



Protect Immigrant Rights National Action Program Toolkit

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INFO BRIEF



Sanctuary Restaurants

Overview:

Sanctuary Restaurants is a joint project of the Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC) United and Presente.org. The coalition includes hundreds of restaurants, and thousands of diners, workers, and allies nationwide. The restaurant industry itself employs 1.1 million undocumented immigrants, and in the current political climate those individuals face xenophobia, deportation, and ICE raids. Sanctuary restaurants stand by these workers by pledging to create safe and equitable work environments free from **sexism, racism, and xenophobia**.

Sanctuary Restaurants is not a legal designation; it is a movement that believes there is a place at the table for all **immigrant** and **refugee** workers. The movement also advocates for **fair wages**: it is important to remember that 52% of all restaurant workers are women, and that many female immigrant workers are compensated less than minimum wage.

Ending Harassment & Discrimination in the Workplace:

Sanctuary Restaurants have a zero tolerance policy for sexism, racism, and xenophobia.

- ROC United provides informational support and, in partnership with Presente.org, provides rapid response to hate or discrimination in restaurants:
 - Restaurateurs get placards/stickers, informational webinars and rapid response support, and consumer support for being a Sanctuary Restaurant. They are identified by a placard or sticker placed in their establishments.
 - Consumers receive information on which employers are Sanctuary Restaurants and should be supported, cards to hand out to employers and workers to get them involved, and the ability to report hate and discrimination in restaurants by texting TABLE to 225568.
 - Workers can text in a request for informational support and rapid response support by texting TABLE to 225568.

NOW's Action Agenda:

NOW seeks to partner with ROC United by engaging our activist network in the Sanctuary Restaurants movement.

- NOW activists around the country can reach out to and engage the management at their favorite restaurant about joining the Sanctuary Restaurants movement and can provide them the necessary information and resources to do so.

ACTION BRIEF

Sanctuary Restaurants



The restaurant industry in the United States employs 1.1 million undocumented immigrants, and in the current political climate those individuals are facing heightened xenophobia, deportation, and ICE raids.

[Sanctuary Restaurants](#) is a growing movement--involving hundreds of restaurants, and thousands of diners, workers, and allies nationwide--to stand by these workers and create safe and equitable work environments free from sexism, racism, and xenophobia.

NOW is calling on our activist networks to support the Sanctuary Restaurants movement.

Activists around the country can reach out to and engage the management at their favorite restaurant about this movement, and provide them the necessary information and resources to get involved. If you'd like your favorite restaurant to join the movement, give them an informational card found [here](#). The NOW National Action Program has also created a Phone Script for those who choose to call in to restaurants to start the dialogue.

Other Resources:

Sanctuary Restaurants [leave behind cards](#).

Sanctuary Restaurants [table card](#).

Other Actions:

Have you witnessed or experienced hate, harassment, or discriminations in a restaurant?

1. Text TABLE to 225568 to report injustice, or
2. Tweet or direct message the incident to [@table4everyone](#)
3. Email info@sanctuaryrestaurants.org, or
4. Fill out [this form](#) with as many details as you can

Sanctuary Restaurants: How to Guide



How To Determine a Sanctuary Restaurant Target

What best to look for:

- Restaurants that are independently owned and locally operated.
- Restaurants with past social justice and community involvement.
- Restaurants that you have patronized.

What might prove more challenging:

- Large chain restaurants with a corporate structure.
- Restaurants that you have not patronized or are not in your community.

Sanctuary Restaurant Step-By-Step Guide

1. Plan your Strategy:

- a. Develop a list of target restaurants
- b. Gather materials (on NOW Website):
- c. Brainstorm how each specific restaurant could benefit from becoming a Sanctuary Restaurant.



2. Order, Enjoy and Pay for your Meal



3. Approach Manager or Owner after you Meal

- a. Use the Sanctuary Restaurant Dialogue Guide below to drive your conversation!



How To: Dialogue and Responses

Explain the Sanctuary Restaurant Campaign

Hi! My name is _____ and I noticed that your restaurant is invested in the local community. Have you considered becoming a Sanctuary Restaurant? You would be joining hundreds of other establishments that have pledged to create safe and equal work environments for their employees, free from bigotry and discrimination. The restaurant industry employs over one million undocumented immigrants, and in our current political climate, undocumented immigrants are facing unprecedented government sanctioned attacks on a daily basis. Sanctuary Restaurants are standing together to stand up for their workers.

