

# CHALLENGING DEPORTATION AND CREATING COMMUNITIES OF CARE

*Legacies of Asian American Activism*

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**Abstract.** Since the mid-1990s, the scale and frequency of U.S. deportations has been unparalleled, with the raw numbers of deportees significantly higher than in any other period in U.S. history. Disaggregated data of court-ordered removals since 1998 shows that persons from Laos, Vietnam, and Korea have higher average rates of court-ordered deportation compared to other Asian nationalities. Analysis of three historic Supreme Court cases shaping exclusionary immigration policies reveals how the state has repeatedly tried to harm, exclude, and target communities of color, especially Asian immigrants to the U.S. Asian American communities today are grappling with echoes of the exclusionary policies that Chinese organizations sought to mitigate in the late 1800s. Drawing from interviews with leaders of six contemporary Asian American anti-deportation organizations, this paper draws parallels between the struggles and activism by Asian American communities in the nineteenth century and the present. Highlighting current coalition building around mutual aid, legal support, and advocacy campaigns, the paper presents specific calls to action at the organizational, institutional, and individual levels, as well as resources for immediate assistance and information in this moment of mass deportation and state violence.

Since the mid-1990s, the scale and frequency of U.S. deportations has been unparalleled, with the raw numbers of deportees significantly higher than in any previous period in U.S. history. Asians are the fastest-growing undocumented racial group in the U.S., with one in six Asian immigrants having undocumented status.<sup>1</sup> This paper is a response to Kong Pheng Pha's call in the *Journal of Asian American Studies* for activist efforts to situate racism within the violence of everyday culture and within public policies and laws to facilitate intersectional organizing, creating models of care that resist historical erasure.<sup>2</sup> This paper analyzes three historic Supreme Court cases from the nineteenth century involving Asian American activists that shape the forced removal of BIPOC immigrants, and interviews with leaders of six Asian American anti-deportation organizations across the country. Interviews with grassroots organizational leaders and members reveal shared values of coalition and community building in their calls to action at the individual, organizational, and local levels. In incorporating key nineteenth-century immigration legal history and grassroots perspectives, this paper provides practical activist insights into the impact of deportation on Asian American communities and opportunities for community-level responses in the present moment. Ending unjust deportation requires calls to action that are both short-term and long-term to create systemic transformation. The essay concludes with specific and feasible calls to action, ranging from short-term initiatives such as mutual aid and legal defense funding to those who can contribute to broader narrative change, along with a list of resources for immediate assistance and further information.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CURRENT ESCALATION IN DEPORTATION POLICIES

Through a frenzy of executive orders and statements immediately upon regaining control of the White House, the second Trump administration has doubled down on its strategy of targeting immigrant communities, which include the more than 1.7 million undocumented Asians who represent more than 15 percent of the total number of undocumented immigrants in the country.<sup>3</sup> ICE's tactics have included targeting work sites, apartment complexes, nightclubs, schools, churches, and neighborhoods through racial profiling and fear, with the president promising the largest mass deportation effort in the country's history.<sup>4</sup> In January 2025, the Trump administration directed ICE to set a daily rate of immigration arrests at 1,875 per day across its twenty-five field offices, representing almost a threefold increase from the previous high in 2013 during

the Obama administration.<sup>5</sup> These policies also include detainment and trafficking to third countries like Panama, El Salvador, Sudan, and Costa Rica that serve as holding cells for further deportation to Asian countries including Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Vietnam.<sup>6</sup>

To understand the disparate experiences of deportation among Asian groups, disaggregated data from 1998 to 2022 of court-ordered removals, shows which Asian American groups are at higher risk of deportation. Of the eight groups of interest, persons from Laos, Vietnam, and Korea have higher average rates of court-ordered deportation compared to other Asian nationalities. While the data cannot address place-specific differences in deportation policies and their impact on local politics, or the differential rates of deportation for indigenous groups within these populations (for example, Montagnards and Hmong), this chart presents a starting point to compare the deportation experiences of Asian groups across time.

