-person press conferences, vigils, rallies, marches, and telepressers are the best vehicles to help give reporters a story to cover and to bring public attention to the unjust deportation. [See Traditional and Social Media for more information.](#)

Here are a few questions to ask when trying to assemble an event:

What kind of event do you have the capacity to execute?

Who is your target? Is it a member of Congress or the Administration? Both? Can you host the event outside of their office or facility?

If it's an in-person event: How many people will be in attendance? What is your goal for turnout?

What will they be doing?

Will they be holding any visuals or signs?

If it's an in-person or telepresser: How many speakers do you plan on having, and what are their names and titles? Please limit to no more than five.



Photo: Katie Hayes

## Traditional and Social Media

A loud and forceful media effort is one of many key tactics to effectively execute a campaign to halt a deportation and expose what the administration is doing to millions of families across the country.

After vetting a case, deciding to move forward, and determining whether the family is willing to move forward with a public campaign, below are some suggested recommendations and steps to ensure that any press work is both strategic and aligned with any legal measures behind the scenes.

## Develop a Narrative and Timeline of the Individual's Story

Develop a detailed narrative and timeline of the case to reference easily. There can be a version for internal use only, but there should be a version approved for public consumption that can easily be slotted into press and web materials. This will ensure consistency in how everyone speaks about the case and ensures all spokespersons are consistent with messaging. *See, Appendix: Sample Letter with Humanizing Narrative.*

## Identifying Spokespeople

For most cases, having 2-3 spokespeople prepped and ready from the outset is an important early step. Lawyers, family members, local community members, and clergy/faith leaders usually make the best spokespeople to address all the legal and moral aspects of a case. Getting these folks on board early will make life easier when you are looking for quotes for press releases or receive a media inquiry. *See Appendix: Sample Talking Points*

Following are a few questions you should ask before finalizing your list of spokespeople:

- **Lawyers:** Is the lawyer willing to speak to reporters? Are they experienced in dealing with media? Are they aligned with PICO messaging on the broader subject of immigration reform, and are they willing to be outspoken about their position?
- **Family Members:** Are any of the family members willing to go on record? Can you identify one family member who can be the lead spokesperson for this case? Do they speak English, Spanish, or both? Are they US citizen or an immigrant? How does their family members' deportation impact them emotionally, physically, etc.?
- **Community Spokespeople and Clergy:** Did the deportee and/or their family attend a church or other faith institution regularly? Is there a faith leader there that knows the family and is willing to talk to reporters? If not, is there a local PICO faith leader that is willing to speak on the family's behalf?

## Prepare a Video

Videos can be a useful, emotional tool to mobilize the community on social media and also to share with traditional media to help tell the story. Editing will be vital to ensure the videos are impactful.

In order to get the best raw footage for use in the video, you should identify the best spokesperson. This will usually be a member of the family. Asking the right questions will be essential to keeping the video subject on message and conversational.

### Other Media Opportunities

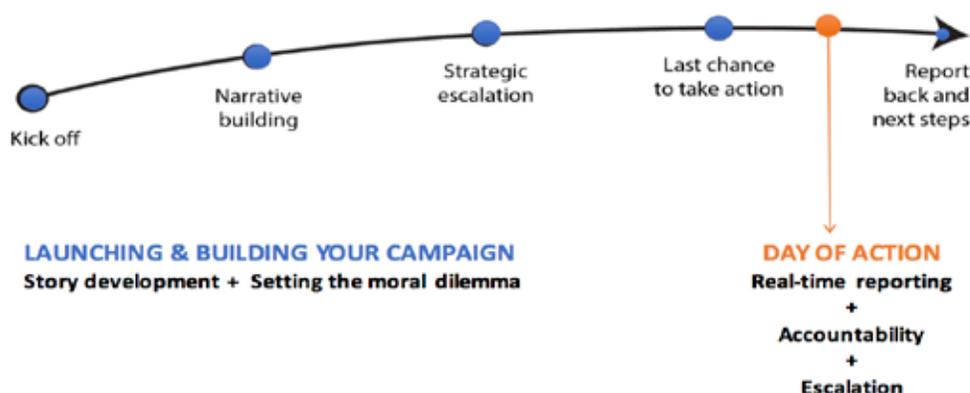
Aside from events, there are several other media opportunities and hooks we can create to lift up each case. For example:

- Would one of the family members be willing to sign an op-ed and/or letter to the editor that we can draft on their behalf?
- Are there other online actions/petitions you can ask the community to take?
- Are there opportunities to tie this case work into separate local actions/events your federation is working on?



