

NEW SANCTUARY COALITION PRESENTS:

THE SANCTUARY CARAVAN

# PRO SE CLINIC TRAINING ZINE



# NOTES:

## OUR RULES:

1. NO JUDGEMENT
2. RESPECT
3. DO NO HARM

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**HUMANITY IS NOT  
MEASURED  
BASED ON WHAT  
SIDE OF SOME  
RANDOM BORDER  
SOMEONE IS  
BORN IN.**

## **ABOUT THE NEW SANCTUARY COALITION**

The New Sanctuary Coalition is an interfaith unincorporated organization, founded in 2007. We believe no one should be deported. We believe migration is a right. We are being lead by affected communities. We refer to anyone who is directly impacted as a Friend. We do not adhere to the rhetoric that dehumanizes migrants. We are all members of one community and work in solidarity with each other in the service of our shared liberation.

The accompaniment program recruits and trains volunteers to accompany people facing deportation to their immigration hearings, criminal court, family court and required ICE check-ins. This provides moral support for our Friends and enables volunteers to hold immigration authorities accountable. Standing in solidarity with Friends also demonstrates to immigration officers that there is a community mobilized to stand in solidarity with our migrant communities.

The pro se immigration clinic trains volunteers to work with people who are representing themselves. We believe in decentralizing power away from attorneys and giving it back to the community. Our Friends, those directly impacted, are empowered to be their best advocates.

# HELPFUL SPANISH TERMS FOR TRANSLATORS

**LA MARA:** A gang, usually MS-13 (Mara Salvatrucha) or Barrio 18. Sometimes called la pandilla.

**CARTELES:** Particularly zetas and el cartel del golfo, these groups have been known to kidnap migrants

**MAREROS, PANDILLEROS:** Gang members.

**GRILLETE:** A monitoring anklet that some Friends will be required to wear by ICE

**LA BESTIA:** The train running north and south that many folks ride to the U.S. (It can be extremely dangerous.)

## WHAT WE DO

- Support people who are navigating the immigration system, most often by assisting them to request asylum.
- Create community to work towards a future without deportations
- Take the experiences we have back to our communities in order to engage more people in this movement
- Help Friends present their stories in the most compelling way possible for their own liberation

## WHAT WE DON'T DO

- Provide legal advice or representation (lawyers at the clinic or by remote access can give legal advice, but volunteers cannot)
- Do anything that could endanger our Friends, especially on social media
- Judge whether our Friends have "good" or "bad" cases or stories
- Take a judgmental attitude toward anything our Friends reveal or explain about themselves, their families, their history, or their experiences
- "Save" people

# USEFUL TERMS

**ANKLE MONITOR/SHACKLE:** Some of our Friends might have a shackle on their ankle, which allows ICE to monitor their movements.

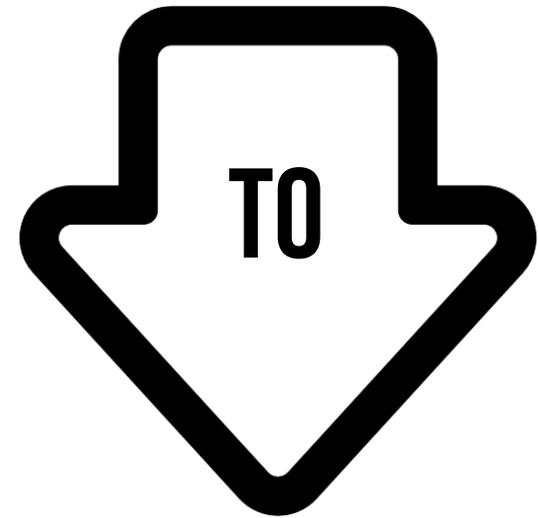
**CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE:** The U.S. is a signatory to the U.N.'s Convention Against Torture. This has created a form of immigration relief that some of our Friends may be eligible to receive if sending them back to their country of origin would subject them to torture. There are two spots on the I-589 that ask if the applicant is interested in relief. Feel free to check with a lawyer if you think a Friend may be eligible.

**DELEGATION OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY:** A Friend can designate someone who has a valid immigration status (Citizen, LPR, Visa) to have temporary legal authority over their children if the Friend is detained. The person who is designated can register the child for school and make most medical decisions for the child. Talk with a lawyer if this is something the Friend is interested in.