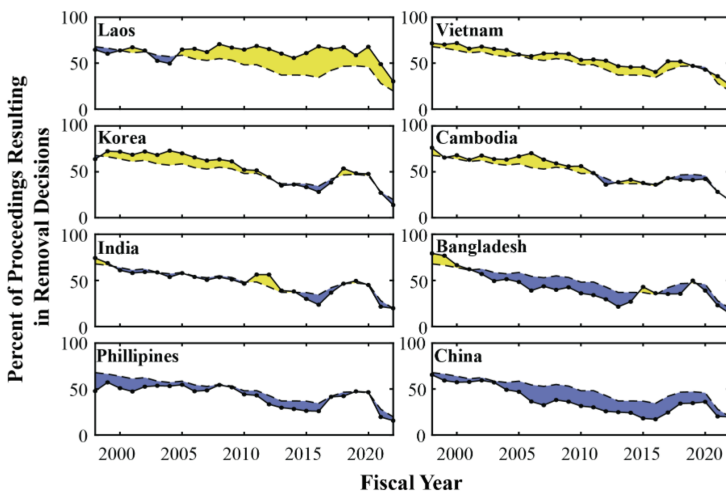


Figure 1. Figure by Huynh. Data are from Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, Immigration, University of Syracuse, Outcomes of Immigration Court Proceedings by Fiscal Year, Nationality, Deportation Cases, <https://tracreports.org/phptools/immigration/closure/>.

*Note:* The figure shows the percentage of proceedings that resulted in removal decisions for the eight countries from 1998 to 2022. The percentage is calculated as the fraction of immigration cases that resulted in deportation orders or voluntary removal in a given fiscal year compared to the total number of immigration cases. The countries are ordered from highest to lowest by their average percentage of proceedings resulting in removal decisions over the studied period of time. The dotted line applied to every country's graph indicates the average percentage of proceedings resulting in removal decisions of the eight countries for each fiscal year. The yellow shading indicates years where the percentage of proceedings resulting in removal is higher for that particular country than the average. Purple shading indicates where the percentage for the particular country is lower than the average. The dots indicate years where data is reported; a missing dot indicates the government did not disclose the data for that year.

Another significant development under this administration is that even immigrants with legal status are being unjustly targeted for detention.<sup>7</sup> This is spearheaded by the historic passage of the Laken Riley Act in January 2025, the first comprehensive immigration reform passed in twenty years through bipartisan support.<sup>8</sup> Estimated to cost up to \$27 billion in its first year, the legislation broadens the purview of mandatory detention by detaining noncitizens indefinitely and preventing their release on bond while their immigration case is pending. The Laken Riley Act enables immigration authorities to detain individuals accused, not convicted, of nonviolent offenses like shoplifting. This has resulted in increased racial profiling of communities of color and the prolonged detention of people innocent of the charges brought against them.<sup>9</sup> While the severity and swiftness of these recent executive and legislative actions appear exceptional, they are linked to a longer history of efforts to exclude Asian immigrants in the U.S. that trace back to the late 1800s and beyond.

### PRECEDENTS FROM ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY: MODERN IMMIGRATION CONTROL THROUGH CHINESE EXCLUSION

Asian American immigrant communities have long been shaped by encounters with detention and deportation through historic legal violence. Three Supreme Court cases from the nineteenth century targeting Asian immigrants for deportation laid the foundation for granting sweeping authority over immigration to the executive and legislative branches, preventing the right to legal counsel or a jury in deportation proceedings, and legitimizing the use of detention as a tool for immigration enforcement.