Here is more information about Sanctuary Restaurants and what resources the campaign has to offer: (*give Manager/ Owner the Sanctuary Restaurants Table Card and Restaurant Leave behind*).

Ask the Manager/ Owner to Become a Sanctuary Restaurant:

Are you interested in learning more about how to become a Sanctuary Restaurant? By joining this growing movement nationwide--which currently has over 500 restaurants already signed up--you not only take a stand for undocumented workers, but also connect yourself to a new customer base and resources.

The Manager/ Owner says that they Don't Want to Participate:

Listen to their reasons and concerns and make sure they have a chance to express themselves, then direct them to the Restaurant Leave Behind to explore the benefits of becoming a Sanctuary Restaurant.

The Manager/ Owner wants to Participate:

Thank you for supporting restaurant workers and the immigrant community. Please go to "<http://sanctuaryrestaurants.org/>" to sign up. Sanctuary Restaurants will send you the information and resources you need to get started!

INFO BRIEF

Intimate Partner Violence and Immigration



Overview

Under the new administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are increasingly using legal processes to find and deport undocumented individuals. This exacerbates a culture of fear and mistrust between undocumented immigrants and the government. Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo disclosed that the number of Latinx individuals reporting sexual assault in Houston is down [42.8 percent](#) from last year, and those reporting other violent crimes has registered a [13 percent drop](#). For undocumented survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) in the U.S., this backdrop of rising deportation fears leaves them with an impossible choice: to report their abuse and risk arrest or continue to live in a violent household. As a result, undocumented immigrant women are [dropping their domestic violence charges](#) to avoid deportation.

Immigration and Intimate Partner Violence

Immigration adds another layer to the complicated, expensive, and emotional process of escaping a domestically abusive environment. Perpetrators of domestic abuse use the undocumented status of their partner as a means of control. IPV survivor Julieta Garibay immigrated to the United States from Mexico at the age of 12. When she got married to a U.S. citizen in 2010, her husband emotionally abused her and [threatened to withhold petitioning for her legal status](#). At least [41 percent](#) of surveyed Latinx individuals believe that the main reason undocumented survivors of IPV don't seek help is because they fear that their undocumented status will be uncovered or exploited in the legal process. Furthermore, economic and social factors that can make it challenging to report IPV are amplified for undocumented women given that [resources](#), economic support, and legal support are often contingent upon citizenship.

Undocumented Intimate Partner Survivors

Unfortunately, the current political climate heightens barriers for undocumented women in the domestic violence reporting process. After a [video](#) circulated of ICE agents waiting to arrest an undocumented immigrant at a Denver courthouse, four undocumented immigrant women [withdrew their domestic violence cases](#). These women [stated that](#) "they were not willing to proceed with the case for fear that they would be spotted in the courthouse and deported." For undocumented victims of IPV, these fears are far from unfounded.

Not an Isolated Incident

In El Paso, Texas, an undocumented, transgender woman--Irvin Gonzalez-- was detained at a courthouse and taken to a detention center. She had just been [granted a protective order](#) for domestic abuse. The *El Paso Times* [reports](#) that ICE officers acted on a tip from live-in boyfriend and alleged abuser. He was detained by ICE earlier that week. This illustrates the manipulation and control that survivors of IPV face in the legal process, and how the barriers to reporting domestic violence are only exacerbated for those who are undocumented.

Social Media Toolkit: Mobilize for Reproductive Justice



The Women's March, Black Lives Matter, DAPL, Occupy: What do these movements have in common? They all started in the digital world.

Why is online activism important?

Often, people dismiss social media and its' importance in social justice movements. However, over the past 20 years, studies have found that social media is a unique tool that allows people to connect, learn, and mobilize at an unprecedented rate. Here are a few reasons why:

1. Social media helps link people from all over the world who are dedicated to the same causes, building a community made up of a variety of ideas, narratives, and experiences.
2. It has the power to educate many people at once and connect them to resources they might not otherwise find.
3. It can enhance our offline activism, creating a foundation and jumping-off point for 'on the ground' action.



4 Ways to Enhance Your Online Activism

Quality, not Quantity

While there's something to be said for saturating people's timelines with news you care about, the quality of your posts is far more important. Make your posts meaningful by retrieving your information from reputable sources. Attach relevant videos, articles, and graphics to captivate readers, and make sure your posts are well-written and free of grammatical errors.

Engage in (Informed) Disagreement...

