

IMMIGRANTS SPEAK OUT: DAY OF RESISTANCE AGAINST CRIMINALIZATION AND ANTI-IMMIGRANT BILLS

The Immigrant Justice Network envisions communities that are healthy and thriving, instead of ones torn apart by criminalization, biased policing, incarceration, and deportation. To secure the full human rights of all members of our communities, we need to end mass deportation and mass incarceration while addressing the racial, economic, and legal injustices that underlie both. The US government needs to invest in people and not more law enforcement. It should uplift communities, not maintain the laws that tear them apart.

Partnerships with community groups and directly impacted individuals who have navigated or survived the detention, deportation, and criminal justice systems are essential to achieving these goals. These partnerships have the best chance of building long-lasting power for transformational change of our criminal and immigration systems.

1. **Roll back criminalization by challenging selective and discriminatory policing, prosecution, sentencing, and deportation of black and brown community members.** At a minimum, eliminate the disproportionate consequences of drug offenses and migration, such as illegal reentry and the militarization at the border, in the criminal legal and immigration systems.
2. **Narrow the list of aggravated felonies**, a category of hundreds of offenses triggering automatic deportation.
3. **Restore the opportunity to present a case in court for everyone and end fast track deportations** and by ensuring that everyone, regardless of immigration status and criminal record, has the opportunity to go before an immigration judge and to present a full defense with an effective lawyer.
4. **Limit the authority of the federal government to deport immigrants for long ago conduct.** The Department of Homeland Security's practice of permanently holding immigrants under the threat of deportation for old offenses violates basic notions of fairness long recognized in the law.
5. **Eliminate the use of the mandatory detention laws, and end nationwide the practice of prolonged detention.** The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Immigration Judges should prioritize release regardless of ability to pay.
6. **Improve treatment of noncitizens in the criminal system by eliminating arbitrary law enforcement policies that target communities based on race or perceived immigration status**, investing in a meaningful and effective system of public defense including advisals on the immigration consequences of criminal cases, and curbing the power of prosecutors and judges to impose more punitive measures on immigrants including harsher plea deals and sentences.
7. **End mass deportation programs like the Criminal Alien Program and 287(g).** Entanglement of these deportation programs with the criminal system threatens the rights of US citizens and immigrants alike, encourages racial profiling, results in prolonged detention, and compounds the racial and economic injustices of the criminal legal system.
8. **Protect Sanctuary Jurisdictions and the local policies designed to disentangle immigrants from federal criminalization policies.**
9. **Protect the privacy and rights of immigrants** impacted by the government's unchecked expansion of new law enforcement technologies and databases and its use in surveilling immigrant communities and criminal justice reform and immigrant rights activists.
10. **Ensure that survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault or other forms of violence** are able to access systems of support, safety and justice without fear of detention and deportation.