[See, video of Jorge Taborda's story: www.vimeo.com/221951755](https://www.vimeo.com/221951755)

# Social Media: Setting up Campaigns



## Final Steps & Executing

Draft any relevant press materials (including press releases, advisories, media availabilities, op-eds, etc.) as well as sending and pitching to your local and national press lists. [See Appendix: Sample Press Release, Sample Press Advisory.](#)

### Below are some sample interview questions to consider asking interviewees to help them tell their story:

- Explain how and why your family member came to the United States? What motivated them to come?
- Describe what took place on DATE. What are the circumstances surrounding how your family member was targeted by ICE officials and/or arrested by local police and turned over to ICE officials?
- What has life been like since your family member was detained and/or deported? How does it make you feel?
- How does your family member's pending deportation impact the rest of your family (mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, others)?
- If you could send a message to the president, what would you say?
- What would you say to other families in similar situations as yours?

**Social Media** Just like the overall organizing and media planning, social media should be carefully considered in deportation defense and public actions. Social media is an excellent tactic to help achieve the organizing goals of the public campaign by lifting up the positive humanizing narrative, reaching influencers and moving individuals into action.

Framing the moral dilemma and asking for action in social media is best as early as possible in the overall campaign and should follow an arc of story development to control the narrative. [See Graphic \(above\).](#) The story can be developed through the use of memes, videos, and direct tweeting. [See Appendix: Social Media: Sample Facebook and Tweets for Reaching Influencers.](#) Livestreaming on Facebook is another tool to broadcast vigils, actions and other events to persons unable to attend, elected officials or for the media.



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Thank you to all the leaders, organizers and clergy on the front lines confronting ICE, CBP and DHS; working together with a shared moral responsibility to defend our families; and for recognizing that it is only with compassion and action that our immigrant families can live with dignity.

Finally, I would like to thank the countless immigrant families and individuals with the courage to publicly share their story and illuminate the impact of unjust laws on us all.

Richard Morales  
LA RED Policy and Program Director  
PICO National Network

About LA RED: Established in 2016, LA RED is program of PICO National. LA RED which stands for Liberation, Action, Respect, Equity, & Dignity was created to defend the rights of all indigenous and immigrant people of the United States.

Guide Designed by Thea Klein-Mayer

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## A. Initial Interview Form

### Immigrant Detention Interview Form

Name of detained or immigrant needing help/ *Nombre de la persona detenida/o inmigrante que necesita ayuda:* \_\_\_\_\_

Additional names used/ *Nombres adicionales usados:* \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person filling out form if other than immigrant needing help/*Nombre de la persona llenando este formulario de no ser el inmigrante que necesita ayuda:* \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to person needing assistance/ *Relación a la persona que necesita ayuda:* \_\_\_\_\_

Is the immigrant a member of a congregation? Which congregation?/ *¿Es el inmigrante miembro de una congregación? ¿Qué congregación?* \_\_\_\_\_

Alien# /*Registro de extranjero:* A \_\_\_\_\_ Gender/ *Género* M / F

Current Address (include apartment number)/ *Dirección Actual (incluya el número de apartamento):* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number/ *Número de teléfono:* \_\_\_\_\_

Email/ *Correo electrónico:* \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Last Entry into the U.S./ *Fecha de última entrada a EE.UU.:* \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Place of Birth/ *Lugar de nacimiento:* \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Citizenship/ *País de Ciudadanía:* \_\_\_\_\_

How long has immigrant lived in the U.S.?/ *¿Cuánto tiempo ha vivido en EE.UU.?* \_\_\_\_\_

Manner of Last Entry (i.e. by plane or on foot)/ *Forma de última entrada (por avión o a pie):* \_\_\_\_\_

Status at Entry (i.e. no status or visa)/ *Estatus al entrar (sin estatus o con una visa):* \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Entry (i.e. Chicago O'Hare airport or Arizona)/ *Lugar de entrada:* \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any additional entries into the U.S./ *Por favor, indique cualquier entrada adicional a EE.UU.:*