Conversing with people who hold opposing views is healthy and sometimes even productive! It forces us (and others) to consider, defend, and reevaluate our beliefs. However, when voicing your opinions with people on the internet, keep the conversation respectful. Stick to the facts, refrain from name-calling, and see your position through.

...But, Remember to Pick Your Battles

Although it can be productive to engage in healthy discussions, sometimes it just isn't worth it. Consider the level of influence you have over the person you're trying to debate. Offer to speak offline with someone about an issue you feel particularly passionate about if it feels appropriate for the situation.

Collaborate and Connect with Others

Pooling your resources with like-minded groups can make your movement that much stronger. Don't let your hashtags disappear into oblivion; work with local activists to expand your movement into different communities.

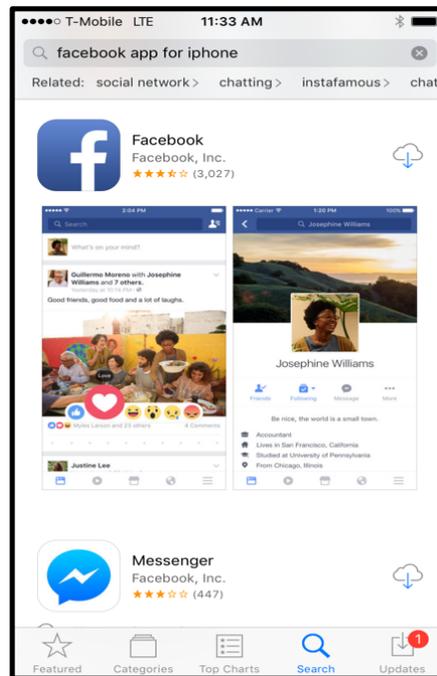
Note: The current cultural climate has bred an increased uptick in aggressive rhetoric in digital spaces. If you are feeling unsafe in a particular space or with a particular user, please do not hesitate to disengage and block that person/user.

How to Use Facebook Live

For newcomers to this feature of Facebook, here are a few simple steps for Facebook Live use and best practices.

NOTE: You can only go live on Facebook through Facebook’s iOS (iPhone, iPad) app or Android (Galaxy, Notebook, etc) app. Facebook Live is not applicable through desktop computers or laptops.

Step 1: Download the Facebook App on your iPhone or Android phone:



Step 2: Once it is downloaded and you have logged in under your NOW profile, go to the top of your News Feeds. Tap **‘What’s On Your Mind?’**

Step 3: Tap  **Live Video.**

Step 4: Write a description of your broadcast (using the aforementioned guidelines).

Step 5: Tap **Go Live** to begin.

Step 6: Tap **Finish** when you want your video to end.

In order to film an event such as a panel discussion, an interview or a conference, it is suggested the person use an iPad rather than a cellular phone. For events such as these, the same rules apply, however, make sure your front facing camera (the camera used to take selfies) is in use. Using an iPad also affords you the ability to set it up on a docking station and let it record as you are live.

Protect Immigrant Rights Facebook Guide

NOW's Protect Immigrant Rights campaign is dedicated to bringing attention to the atrocities enacted by the Trump administration against undocumented Mexican immigrants. On Facebook, we encourage activists to engage with friends and followers by disseminating information about current or upcoming legislation/executive orders that further marginalize undocumented immigrants. There are a number of executive orders in place currently that—while not law—have had a disastrous impact on the Mexican American community. We also ask that activists pay special attention to the effect these policies have on women. These attacks on Mexican immigrants have had unforeseen consequences for women, one of those being a drop in reports of domestic violence and sexual assault for a fear of deportation.

As such, PIR-related posts should pay particular attention to:

- Inform users on legislation around the Trump Administration's threats to the rights of immigrants. This piece can—and should—pay particular attention to the disproportionate impact Trump's executive orders have on women and families. Some of these legislative activities include:
 - The Executive Order Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States: Undocumented Mexican Immigrants
 - The Executive Order Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States: Muslim Ban
 - Trump & Jeff Session's attacks on Sanctuary cities (threats to bring in the National Guard and cut federal funding to these cities)
 - Overview of Immigrant women in the United States and what is at stake
- Educate activists on activities they can take to support the rights of undocumented immigrants
 - NOW's Action Toolkit on Undocumented Mexican Immigrants
 - NOW & ROC's campaign: Sanctuary Restaurants Campaign
 - National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights' Action Page
 - Capitol Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition's Action Page
- Provide information on tools for immigrants to protect their rights and know what to do if they are threatened or detained
 - ACLU's ICE & Border Patrol How-To Page
 - Immigrant Defense Project's ICE Raid Toolkit
 - United We Dream: Deportation Defense Card