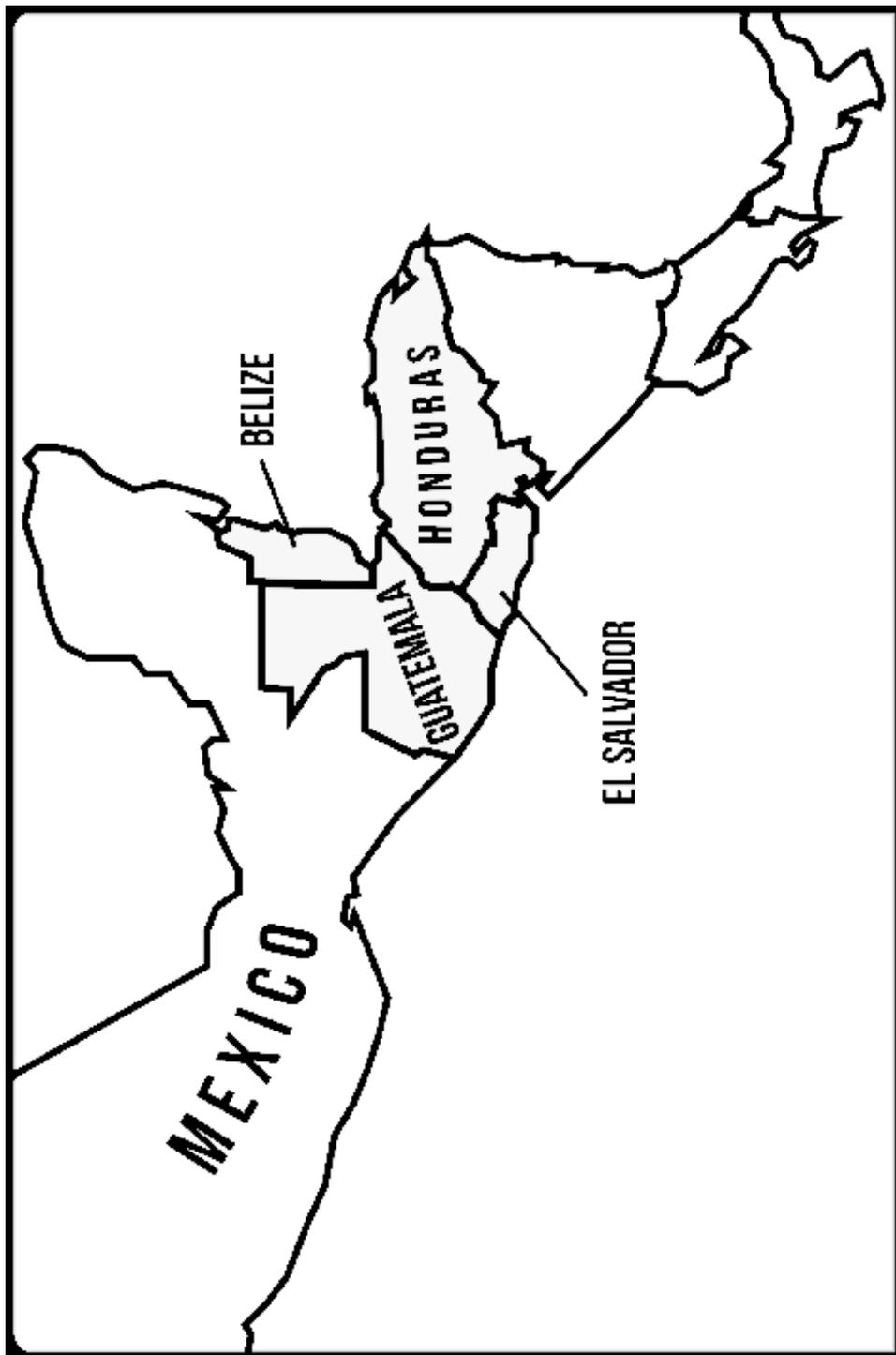
**GARIFUNA:** The Garifuna people are descendents of native Caribbeans and West Africans who were brought to Honduras, Nicaragua, and Belize to be enslaved by the Spanish during the transatlantic slave trade. Today, many Garifuna people experience anti-black racism in their home countries and are given less protection from police than lighter skinned citizens, who may also experience police malfeasance.

