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PRESS RELEASE: The New Sanctuary Coalition launches Sanctuary Caravan - 40 days and 40 nights



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Wednesday, December 19, 2018, the [Sanctuary Caravan](#), a campaign headed by [The New Sanctuary Coalition \(NSC\)](#), embarks on 40 days and 40 nights of peaceful, radical welcome and support for the migrants currently stranded at the U.S./Mexican border.

“We are here for the long haul,” says NSC lead organizer and Sanctuary Caravan point person Sara Gozalo. “Our goal is to change the national consciousness, and that is not something you achieve in a day or a week or even a month. We will be here for 40 days and 40 nights. And our goal is to get everyone currently at the border crossed.”

Hundreds are expected to report to a central Sanctuary Caravan Meeting Place on the US side of the border for a full day of training in de-escalation, accompaniment, and pro se clinic skills. Pro Se, or “for oneself,” refers to people who do not have legal representation.

Sanctuary Caravan will have an ongoing presence on both sides of the border, with a pro se clinic in Tijuana, accompaniment as people present themselves to Customs and Border Patrol, and a receiving delegation in San Diego ready to help migrants make their way to supportive communities across the U.S. These communities are preparing now to offer welcome and ongoing accompaniment to their new neighbors. The Sanctuary Caravan programs are modeled on the successful work The New Sanctuary Coalition has been doing in New York City for more than ten years.

“We will help everyone waiting to cross the border do so in a calm, organized manner,” says Ravi Ragbir, Executive Director of NSC. “We believe Customs and Border Patrol could see many more people per day than they are currently seeing, and we are going to help them do that.”

Sanctuary Caravan volunteers are not only working at the border. They are also organizing in their own communities to welcome the migrants and provide the ongoing support they will need to continue through the immigration system.

Rev. Will Green, of Andover, Massachusetts says, “My community is preparing, with training and education, to welcome these neighbors, go with them to court hearings and appointments, and offer moral support. Lots of folks think once they are in the U.S. their problems are over, but the truth is a new fight just begins.”

Electronic press kit available [here](#).