Date of Entry ( <i>Fecha de Entrada</i> )	How Long Outside the U.S. ( <i>¿Cuánto tiempo fuera de EE.UU.?</i> )	Status at Entry ( <i>Estatus cuando entro</i> )	Manner & Location of Entry ( <i>Forma y lugar de entrada</i> )

**TO VERIFY COURT HEARINGS OR APPEALS CALL  
IMMIGRATION COURT INFORMATION SYSTEM 1-800-898-7180**

Is immigrant currently in deportation proceedings?/ *¿Está actualmente en proceso de deportación?*  
 Yes/Sí     No

If yes, in what immigration court?/ *De ser así, ¿en qué tribunal de inmigración?*

Is there a final order of removal?/¿*Tiene una orden de deportación final?* \_\_\_ Yes/Sí \_\_\_ No

If yes, when was deportation?/¿*Cuándo lo deportaron?*

Does immigrant have an attorney?/¿*Tiene un abogado de inmigración?* \_\_\_ Yes/Sí \_\_\_ No

Name of attorney/*Nombre del abogado:* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number/*Número de teléfono:* \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status/*Estado civil:*  Single/*soltero(a)*  Married/*casado(a)*  Divorced/*divorciado(a)*

Widowed/*viudo(a)*

If married, name and DOB of spouse/ *Si está casado, nombre y fecha de nacimiento del cónyuge :*

Date of Marriage/*Fecha de matrimonio:* \_\_\_\_\_

Immigrant status of spouse/*El estatus migratorio del cónyuge:* \_\_\_\_\_

Any children?/¿*Tiene hijos?* \_\_\_ Yes/Sí \_\_\_ No

List children starting with oldest/*Enumere hijos empezando por el/la mayor:*

Name/ <i>Nombre</i>	D.O.B./ <i>Fecha Nacimiento</i>	Age/ <i>Edad</i>	Status/ <i>Estatus</i>	Where do they live?/¿ <i>Dónde viven?</i>

Besides children and spouse please list all family in the U.S. and their status /*Aparte de sus hijos y cónyuge, por favor liste a todos sus familiares en EE.UU. y su estatus:*

Name/ <i>Nombre</i>	Relationship/ <i>Relación</i>	Age/ <i>Edad</i>	Status/ <i>Estatus</i>	Where do they live?/¿ <i>Dónde viven?</i>

Has immigrant been detained by immigration more than once? If yes, when and where? *¿Ha sido detenido por inmigración en más de una ocasión? De ser así, ¿cuándo y dónde?*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Has immigrant ever been arrested or summoned into court as a defendant (including, but not limited to, traffic violations or driving incidents involving alcohol and domestic violence)? If yes give date, place and description of each arrest. /¿Alguna vez ha sido arrestado o citado por la corte como acusado (incluyendo, pero no limitado a, violaciones de tráfico o incidentes de conducir relacionados al consumo de alcohol, y la violencia doméstica)? De ser así indique la fecha, lugar y descripción de cada detención.

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Has immigrant (either in the U.S. or in any foreign country) been convicted, fined, imprisoned, or placed on probation, for an act involving a felony, misdemeanor, or breach of any public law or ordinance (including, but not limited to, traffic violations or driving incidents involving alcohol)?/ ¿Ha sido usted (ya sea en EE.UU. o en cualquier país extranjero) condenado, multado, encarcelado o puesto en libertad condicional, por un acto que implica un delito grave, delito menor, o la violación de cualquier ley u ordenanza pública (incluyendo, pero no limitado a, violaciones de tráfico o incidentes relacionados con conducir y el alcohol)?

If yes give date, place and description of each arrest/ De ser así indique la fecha, lugar y descripción de cada arresto.

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Is immigrant currently or has immigrant ever been under an order of protection for domestic violence?

If yes give date, place and description/ ¿Está o ha estado alguna vez bajo una orden de protección por violencia doméstica? De ser así indique la fecha, el lugar y la descripción:

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Has immigrant ever been the victim of a crime?/¿Ha sido víctima de un crimen?

