

THE FLORES EXHIBITS



5 Ways You Can Take Action

1. SHARE THE VIDEOS

One of the most effective things you can do is **share these videos with people in your life** - family members, friends, people you work with and encourage them to watch it.

Write them a text or an email with a short comment or note about how the story in the video affected you. Post about one of the videos on Social Media and include the link, encouraging people to watch this video and others on the site.

Sharing these first-person stories is an effective way to engage the people in your life. This can lead to more personal investment in this issue on their part, and hopefully they will be inspired to share these stories as well. There is lots of news about immigration – these videos are unique because they are personal, first-hand accounts of being in detention. We hope that *The Flores Exhibits* encourages and empowers more people to get invested in the protection of immigrant rights at the border, and throughout our country.

2. ADVOCATE FOR FAMILIES IN DETENTION TO BE RELEASED TOGETHER NOW thru JULY 17

On June 26, 2020, U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee ruled that all children detained for more than 20 days at ICE Family Residential Centers (FRCs) must be released no later than July 17, 2020. This ruling upholds the protections for children ensured by the Flores Settlement Agreement – but it does not cover their parents or relatives who are in detention with them.

This means the court has ordered that children must be released by July 17, but they are in danger of being separated from their adult family members.

[RAICES Texas](#) has made it incredibly easy to send an email message to your elected representatives in Congress, urging them to use their power to ensure that ICE fully complies with Judge Gee's order and unconditionally releases all children with their families by July 17.

Click [HERE](#) to send an email message to both of your Senators, and your Congressperson.

If you're interested in going a step further, we encourage you to follow up with a call to their offices. Find phone numbers for their offices here ([Senate](#) | [House](#)) and use the script below. And, if you get their voicemail, leave a message – that will have an impact.

CALL SCRIPT:

Hello [*Senator / Congressman/woman NAME*],

My name is [NAME] and I live in [NEIGHBORHOOD and/or CITY]. I'm calling because I am distraught about reports of the spread of COVID-19 in family detention centers.

I applaud U.S. District Judge Gee's decision to give ICE a deadline to release all the children in current ICE custody at the three family detention centers no later than July 17, 2020. But, I am afraid ICE may use this court order to attempt to tear children away from their parents again. You must understand that we cannot let this happen. These children are not unaccompanied minors, they are locked up in detention with their parents. We cannot rip them away from their families.

I urge you to take action and release families together NOW. Don't let ICE use the deadline imposed by the ruling to quickly deport families. That will only spread the virus in their home countries where they may have little access to resources to combat the disease. Instead, demand that ICE commit to a permanent family unity policy.

Will you take action to protect immigrant families and children?

Thank you.

3.

TAKE ACTION TO #SAVEASYLUM – JULY 15 DEADLINE

The Executive Branch's latest immigration regulations will make it almost impossible for anyone to be granted political asylum in the United States. The Flores Exhibits is following the lead of New Sanctuary Coalition's efforts to get as many people as possible to submit public comments on these oppressive regulations.

The new laws propose nearly a dozen new bars to asylum which will violate not only international treaties, but our own Constitution. This law would abandon hundreds of thousands of vulnerable families and individuals with nowhere left to turn for safety -- including the more than 300,000 people with affirmative asylum claims currently pending (more information on the specific changes and what they mean for Friends is below).

Visit [New Sanctuary Coalition's campaign page](#) to learn how you can submit a public comment detailing your concerns about this law.

The administration is legally obligated to respond to each issue raised in these comments. This process can be lengthy, so the rule is not expected to go into effect

until the fall at the earliest. With enough comments and public outcry, we hope to delay its effect even longer.

4.

DONATE TO THESE ORGANIZATIONS ON THE FRONT LINES

[Families Belong Together](#) has set up a fund that will split donations between three critical organizations providing critical services to families in detention.

Click [HERE](#) to make a donation.

[ALDEA](#), The People's Justice Center provides quality pro bono legal and social services to vulnerable detained and free immigrant populations throughout Pennsylvania, and offers universal pro bono representation to every family detained by ICE in the state. Aldea also participates in important and impactful litigation nationwide to protect immigrant children and their families. ALDEA is working to free the families currently in ICE detention.

[Proyecto Dilley](#) provides free legal services to asylum-seeking mothers and children who are detained at the largest ICE detention facility in the country, the South Texas Family Residential Center. Proyecto Dilley represents every family that is detained in Dilley, Texas and is fighting to keep families together and safe from COVID-19.

[Haitian Bridge Alliance, Inc.](#) (HBA) also known as "The BRIDGE" is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community organization that advocates for fair and humane immigration policies and provides migrants and immigrants with humanitarian, legal, and social services, with a particular focus on Black migrants, the Haitian community, women & girls, LGBTQA+ individuals, and survivors of torture and other human rights abuses. HBA provides direct services including, but not limited to, Rapid Response Humanitarian assistance to Black immigrants and asylum seekers from the Caribbean and Africa and other forms of assistance at the U.S.-Mexico border, in U.S. detention, and during U.S. immigration proceedings. HBA focuses on direct services, organizing and advocacy. The organization works to elevate the issues that Black migrants are facing to build more solidarity and collective movement toward policy change.

5.

CALL ON YOUR SENATORS TO SUPPORT THE IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT MORATORIUM ACT

This legislation was introduced by Senator Markey (D-Mass.) and is co-sponsored by Senators Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), and Kamala Harris (D-Calif.). This legislation would:

- Halt deportations of noncitizens during the coronavirus pandemic and provide for release on orders of supervision for people who have received removal orders to prevent prolonged post-removal-order detention;
- Halt arrests and apprehensions of noncitizens physically present in the United State during the coronavirus pandemic;

- Halt in-person check-ins, service of Notices to Appear, and referrals for 1325/26 prosecutions;
- Provide for processing and parole of individuals at the border who make claims for relief under the immigration laws;
- Suspend all in-person court proceedings, and, for detained individuals, establish a procedure for conducting custody determinations and provide for telephonic hearings provided the respondent requests such a hearing in writing; and
- Prohibit federal funds being used to implement the CDC order powering automatic expulsions of asylum-seekers and unaccompanied children at the border.

FIND contact information for your [Senators](#).

CALL them and say you support this legislation

USE the Script below – if no one picks up, it is still effective to leave a voicemail.

Hello. My name is [NAME] and I am a resident of [NEIGHBORHOOD, CITY]. I am calling to let the Senator know that I strongly support the passage of the Immigration Enforcement Moratorium Act and urge them to fight for this bill.

Continued arrests and apprehensions discourage immigrant communities from accessing services necessary for their health and well-being and contribute to dangerous crowding in immigration detention centers. Deportations, particularly after prolonged detention in unsafe conditions, risk spreading coronavirus to neighboring countries, where the virus could devastate health systems and create untold harm. In late April, people deported to Guatemala made up 20 percent of all coronavirus cases in that country. Further adding to the harm the administration has inflicted, a CDC order has fueled tens of thousands of unlawful expulsions in under three months, including more than 2,000 unaccompanied children.

Will the Senator fight for the passage of the Immigration Enforcement Moratorium Act?