Protect Immigrant Rights: Facebook Examples

- The Trump administration has dogmatically persecuted undocumented Mexican immigrants using baseless accusations. This administration's xenophobic and racist rhetoric has devastating consequences on the Mexican American community. Our humanity as global citizens must propel us to work together and fight the bully tactics of Trump administration. To take action, find out more here on NOW's website: now.org/nap/immigrant-rights/

- The attacks on undocumented immigrants has had unforeseen and disastrous consequences for vulnerable women. In March, the city of Los Angeles reported that a number of women are refusing to come forward and report instances of sexual violence in fear of deportation. Click here to find out more about how you can help these women and fight back against tyranny: now.org/nap/immigrant-rights/
- Trump's number one goon, Jeff Sessions, is now threatening to take federal action against Sanctuary cities across the country. Find out how you can support these cities and undocumented immigrants here: now.org/nap/immigrant-rights/
- Trump's February Executive Orders ignore basic human rights and human dignity. Those accused of being undocumented can be deported without due process, arrested without warrants or due cause, or sent to detention camps. This is a clear abuse of power and we will not sit back and watch it happen. To take action against the immigrant ban, click here: now.org/nap/immigrant-rights/
- It's easy to be discouraged about our current political climate, but there is always a way to get involved. Sanctuary Restaurants is a new initiative that supports the rights of undocumented immigrants. Find out how to get involved and sign up your favorite restaurant here: now.org/nap/immigrant-rights/
- Undocumented immigrants are under attack. If you feel that your rights or the rights of those close to you are being threatened, please check out United We Dream's Deportation Defense Card. This wonderful card details what to do if you or a loved one feel threatened. Also it comes in more than five languages!
- In early March, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers performed a raid across central Mississippi restaurants arresting dozens of alleged undocumented immigrants. In these moments, we must all know how to support and help protect the rights of immigrants. The ACLU has provided a comprehensive look at what to do if you or someone you know is being attacked by ICE agents.

Protect Immigrant Rights Twitter Guide

On Twitter, activists have already begun to rally around undocumented immigrants and speak out against the merciless actions of the Trump Administration. NOW encourages activists to join in this dialogue by providing meaningful content that supports burgeoning activists and those being persecuted. Through the dissemination of facts regarding the treatment of undocumented immigrants, stories across the country of ICE raids and border patrol, and tools to help others get involved, activists can continue to hit the Trump Administration from all fronts.

As such, PIR-related tweets should pay particular attention to:

- Information on legislation, how it works, and who it effects
 - There are hundreds of unseen consequences to Trump's Executive Order against undocumented Mexican immigrants. It is imperative that we lay them out for audiences so that they to understand what is actually happening to millions of people

- Disseminating toolkits and actions to other activists
 - Use Twitter to link to actions and activities followers can take to support the rights of undocumented immigrants. These include the Sanctuary Restaurants campaign, the ACLU's toolkit on ICE Raids, and the National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights' Action Page
- Articles and stories that detail the atrocities of Trump's immigration policies
 - An important aspect of discussing immigration currently is to remember that behind every story is a person. We want to drive this home and help create a narrative behind the stories around those being affected by these policies. Therefore, articles that discuss first-person narratives of deportation or raids, stories that document the inhumane treatment of undocumented immigrants should be retweeted. Another important note: If you or anyone you know has been personally affected by the current attacks on immigrants, we encourage you to share your story—if it does not compromise your safety. Every person who is affected by this should have their voices heard.

Protect Immigrant Rights: Twitter Examples

- The Trump administration's attack on immigrants is a cruel tactic to uphold xenophobia; support the rights of immigrants here: now.org/nap/immigrant-rights/
- Horrible: Trump's orders on undocumented immigrants threaten people for offenses as minor as an unpaid parking ticket.
- Priorities: As Trump attempts to cut funding for education, he hires 10,000 additional ICE agents.
- Heartbreaking: Undocumented women across the country are refusing to report instances of sexual assault in fear of deportation:
- Sanctuary Cities will be remembered as those who stood for immigrants and those that stood on the right side of history
- Get active! Support the rights of undocumented immigrants against Trump's tyranny!
- Sanctuary Restaurants is a new campaign that encourages restaurants across the country to support the rights of undocumented workers.
- Protect your rights! Check out @UNITEDWEDREAM and their handy deportation defense card!