If yes give date, place and description/ De ser así indique la fecha, el lugar y la descripción:

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Does immigrant or anyone in the family have any health problems? If yes, please describe /¿El inmigrante o alguien en su familia tiene algún problema de salud? De ser así por favor descríbalos:

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Education/ Educación

List all schools and colleges attended and date of completion/ Enumere todas las escuelas y universidades atendidas y fecha de finalización:

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**Employment History/ *Historia Laboral***

List all employers over the last 5 years include address, job title and dates employed/ *Enumere todos sus empleadores durante los últimos 5 años incluyendo la dirección, título de trabajo y fechas de empleo:*

(Present Employer/*Empleador Actual*)

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Please list each of the years in which you have filed an income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service/ *Por favor enumere cada uno año en que ha presentado una declaración de impuestos al IRS:*

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Is there anything else we should know about your case?/ *¿Hay algo más que deberíamos saber sobre su caso?*

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**Economic Hardship:** What economic hardship would the individual's family face if the individual is deported? Please specify in detail the hardship. *Dificultades económicas: ¿Qué dificultades económicas se enfrentan la familia del individuo si el individuo es deportado? Por favor especificar en detalle las dificultades.*

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## B. Sample Letter with Humanizing Narrative

[DATE]

[NAME, TITLE]  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Office of Detention and Removal  
[Address]

RE:

Dear Officer \_\_\_\_\_,

As religious leaders, we are committed to the fair treatment of immigrants and their families in our communities. We write asking you to grant [Person] prosecutorial discretion by releasing him and reunite him with his family.

[Person] came to the United States in 1997. [Person] is a member of one of our congregations [Name of Church] in [City]. Since entering the country, he has become a person of strong faith, worked hard, created a family of his own, and has become a law-abiding role model for his community in New Jersey. [Person] has a US Citizen fiancé and five children. Two are adults. [Status of children]. The children are suffering due to the recent detention of [Person]. [how are they suffering] If he is deported, we believe the children would experience extreme emotional distress.

[Person] is the primary income earner for his family. Therefore, if he were deported, not only will it guarantee that his family would be permanently broken apart but his children would suffer financial hardship. [Person] children would not only suffer emotionally, because of the separation caused by the deportation, but economically as well.

Our sacred texts and religious teachings counsel us towards just and fair treatment of immigrants (Deut. 24:17). Exemplary parents like [Person], who have been long-term members of our community and who enrich and contribute to our lives are not intended to be high priority or deported by ICE.

Help us keep [Person] family together. We urge you to exercise prosecutorial discretion and release [Person] to his family. Such action would not only be in line with the teaching of our faith traditions, but true to the values of our communities and nation.

Sincerely,

## C. Sample Plan of Action

### Blanca Solis-Villa Plan of Action

URGENT MATTER SHE IS TO APPEAR IN COURT ON AUGUST 19.

#### First Step

#### Attorney (PRIORITY)

- Blanca has reached out to Catholic Charities and Las Americas without any answer but will keep trying.
- Rose Ann is going to reach into her network to find an attorney.
- IN case Rose Ann can't find an attorney, Rich will send letter to Catholic Charities and Las Americas asking them to expedite process.
- As a last resort Rich will contact AILA in DC for help.

#### Targets-

Get phone numbers and names of all targets.

- Assistant Chief Counsel representing ICE at the Master Calendar hearing on August 19.
- Supervisor to Assistant Chief Counsel.
- Congressman Steve Pierce
- Rich will get names and phone numbers for ICE targets.

#### Clergy-

We decided to reach out to clergy leaders for support in this matter. Blanca is a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

- Mariaelena will ask for a support letter from Father Vince as part of request to Pierce.
- Rose Ann/Mariaelena/Raul will reach out to local Rabbi/ Bishops/ Evangelicals as part of any escalation.
- Rich will draft clergy letter in support of Blanca.

#### Social Media-

- Raul is working on getting a picture from Blanca with US Citizen children. He will draft a meme.
- Rich will request national support on distributing the meme and twitter actions.
- Rich will send sample memes.

#### ACTIONS

- Monday August 12, a letter will be mailed/delivered to Pierce from Father Vince asking him to support Blanca by calling ICE and requesting ICE exercise prosecutorial discretion and administratively close the case.

- Organizers will call everyday to see if Pierce will support Blanca.
- SHOULD WE HOLD VIGILS?

- We will have an internal deadline of 2-3 days. At end of deadline if he hasn't supported Blanca by calling we will escalate.