**I-94 NUMBER:** The I-94 form is a record of arrival, issued by Customs and Border Patrol, which usually takes the form of a stamp on their home-country passport. Most of our friends do not have an I-94 number, but we check because the I-589 form asks for it. (If your Friend thinks they have one, you can look it up here: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home>).

# FROM THE BORDER



# LOCAL SANCTUARY



## WHAT YOUR FRIEND NEEDS TO KNOW WHEN THEY COME OUT OF DETENTION:

**INDIVIDUAL HEARING:** This is the hearing where evidence is presented. It occurs after Master Calendar Hearing(s), defined below.

**MASTER CALENDAR HEARING:** A short, preliminary hearing in front of an immigration court judge to determine how to proceed with a case. Friends will go to as many as four master calendar hearings before the Individual Hearing defined above.

**NOTICE TO APPEAR (NTA):** A NTA is the charging document that signals the initiation of removal proceedings against a Friend. An NTA requires a Friend to appear in Immigration Court on the date specified or at a date to be determined in the future.

**ONE-YEAR DEADLINE:** The deadline for submitting an asylum application, which is due one year to the day after the Friend arrived in the country. Let a lawyer or clinic leader know if your Friend is approaching the one-year deadline within 1-2 months.

**SIJS:** SIJS or Special Immigrant Juvenile Status is a form of legal relief available to children who are in the U.S. without documentation and have been abused, abandoned or neglected by one or both parents. If the friend you are working with is or has a child under 21 years old, check with on-site attorney if this is an option.



## **HIELERA:**

Literally, an ICE box: a freezing cell where friends are "housed" before being moved to a detention center.

## **PERRERA:**

A dog kennel-like detention center, where Friends are "housed" before being moved to a detention center.

## **THE PRESENT REFUGEE MOVEMENT AND U.S. RESPONSE IS NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT; IT SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR COLLECTIVE HISTORY.**

In the 1930s, the U.S. and its western allies shut their doors to Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany. Jews were deemed as undesirable and a supposed threat to take away jobs and other resources from Americans. The U.S. even refused to accept Jewish children, and turned away ships such as the *St. Louis*, later labeled the "Voyage of the Damned." Nazi Germany was greatly encouraged by such response, noting with pleasure that the countries that criticized its treatment of Jews were themselves unwilling to open its doors to them.

Like today's refugees, Jewish refugees were encouraged to come through nonexistent "legal channels;" like today, our government put every obstacle in their way, preventing 90 percent of visas earmarked for such refugees from being issued. Today, no refugee visas are designated for Central Americans, and DHS has created ridiculous barriers to refugees arriving at points of entry to apply for asylum.

Scarily, the true reason for barring immigrants has always been racism. A century ago, Jews, Poles, Greeks, Italians, and Slavs were considered non-white; in the 1920s, the U.S. Congress called Madison Grant, whose book on Nordic racial superiority was referred to by Hitler as his "bible," to influence our immigration laws by testifying to the threat posed by southern and eastern Europeans. Non-whites were denied the right to become naturalized U.S. citizens until 1952. In 1954, during the Civil Rights movement, our government carried out "Operation Wetback," deporting a million people into the Mexican desert to reinforce the concept that "real Americans" were white. The same message was sent in using Coast Guard ships to interdict black refugees from Haiti in the 1980s, and in the recent "Muslim ban" and the family separation policies of the Trump Administration.

# ARRIVING AT THE BORDER

It is important from the very beginning that our Friends understand they are now part of a community: the Sanctuary Caravan Community. That means we will be with them every step of the way. We will help them determine a course of action, assist them in completing paper-work, and accompany them to the border and beyond. We and they are now all members of this community.

Pairs of volunteers form at the beginning of the clinic.

## A) TRANSLATOR

This person should be fully fluent in the native language the Friend speaks. Their job is to make sure the Friend understands all discussion in the group, including questions that are asked and comments from team members.

The translator should help the Friend fully express their story and make sure that other members of the group understand what the Friend is trying to express. A good rule-of-thumb is to translate after two or three sentences, but particularly in a trauma interview, your friends' needs should come conversation with your friend in their native language without translating, you should do that.

## B) COMPUTER PERSON/NOTE TAKER

This person will write in the answers on your Friend's intake, and type up any applications that are available to your Friend. They will be responsible for uploading any necessary documents to your Friend's database.