Lobby Guide



NOW Recommendations

What is Lobbying?

Lobbying is any act that seeks to hold a group, government official, or elected representative accountable. **Speaking truth to power allows for individuals to become stakeholders in the lawmaking process.** Whether on a local, state, or federal level, if your group wants to shape legislative change, lobbying is the most effective tool in your arsenal.

Ladder of Engagement:

The ladder of engagement illustrates tiers of lobbying. This visual gauges which method of lobbying is most effective for your group.

Tier 5: Facilitate In-Person Lobby Meetings. Meeting with your elected official or their staff puts a face to your issue. This more traditional form of accountability helps to build relationships and facilitates a conversation about your advocacy.

Tier 4: Make Phone Calls. Calling your elected officials allows for a conversation with staffers about a specific bill or cause. Staffers log comments in a data system that gauges constituent opinions.

Tier 3: Write to Elected Officials. By writing to your elected officials, constituents are able to articulate their viewpoints in a concise and impactful way. Staffers skim these letters and log the main points in a system that tracks constituent opinion.

Tier 2: Post on Social Media. Tweets and Facebook Posts hold lawmakers accountable on a public forum. Government officials care about how they are perceived; if enough noise is made on social media, they may be forced to reevaluate their position.

Tier 1: Sign a Petition. This is a low barrier way for activists to engage in issues. By stating your support in writing, staffers log opinions and pass along data to the elected official.

The ABCs of Effective Lobbying:

Accurate

- All information given to staffers must be factually correct, this is important in terms of legitimacy and ethics.
 - If you are not aware of a fact or the answer to a question, let the staffer know and follow up after the meeting.

Brief

- Staffers typically have packed schedules. They are taking time out of their days to have a conversation with you, make sure that your talking points are brief and focused.

Courteous

- Though you might not always agree with a staffer or elected official, it is important to remain professional; you might be able to lean on this connection to make progress on another initiative.

Other Tips to Keep in Mind:

- **Numbers Make a Difference.** Engage as many activists as possible in your lobby initiatives, the more individuals that are involved in your lobby actions, the more impactful
- **Keep Lobby Advocacy within your State or Represented Region.** Though it might seem impactful to reach out to Senators and Representatives from other districts or states, it is not within their purview to record opinions from individuals who are not their constituents.
- **Stay focused on One or Two Issues.** Staffers will most likely only take time to follow up or report the main points. In order to make an impact, focus and narrow your lobby effort on one to two issues.
- **Be Clear About What You Want: Make an Ask.** Clearly relay exactly what you want your elected official to do after the meeting (Vote YES on SB 0000).

Breaking Down Lobby Myths:

- **Meeting with elected officials or their staff is not impactful.** Though expecting direct and immediate change from lobbying might not be realistic, over time your actions stand to make a difference. When lobbying, think of your role as an **educator** and a **relationship builder**, supporting elected officials in their role of understanding constituent views of policy impact.
- **Lobbying is unethical and requires a highly funded operation.** Though constituents might think of lobbying as mechanism of highly funded special interest groups, **grassroots lobbying amplifies** voices and centers constituent opinion in the policy making process.
- **Lobby meetings are intimidating.** Though it can be nerve-racking to speak truth to power, it is a large part of staffers' jobs to meet with constituents. Staffers have thousands of bills and memos that cross their desks, they rely on you as issue experts to narrow this pile and better understand the issues.
- **Lobbying has to take place in Washington D.C.** Though lobby meetings often take place on Capitol Hill, elected officials maintain offices across their represented region. Meeting with staffers in their local office puts a face and a name to issues impacting local constituencies.

How To Write An Op-Ed



What is an Op-Ed?

An Op-ed is a strong and informed opinion column about a specific topic or subject. An op-ed can have a targeted audience or can be written for the general public. Op-eds are usually written by organizations, activists, experts, opinion leaders, or private citizens. The goal of an op-ed is to present a clear and dynamic opinion on an issue that has the capability to **inform** and **engage** the reader.

Dos & Don'ts For Op-Eds

Do stay on message. Before you begin to write, please identify why you are crafting this op-ed. What topic area are you focusing on, why does it matter to you, and who is your targeted audience? The answers to these questions will help inform your writing.

Do know your intended outlet. Every news outlet has a different voice, different demographics, and different guidelines around op-eds. Please familiarize yourself with the outlet's rules before you send them your material.

Do use your own voice and narratives. Your experiences with an issue--immigration, abortion, sex abuse--are important and critical. These personal narratives appeal to audiences, please include that in your op-ed.