#### Escalation:

- Clergy Letter Delivery (August 15): Clergy 30 or more will sign a letter that will be hand delivered to Pierce.
- Press Conference: (I RECOMMEND WE DO THIS THURSDAY August 15). The clergy will hold a press conference immediately outside Pierce's office after delivery of letter stating Pierce should support this family.
- Woman's Forum: FRIDAY August 16: Blanca will attend to voice her story. MEDIA?
- Thursday August 15 or Friday August 16 (WE DID NOT DISCUSS THIS: I recommend) we begin phone banking on this day. WE should call ICE and Pierces office in support of Blanca. We should shut down their lines.
- SOCIAL Media: Monday August 12-Friday, August 16. Tweets and FB.

#### MEDIA

- RICH will get national to draft release and pitch to appropriate individuals.
- We should discuss op-ed-maybe from clergy?

## D. Social Media: Sample Facebook and Tweets for Reaching Influencers

Use #Sanctuary4All to insert our narrative into the movement's space on social media.

PICO's official immigration hashtag, #No1StandsAlone can be used alongside.

.@SenatorCardin @ChrisVanHollen @WhipHoyer Will U stand against Veronica's deportation on Tue. April 4 @ 8:30AM so #No1StandsAlone?

Veronica is a mother of 4 & wife of a US Vet. @SenatorCardin

@ChrisVanHollen @WhipHoyer Will U stand w/her? [<https://www.facebook.com/events/288565444889925/>]

"My family would be destroyed if I am not here to take care of them." - Veronica @SenatorCardin @ChrisVanHollen @WhipHoyer #No1StandsAlone

.@SenatorCardin @ChrisVanHollen @WhipHoyer Deportation = permanent family separation 4 Veronica w/ all family in U.S. <https://www.facebook.com/events/288565444889925/>

Veronica has nothing in Mexico. Her family is here! Help keep his family 2gether. @SenatorCardin @ChrisVanHollen @WhipHoyer #No1StandsAlone

## E. Sample Email Announcement

Dear Friend,

Across the country, people who had received deferred action under the Obama administration are now being taken into custody and deported when they show up for their ICE check-ins. **On Tuesday, April 4, we aim to have the community and clergy present as Veronica -- a mother of 4 children and the wife of a US veteran -- goes to her check-in.**

On April 4, We will be holding a vigil in solidarity outside the ICE office building, as some clergy accompany her in to her appointment. We believe that the situation will be strengthened with the presence of the community, faith leaders and congregants. If you can join us, **please register below.** Please encourage others to participate as well.

#sanctuary4all #No1StandsAlone

Meet at 8:30am, Tuesday, April 4th

31 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201

We will meet in the plaza, just outside the ICE offices

To register: <https://goo.gl/forms/YPAxwES01AscOvNO2>

To learn more and

**Top Tweet** earned 43.1K impressions

**.@CoryBooker** Catalino has nothing in Mexico. His family is here! Help keep his family stay 2gether. **#No1StandsAlone**  
[bit.ly/2IAy0XA](http://bit.ly/2IAy0XA) [pic.twitter.com/Yn2kSOpkwt](http://pic.twitter.com/Yn2kSOpkwt)



↩ 18 ↻ 53 ❤ 125

Sample Facebook Meme: Call to Action



Sample Tweet and Meme To ICE

**Top Tweet** earned 2,802 Impressions

.@ICEgov Your raids & deportations of long-term community members are unconscionable & violate our sacred values.  
#HereToStay @LaRed\_PICO  
pic.twitter.com/C8JePrfRif

A meme featuring a photograph of a family being escorted by ICE agents. The photo is overlaid with a green and white text box that reads "KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OUR FAMILIES". Above the text box, in a yellow box, it says "IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT". At the bottom left of the photo, it says "#HereToStay" and at the bottom right, it says "PICO".

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## F. Sample Run of Show for a Vigil with Talking Points and Ideas to Avoid

**Run of Show**  
**Regional DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network**  
**Veronica Presser and Vigil**  
31 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD  
Tuesday April 4, 8:30 a.m.

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Things for all speakers to be careful about:

- putting words into Veronica's mouth
- using language about "welcoming the stranger" without carefully contextualizing it, because it erases the long-standing ties many people have to communities here
- drawing distinctions between people with and without criminal convictions, or assigning levels of worthiness. All people deserve safety and dignity because they are human beings, not because they are particularly sympathetic.