# WHERE OUR FRIENDS MAY BE DETAINED:

## ARIZONA

- Florence Services Processing Center; Florence, FL
- Eloy Detention Center; Eloy, FL

## CALIFORNIA

- San Pedro Service Processing Center; San Pedro, CA
- Los Custody Case; San Pedro, CA
- El Centro Detention Facility; El Centro, CA

## COLORADO

- Aurora Contract Detention Facility; Aurora, CO

## FLORIDA

- Krome Service Processing Center; Miami, FL
- Broward Transitional Center; Pompano Beach, FL

## GEORGIA

- Stewart Detention Center; Lumpkin, GA
- North Georgia Detention Center; Gainesville, GA

## LOUISIANA

- LaSalle Detention Center; Jena, LA

## MASSACHUSETTS

- Boston Service Processing Center (Coast Guard Support Facility); Boston, MA

## NEW JERSEY

- Elizabeth Contract Detention Center; Elizabeth, NJ

## NEW MEXICO

- Otero County Processing Center; Chaparral, NM

## NEW YORK

- Buffalo Federal Detention Facility; Batavia, NY

## PENNSYLVANIA

- Berks County Residential Center; Leesport, PA

## PUERTO RICO

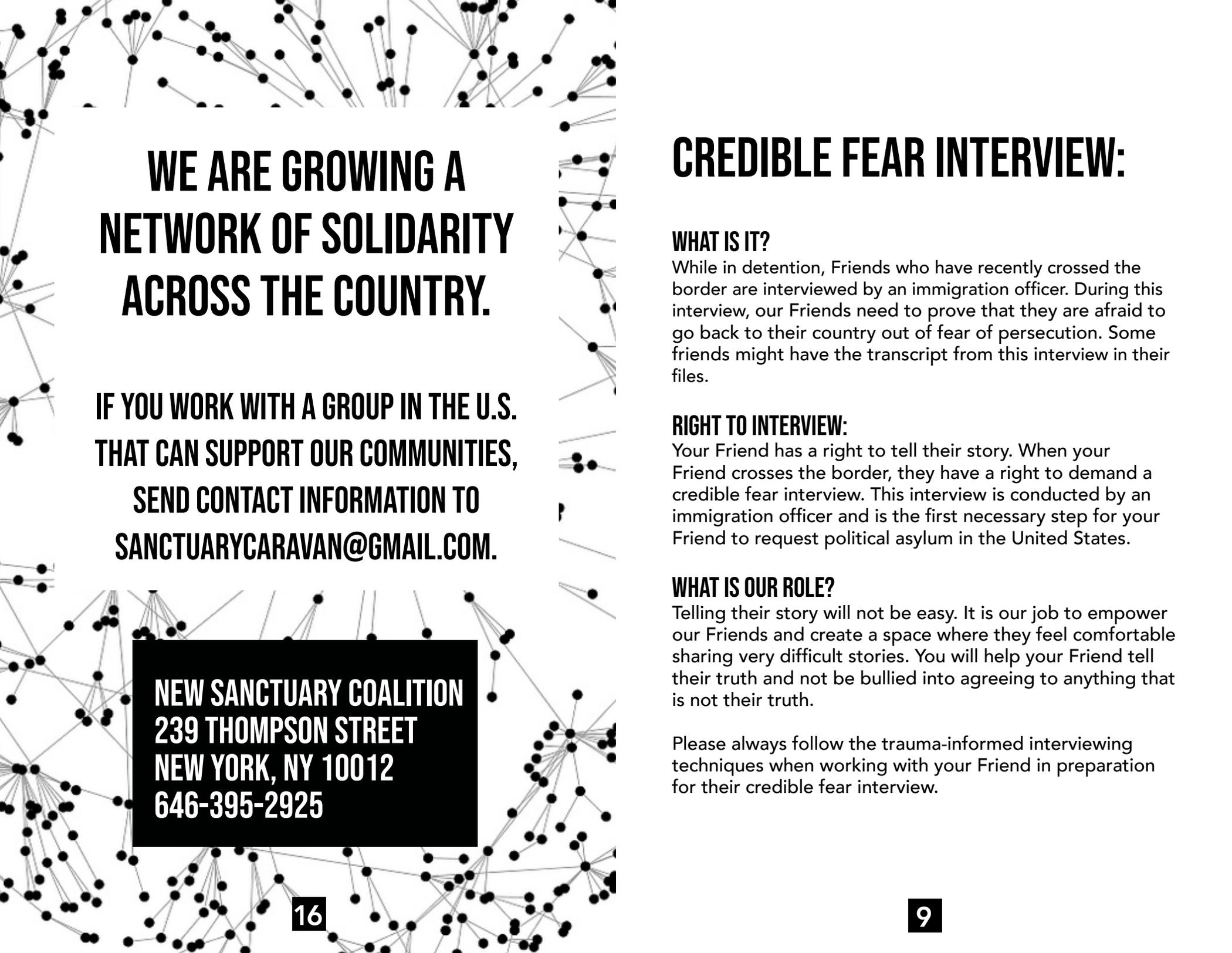
- Aguadilla Service Processing Center; Aguadilla, PR