Do focus your Op-Ed. Because many of our issues and campaigns are quite broad, it is easy to talk about everything at once. Focus your op-ed on one issue and make sure that you are covering it thoroughly.

Do grab their attention immediately. An attention grabbing opening is the best way to get someone to continue to read. Place emphasis on the first three sentences of your op-ed to set the narrative and to grab the spotlight.

Do know and state the facts. Your opinion is important, but having statistical evidence to support your opinions is critical in formulating a cohesive op-ed. Please make sure that within your column, you are citing relevant facts and stats that drive your point home.

Do bring in topical events and issues. Many of NOW's issue areas and campaigns transcend time. However, it is important to incorporate relevant material. This increases the chances of your op-ed being chosen.

Do use universal language. Writing an op-ed is not the same as writing an academic paper. Most newspaper articles are written on an 8th grade reading level. Attempt to take very high brow concepts and make them palatable and understandable to all audiences.

Do keep it concise. An op-ed should be between 500 and 1000 words. Make sure that every word counts.

Don't forget to edit your own work. You are your harshest critic; make sure that what you send out is the best representation of your writing skills.

Elements of a Good Op-ed for Activists

A) A Strong Introduction: An Introduction that Introduces the Topic, the Issue, and Your Voice.

***New York Times*, 3/14/12, “Why I Am Leaving Goldman Sachs”:**

“Today is my last day at Goldman Sachs. After almost 12 years at the firm — first as a summer intern while at Stanford, then in New York for 10 years, and now in London — I believe I have worked here long enough to understand the trajectory of its culture, its people and its identity. And I can honestly say that the environment now is as toxic and destructive as I have ever seen it.”

Why It Works: It sets the tone of the piece, introduces the author, his perspective, and what he will spend the rest of the column discussing. It is also highly provocative, due to the relatively insular nature of the industry he is writing about. His candor draws you in.

***Washington Post*, 12/4/15, “When Mass Shootings Become Ordinary”:**

“An old love song speaks of “the little ordinary things that everyone ought to do.” That phrase used to cover instructions such as: “Take out the trash,” “brush your teeth,” “close cover before striking,” “striking,” “look both ways before crossing.” Ordinary things.

9/11 changed all that.

Now “things that everyone ought to do” include “remove your shoes” and “leave liquids at home.” And “little ordinary things” involve pat-downs, full-body scans, concrete planters in front of buildings and the horror of the unattended package. No more “none of your business.” Now it’s “see something, say something.” All the ordinary things of our day.

Why It Works: It is dramatic and captivating, using two juxtaposing images to set up the rest of the column. It crafts a specific narrative that places readers in a mindset to ask, “What is normal?”

B) Strong Facts and Statistics About An Issue:

***New York Times*, 8/30/16, “We Need Abortion Laws Based On Science”:**

“...Not only is the law misguided; it also led to worse outcomes for women’s health. We examined medical charts from almost 3,000 patients at four Ohio clinics getting medication abortions before and after the law. After the law, the percentage of patients requiring additional medical treatment rose from 5 percent to 14 percent — including, in some cases, an in-clinic procedure to complete the abortion, which is what many women were trying to avoid by opting for a medication abortion in the first place.

The four clinics we studied saw an 80 percent decline in medication abortions between 2010 and 2014, compared with a 17 percent decline in all abortions over the same time period. Medication abortions declined from 22 percent of all abortions in these clinics in 2010, before the law, to 5 percent after the law in 2014.”

Why it Works: The facts presented in this op-ed are not simply facts derived from the internet, they are facts from a study performed by the writer. They give validity to the author’s argument and lend authority to her voice.

***Cosmopolitan*, 2/21/17, “Our Laws Period-Shame Women—So I’m Going To Change Them”:**

“...You would not believe what female inmates go through to access menstrual hygiene products. The ACLU of Michigan filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of eight female prisoners at Muskegon County Jail because (among other things) the prison denied inmates access to menstrual hygiene products, a condition considered inhumane and degrading. Female inmates in Connecticut only get five pads per week to *split* with their bunkmate, which means they may have to use a single pad for multiple days. I cannot imagine how humiliating that must feel. My bill would require each state to give female inmates and detainees as many tampons or pads as they need, whenever they need them — at no cost.

Why it Works: This op-ed, by elected official Grace Meng, presents the facts in a storytelling fashion. She does not use literal facts and figures, yet she gets the point across by providing different types of examples of the same story.