**Press Conference** 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (30 minutes)

- **Rabbi Hannah Goldstein, Associate Rabbi at Temple Sinai, Washington, DC**, Opening prayer and purpose of vigil (2 minutes).  
We're here to stand with Veronica.
- Nobody should be separated from their family. No one should stand alone.
- The faith community is committed to dig deeper in this moment of crisis because of what we're seeing: for example demonization of the entire immigrant community, ICE staking out a hypothermia shelter at a sister Methodist Church in Alexandria, ICE arresting people in court or outside of schools. We are committed to stand not just with Veronica but all vulnerable persons subject to unjust laws.
- **Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director of Refugees and Immigration Ministries of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ**– (4 minutes)
  - provide message on sanctuary rooted in faith
  - Sanctuary is a long-standing practice used by people of faith and conscience in response to unjust laws and practice
  - this is not about our partisan politics, but about our collective morality
  - Briefly talk about sanctuary in the current context/ DMV Sanctuary Congregations launch and how congregations can participate , including:
    - Sanctuary is not just about hosting but there are many things a congregation can do:
      - Offering Know Your Rights trainings;
      - Rapid Response systems so people show up to document raids;
      - Accompanying people to ICE check-ins and legal hearings;
      - Working to free people from detention;
      - If necessary, some congregations may feel called to host families at-risk of deportation; and
  - Standing and accompanying Veronica is how we are all participating in sanctuary.

## G. Sample Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

March 9, 2017

Email:

### **ICE Officials Warn Grandfather to Be Prepared to Surrender Passport During his March 10 Meeting**

#### *New Jersey Grandfather Remains Under Threat of Deportation*

WASHINGTON – Clergy leaders with Faith in New Jersey, a member of PICO National Network, the largest grassroots and faith-based organizing network in the nation, will gather for a second time in support of Catalino Guerrero, an undocumented immigrant facing deportation under the new administration. Following his check-in on February 8, ICE officials told Guerrero to report to the immigration office again on March 10 and be prepared to surrender his passport. Guerrero, a law-abiding grandfather of four, is fighting to remain in the United States with his family. Immediately prior to his 9:00 am hearing on March 10, the faith leaders will meet and pray with Catalino in front of the Peter Rodino Federal Building 970 Broad Street in Newark, NJ 07102. Some will attempt to company him inside the ICE building and are requesting Senators Cory Booker and Bob Menendez do the same.

“In addition to clergy, public officials play an integral part in resisting unjust policies and protecting vulnerable communities,” said Richard Morales, immigration policy director for PICO National Network. “They shouldn’t wait until immigrants are detained to stand with hurting families.”

In February 2017, ICE officials suddenly summoned Guerrero to the local immigration office. During the meeting, ICE refused to accept Guerrero’s prosecutorial discretion application for a stay. Following the meeting, ICE asked Guerrero to come back to the immigration office on March 10 and be prepared to surrender his passport.

“As people of faith we are called to support those in our midst who are being threatened,” said the Rev. John A. Mennell of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. “When we stand with Catalino, we take a stand in the face of injustice to build a pathway to a community where all are truly welcome.”

Guerrero fled Puebla, Mexico in 1991 in pursuit of economic opportunity and an escape from a crime-ridden area. He has long sought a pathway to citizenship, but has faced one obstacle after another after his former attorney bungled the paperwork. He desperately wants an opportunity to become a citizen.

“I, like so many others, was born in the US through no assertion of will or choice but chance,” said Pastor Carmine Pernine of Zion Lutheran Church. “My brother in Christ, Catalino, through no act of volition was born elsewhere. Yet, because of these arbitrary details you and I are led to believe that someone like Catalino should go and I should not? I am stuck on the idea that I should make such grave decisions or draw such weighty conclusions based on things – such as place of birth -- which you or I have no control over. Therefore, I stand with Catalino because I have no claim to this land unless I fight for the rights of those who choose it - immigrants, refugees and those seeking asylum.”

“Our faith tells us to stand up with Catalino and all those who dream of freedom,” said Rabbi Joel Abraham of Temple Sholom in Scotch Plains.

“The Prophet Muhammad instructed his followers to take care of the needs of our neighbors,” said Imam Saffet Catovic of Drew University. “Our undocumented neighbors need to feel care and support in this moment,” Catovic concluded.

###

## H. Sample Press Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 18, 2017

CONTACT:

### New Jersey Grandfather Granted One Year Stay of Removal

*ICE now requesting Catalino Guerrero's wife report on Thursday morning*

**NEWARK** – An undocumented immigrant from Union City, New Jersey, [Catalino Guerrero](#), was granted a one-year stay of removal by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), allowing him to continue to live in the United States. However, ICE has requested that Guerrero's wife, Margarita, accompany him when he goes to pick up his paperwork.