## TEXAS

- Willacy Detention Center; Raymondville, TX
- T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility; Taylor, TX
- South Texas Detention Facility; Pearsall, TX
- Port Isabel Detention Center; Los Fresnos, TX
- Laredo Detention Facility; Laredo, TX
- Houston Contract Detention Facility; Houston, TX
- El Paso Service Processing Center; El Paso, TX
- Joe Corley Detention Facility; Conroe, TX
- Ursula Detention Center; McAllen, TX
- South Texas Family Residential Center; Dilley, TX

## WASHINGTON

- Northwest Detention Center; Tacoma, WA



**WE ARE GROWING A  
NETWORK OF SOLIDARITY  
ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

**IF YOU WORK WITH A GROUP IN THE U.S.  
THAT CAN SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES,  
SEND CONTACT INFORMATION TO  
SANCTUARYCARAVAN@GMAIL.COM.**

**NEW SANCTUARY COALITION  
239 THOMPSON STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10012  
646-395-2925**

## **CREDIBLE FEAR INTERVIEW:**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

While in detention, Friends who have recently crossed the border are interviewed by an immigration officer. During this interview, our Friends need to prove that they are afraid to go back to their country out of fear of persecution. Some friends might have the transcript from this interview in their files.

### **RIGHT TO INTERVIEW:**

Your Friend has a right to tell their story. When your Friend crosses the border, they have a right to demand a credible fear interview. This interview is conducted by an immigration officer and is the first necessary step for your Friend to request political asylum in the United States.

### **WHAT IS OUR ROLE?**

Telling their story will not be easy. It is our job to empower our Friends and create a space where they feel comfortable sharing very difficult stories. You will help your Friend tell their truth and not be bullied into agreeing to anything that is not their truth.

Please always follow the trauma-informed interviewing techniques when working with your Friend in preparation for their credible fear interview.

# A-NUMBER

The “alien registration number” is an 8 or 9-digit tracking number given to all Friends who are in deportation proceedings. This number will be given to friends who turn themselves in at the border. (Note: “alien” is a term used by the government, NOT by the clinic.)

## LOOKING FOR YOUR FRIEND:

Your Friend will have an A-number once they are part of the system; if your Friend was previously deported, they may already have an A-number. After your friend crosses the border, they may be sent to one of the ICE detention centers.

To check if and where your Friend was detained, you can look up your friend through the A-number, your friend’s name and country of birth:

**ICE LOCATOR:  
LOCATOR.ICE.GOV/ODLS**

To check the status of your friend’s case, you can call the Automated Case Information Hotline:

**240-314-1500  
OR  
1-800-898-7180**

- **Translation is everything:** Make sure you translate details, big and small. It can be very disorienting for the Friend to see people laughing, talking about their case, or just talking among themselves without knowing what’s going on. Be sure to center your friend in all your conversations, particularly with someone like the lawyer—make it clear to them that they are in control of the conversation, and make time for them to ask the lawyer any questions. When in doubt, translate for your Friend so they can follow what’s happening. Also, translate (as much as possible, without disrupting the process) for non-Spanish-speakers on the team so they can be fully engaged in the process.
- **Be conscious of the dynamics of race, gender, and age in the group.** For example, many women who have been in an abusive relationship or have experienced gender violence may not feel comfortable discussing their experience with a man present. If you feel like your presence is not helping the Friend tell their story, excuse yourself as gracefully as possible and check in with your group later.