C) A Clear and Concise Declaration of the Author’s Opinion Regarding the Issue

***Washington Post*, 10/22/15, “Make College Free For All”:**

“In my view, education is essential for personal and national well-being. We live in a highly competitive, global economy, and if our economy is to be strong, we need the best-educated workforce in the world. We won’t achieve that if, every year, hundreds of thousands of bright young people cannot afford to go to college while millions more leave school deeply in debt. We need to ensure that every young person in this country who wishes to go to college can get the education that he or she desires, without going into debt and regardless of his or her family’s income.”

Why It Works: The author of this piece very directly and clearly states his support for free college and articulates why free college is necessary. Going into anecdotal details, the author quickly points to a myriad of points about the need for free college and what he believes the result would be.

***Teen Vogue*, 2/1/17, “I Am A Priest, and I Am Pro-Choice”:**

And that is where the Church can find its point of entry: in offering people making these decisions every measure of mercy they need to live wise and whole lives. It is the act of looking people in the eye and saying, “I trust you. I love you,” not, “My personal religious convictions on this matter should prevent you from seeking out the affordable, safe health care that you need.” This act leads people of faith and goodwill to seek out ways in which we can support and elevate organizations that offer life-saving reproductive health care and education to people of all ages, races, socio-economic levels, sexual orientations, and gender identities, especially organizations like Planned Parenthood and SisterReach.

Why It Works: The author of this piece uses his own identity as a priest to situate his opinion on abortion. He also makes a statement on what he feels the relationship between the very religious and abortion should look like. Finally, he takes careful time to uplift other organizations doing the work.

D) A Personal Anecdote That Grounds The Story and Gives Validity to the Author

***Vice*, 2/8/17, “How Trump’s Travel Ban Hurts Iranian Americans Like Me”:**

“As a high school senior in California, I lived through the events of the 1979 Iranian Revolution and the hostage crisis. For many Americans of Iranian heritage—and especially those who, unlike me, immigrated in the early days of the revolution and the Iran-Iraq War—those events were psychologically scarring and left them feeling between worlds. While I was too young to understand the politics of the fissure between Iran and the US and the reasons for the hostage crisis, I saw clearly how easily the media and Americans’ global ignorance could result in vindictive rhetoric and for some even calling for the “nuking of Iran.”

Why it Works: the author’s exploration of her own identity as both Iranian and American helps cement and secure her place as a voice of authority on these issues.

E) Focusing On The Work

Salt Lake Tribune, 2/4/17, “ACLU Has Never Been More Needed, And Utahns Know It”:

“The staff of the ACLU, at the national level and in each state, are rising to the challenge presented by each new civil liberties threat as it occurs. The pace is exhausting, but we are determined...The ACLU of Utah remains deeply engaged in a years-long battle to bring reform to Utah's public defender system. Substantive denial of legal counsel has been the status quo for far too long in our state, and we are committed to changing that.

In partnership with Racially Just Utah and others, we have fought to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, so that students of color are not be pushed out of school and into the criminal justice system. We have worked with prisoner rights groups and the Department of Corrections to slowly reduce and reorient the use of solitary confinement in state correctional facilities.”

Why It Works: The article lays the groundwork for the ACLU of Utah’s grassroots activism. It also highlights a number of different places that the organization focuses on giving readers a better understanding of some of their campaigns.

How To Write A Letter To The Editor (LTE)

What is a LTE?

A letter to the editor (LTE) is a response to an article or column posted in a magazine. An LTE can come from various sources, private citizens, activists, other journalists, or experts in the issues discussed in the original article. However, LTE's are often most effective when they are crafted by those who have a unique perspective or breadth of knowledge about the subject expressed in the original article. Though LTE's are often take the opposing side of the narrative presented in the original article, they can also be spaces to reaffirm a piece of writing that supports your viewpoint *and* add more context to the position presented.

Dos & Don'ts of the LTE

Do keep it brief. An LTE (unless particularly special circumstances) should be no more that 2 to 3 paragraphs. Anything longer than that should be craft into an op-ed.

Do get to the point quickly. Because LTE's rely on brevity, there is no room for introductions or declarations of who you are.

Do cite the article and author you are responding to in your LTE. Remember to address the author and the content head on, do not beat around the bush.

Remember your tone. What is the general voice of the letter? Humorous? Sardonic? Serious? Whatever tone you decide to write in, make sure that it is consistent.

Do get specific. Use your LTE to highlight specifically problematic language or issues.