"While we celebrate Catalino's stay of removal, ICE's sudden attention on his wife is deeply troubling," said **Richard Morales**, immigration policy director at PICO National Network. "Catalino desperately wants to remain in Union City, New Jersey with his family. We stand with both Catalino and Margarita, and will work to make sure they are able to stay in this country – together."

Guerrero's case received national attention after the New Jersey grandfather received the support of faith leaders from across the country including Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark, as well as Senator Robert Menendez. In April, Guerrero received a brief reprieve from ICE after being ordered to appear before officials with his passport.

"What should be an exciting moment for Catalino and his family, as well as Faith in New Jersey and our clergy leaders who have been uniting, rallying and resisting together for Catalino, has been overshadowed by the fear and uncertainty of Margarita's circumstances," said **Archange Antoine**, executive director of Faith in New Jersey. "Our faith tells us to sacrifice for the most vulnerable. We will keep up the fight for our undocumented families – including the Guerrero family – and all who have been targeted by unjust policies and unjust systems that threaten to pull them apart."

Guerrero came to the United States in 1991 to flee violence in his home country. When he tried to obtain a work permit, he was misled into applying for asylum. It wasn't until eight years later – after annually renewing his work permit and paying his taxes – he was put into deportation proceedings. Under the Obama administration, through prosecutorial discretion, Guerrero was allowed to stay in the United States.

*PICO National Network is the largest grassroots, faith-based organizing network in the United States. PICO works with 1,000 religious congregations in more than 200 cities and towns through its 45 local and state federations. PICO and its federations are non-partisan and do not endorse or support candidates for office. PICO urges people of faith to consult their faith traditions for guidance on specific policies and legislation. Learn more at [www.piconetwork.org](http://www.piconetwork.org)*

###

# I. Ways to Engage Elected Officials

## CALLS AND TWEETS

Dear Friend,

On Tuesday, April 4, Veronica – mother of four children and wife of a US veteran – faces possible deportation when she goes to her check-in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in Baltimore. Multi-faith clergy and community members will join her family in accompanying her because no one should stand alone.

To learn more and register for the vigil: <https://www.facebook.com/events/288565444889925/>

Nonetheless, her elected officials -- U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, and U.S. Representative Steny H. Hoyer -- have not yet committed to stand with Veronica. In this time of uncertainty, mass deportations, and family separation, elected officials have the moral obligation to publicly stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable.

Join us as we demand that Veronica's Maryland representatives accompany her on April 4 and assure her safe return to her husband and four children.

Can you make a phone call or tweet? Full details below.

Veronica came to the United States seeking lifesaving medical attention for her son Juan Pablo, who had brain damage after an early childhood surgery. Her child Kevin suffers from cerebral palsy. Both are in need of constant care. "I have two disabled children. My children don't speak Spanish. For them, it would be another trauma to go to a country they don't know," Veronica explained. "I don't want to think about what would happen if I am deported. My family would be destroyed if I am not here to take care of them."

You can read more about Veronica's story in the Washington Post: <http://wapo.st/2o7JEcZ>

Help us pressure Veronica's representatives and tell them we must support our sisters and brothers who are threatened by unjust laws. Make your voice heard loud and clear by tweeting and calling using the information below. In standing with Veronica, we take a stand in the face of injustice, building a pathway to a community where all are truly welcome.

Many thanks,

## How to Call Elected Officials

Please call all the numbers listed. Call during business hours. The offices are open from 9-5pm. When the phone is answered say something like:

“Hi my name is [Full Name]. I am a member of [Organization/Congregation] [If you live in Maryland say so, too!]. I am calling in regards to Veronica Castro -- the mother of four US citizen children -- who may be deported on April 4. The community will be publicly holding vigil in Baltimore to assure Veronica is reunited with her family. I am calling to ask the [Senator/Representative] to also stand with Veronica and her husband. Will he be there?”

Make sure to say thank you and call the next number.

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin: Phone- (202) 224-4524 or (410) 962-4436 or (301) 860-0414

U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen Phone- (202) 224-4654 or (301) 545-1500 or (301) 797-2826

U.S. Representative Steny H. Hoyer Phone- (202) 225-4131 or (301) 474-0119 or (301) 843-1577