## THINGS TO AVOID IN TRAUMA BASED INTERVIEWING:

- **Never assume or judge** anything about your friend’s story. Judging looks like rolling your eyes; asking questions that imply you don’t believe your friend; asking why they didn’t do something other than what they did; questioning their reasons for wanting to be in the U.S.
- **Never say what the friend “needs” to do** (“You need to come back”, “you need to answer this question”). Ask questions, offer help, and make suggestions, but don’t act as if you are “in charge.” Nearly any sentence that contains what sounds like an order can be rephrased.
- **Don’t say “Trust me.”** Why should a Friend trust any stranger after what they have been through?

## TIPS FOR AN EMPATHETIC, TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE

- **Help your Friend plan:** At your first session, you likely won't get into any details about their story. But you should tell your Friend that you will do so at the next session so they can prepare. Let them know you want to make the experience as comfortable for them as possible.
- **Give a heads up:** For broad, very intense questions on the I-589 form (like "do you fear torture?" and "what would happen if you returned to your home country?" among others), preface the question by saying something like, "This is a difficult question," "I'm sorry to have to ask this," "Take your time in responding," etc.
- **Explain at the beginning of each meeting what the plan is for the session.** How long you think it will take, what will come next. If you are uncertain about next steps or anything else about the process, check with clinic staff or one of the lawyers.
- **Let Friends know they can stop talking at any time** about something that makes them uncomfortable; let them know you can talk with them more later.
- **Persons over Boxes:** It is much more important that we support our Friends than rushing them to fill out all the boxes on the application. The priority is to make sure the Friend is treated with respect and dignity. Pay attention to, and ask about, your Friend's needs. This could be as simple as giving them a tissue if they start to cry; taking frequent breaks; asking less intense questions first in order to ease into more stressful subjects.

# TRAUMA INFORMED INTERVIEWING

## UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA IN ORDER TO SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS:

When our Friends apply for asylum, many do so because they have experienced trauma, either from a violent experience, harassment, domestic violence, threats, or all of the above. These experiences often have effects that last long after the incident in question is over.

Friends have likely been detained by the U.S. government. For all intents and purposes, this is the same as being incarcerated. Friends have repeatedly been asked dozens of confusing and intrusive questions by strangers, including every single U.S. government official they have encountered.

You can imagine that all this is tiring, confusing, disorienting, scary, and more. Trauma will likely affect many of our Friends even in the experience of sharing their narratives with us.

People might be reluctant to discuss the most violent or scary parts of their story. They may fear being judged, especially if they have experienced intimate partner violence.

Since trauma impairs cognitive function, your friend might not always remember events or details immediately or in chronological order. In other words, details will not always come out sequentially and might take time to remember. Be patient. It could take several meetings before a full picture emerges.

Recounting or asking about trauma can also create flare-ups of anxiety, panic, physical feelings, or flashbacks of the incident. If this happens, stop asking questions and be supportive of your Friend. Don't hesitate to ask clinic staff for assistance. You can also consult our social work volunteers, but discuss this with a Clinic staff person first.

If your friend has experienced domestic violence and you do not feel equipped to appropriately handle the case, alert a clinic staff member who can find a team with experience supporting domestic violence survivors.

## WHAT HELPS:

- **Listening carefully;** making eye-contact to indicate your Friend has your full attention.
- **Expressing kindness,** patience, reassurance, calm and acceptance
- **Validating feelings** (ex: "That sounds stressful"; "That must have been scary."; "I know this is hard to talk about.")
- **Acknowledging that sharing is a gift** to us with gratitude: "Thank you."
- **Acknowledging the difficulty** of their journey: "I'm glad you are here."
- **Reaffirming your support:** "We're here for you."

## WHAT HURTS:

- **Saying "I understand."**-- chances are you don't!
- **Responding in ways that are harsh,** impersonal, critical, disrespectful, judgmental, or convey alarm (ex: gasping when a Friend reveals something or responding with incredulity)
- **Being inattentive** or distracted, including looking at your phone or having side conversations
- **Pushing your Friend** to talk about a trauma
- **Focusing only on the task** and not creating a meaningful connection with your Friend
- **Assuming** that your Friend's story represents the "typical story for a group of people."