Do use facts. While an LTE is a personal response, it is always more potent when quantitative data is included.

Don't insult. It is easy to insult an article or author in an LTE. However, it is more effective (and your work is more likely to be chosen) if you provide a cogent and respectful response.

Do be creative. Use the space you have thoughtfully. Figure out the best way to make your argument while standing out from the dozens of other LTEs.

Do use universal language. Writing an op-ed is not the same as writing an academic paper. Most newspaper articles are written on an 8th grade reading level. Attempt to take very high brow concepts and make them palatable and understandable to all audiences.

Immigrant Rights Resources



General Resources

[ACLU: ICE And Border Patrol Abuses](#)

The ACLU's overview of Immigration Customs & Enforcement's attacks on immigrants; provides comprehensive links to access and help for illegal immigrants.

[Immigrant Defense Project: ICE Raid Toolkits](#)

A toolkit created by the Immigrant Defense Project that goes in depth into what immigrants can do if they have been abused or detained by ICE or border patrol.

[United We Dream: Deportation Defense Card](#)

United We Dream has produced a phone card in more than five languages informing individuals what to do if ICE comes to their private residence.

[Sanctuary Restaurants](#)

The official website of the Sanctuary Restaurants campaign.

Trump's Executive Order on Undocumented Immigrants

[Implementing The President's Border Security And Immigration Enforcement Improvement Policies](#)

DHS' February 20, 2017 memo on new policies regarding the deportment and removal of undocumented immigrants.

[Enforcement Of The Immigration Laws To Serve The National Interest](#)

DHS' second February 20, 2017 memo on the new policies regarding the deportment and removal of undocumented immigrants.

[New Trump Deportation Rules Allow Far More Expulsions.](#)

A comprehensive article on the new policies and ramifications of Trump's Executive Orders on undocumented Mexican immigrants. The article details both the expansion of enforcement and the increased task force.

[Trump's Immigration Crackdown Is Paving The Way For A "Deportation Force."](#)

New York Times article that explores the expansion of Trump's immigration policy and the effect it will have on illegal immigrants within the United States.

[Mexico Says No To Trump's New Deportation Rules](#)

USA Today news article on Mexico's response to Trump's Executive Orders regarding undocumented Immigrants.

[Trump's Deportation Plan Stops Here](#)

A piece from *Slate* that explores the notion of Sanctuary Cities and how cities across the country can resist Trump's immigration ban on illegal Mexican immigrants. The article also gives a general overview of US immigration policies, from the Clinton Administration to Trump.

[Illegal Immigrant Women Face Risks](#)

A *CNN* report from 2010 that discusses a study done by the Southern Law Poverty Center. The study finds that, “Despite their contributions to our economy, these immigrants live at the margins of U.S. society--subsisting on poverty wages, enduring humiliation and exploitation in the workplace, and living in constant fear that their families will be shattered if they are detected”.

[Immigrant Women In The United States](#)

The Migration Policy Institute’s overview of the state of immigrant women in the United States. The document pays special attention to education attainment and labor for immigrant women, showing that immigrant women from Central America have less opportunities for growth than their European counterparts.

Trump’s Executive Order on Muslims

[Trump’s Immigration Ban: Who Is Barred And Who Is Not](#)

A cheat sheet from the *New York Times* on who is granted access to the United States and who is not through the Muslim ban.

[Saudi Arabia And Egypt Are Excluded From Trump’s Ban. Why?](#)

An editorial from *The Guardian* that explores Trump’s financial ties to Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E. and their exclusion from the ban. The article posits that Trump’s personal vested interest in retaining good relations with these countries is the motivating factor in their exclusion.

[Protest Grows “Out Of Nowhere” At Kennedy Airport After Iraqis Are Detained](#)

A recap of the protests that occurred in Kennedy Airport and Reagan International Airport following Trump’s announcement of a Muslim ban and the revelation that two Iraqi men were detained at Kennedy for more than two days.

[Why Trump’s Firing Of Sally Yates Should Worry You](#)

A look into Trump’s sacking of former Attorney General Sally Yates for her refusal to enforce Trump’s Muslim Ban. The *Politico* article explores the unchecked power of Trump and what his quick removal of Yates means for American democracy going forth.

[Oregon Files To Join Washington’s Lawsuit Against Trump Immigration Ban](#)

Review of Oregon state’s January 30, 2017 decision to join Washington state’s temporary restraining order against Trump’s Muslim ban, citing its unconstitutionality.