In the 1889 Supreme Court case of *Chae Chan Ping v. US*, the Court ruled that excluding immigrants from entering the country was an extension of U.S. government sovereignty, upholding the constitutionality of the 1888 Scott Act. This case prohibited the return of U.S. resident Chinese laborers after visiting China, strengthening the powers of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.<sup>10</sup> Ping, a Chinese migrant working in San Francisco for twelve years, took a brief trip back to Hong Kong to see his family. With the Scott Act signed into law while he was traveling, Ping was detained onboard the ship and prohibited from reentering the U.S. The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (also known as the Chinese Six Companies) in San Francisco led a mutual aid effort to pay for Ping's legal representation and litigation costs.<sup>11</sup> His lawsuit was part of a broader effort by the Chinese American community to combat exclusionist

policies targeting Chinese immigrants.<sup>12</sup> The Court determined that Congress's decision to revoke reentry certification was "conclusive upon the judiciary," establishing that Congress and the president hold "absolute" authority over immigrant entry and exclusion.<sup>13</sup> The Supreme Court wrote in its response that it was the federal government's "highest duty" to protect its people from "vast hordes" of migrants "crowding in upon us."<sup>14</sup> This case has been foundational to setting a precedent for immigration law: that any law passed by Congress concerning immigration—even those that would be unconstitutional if applied to citizens—is not subject to judicial challenge.

A second seminal case shaping immigration control today is from 1893, when the Supreme Court heard its first deportation case, *Fong Yue Ting v. US*. Ting lived and worked in New York City for fourteen years as a launderer and was a founding organizer of the Equal Rights League in the Chinese community, challenging the Geary Act, which extended and bolstered the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.<sup>15</sup> The Chinese American community in New York City had attempted to resist the Geary Act by public declarations to boycott the registration requirement for certificates of residence and raising legal funds for individuals such as Fong Yue Ting, whose case was carefully selected to test the limits of the law.<sup>16</sup>



Figure 2. Photograph of Chae Chan Ping, National Archives, NAID: 348093145.

Law enforcement officials arrested Ting as he was protesting the legislation along with other Chinese organizers in 1887 because he did not have a resident certificate.<sup>17</sup> Ting's lawyers argued that deporting long-term residents of the U.S. was morally deplorable and unconstitutional and that prospective deportees have the right to trial by jury.<sup>18</sup> The Supreme Court disagreed, ruling that removal was not a criminal punishment and that any immigrant without a resident certificate could be removed without a trial. The court asserted that because deportation was not banishment or punishment for a crime, due process and other constitutional rights did not apply. If dissenters had written the majority opinion for *Fong Yue Ting*, our immigration system could have many more protections for lawful permanent residents today—including the right to a jury in deportation proceedings and the right to legal counsel for permanent residents facing removal.<sup>19</sup> The Supreme Court has cited this case over eighty times, suggesting its significance in determining immigration control.<sup>20</sup>



Figure 3. Photograph of Wong Wing, National Archives, NAID: 152933581.

Immigrant detention was first debated in the case of 1896 *Wong Wing v. US*. Wong Wing, Lee Poy, Lee You Tong, and Chan Wah Dong were laborers working in a cigar factory in Detroit when they were charged with being unlawfully present in the U.S.<sup>21</sup> They were ordered to be imprisoned at hard labor in the Detroit House of Correction for sixty days and then removed to China. They

sued, arguing that even if they could be lawfully deported, their incarceration violated the fifth and sixth amendments without full criminal justice process.<sup>22</sup>

Though smaller in size than their counterparts in San Francisco and New York City, the Chinese community in Detroit also engaged in organized legal defense to support Wong, starting from the federal courthouse in Detroit to the Supreme Court.<sup>23</sup> However, the Supreme Court ruled that detaining immigrants was not a criminal punishment. While this case affirmed the judicial rights of noncitizens for criminal punishments such as imprisonment at hard labor, it created the civil immigration detention system, whereby immigrant detention is not protected by due process rights. Despite the successful effort by the Chinese community to prevent Wong and his colleagues from imprisonment, the case placed immigration in a separate government bureaucracy, allowing federal authorities to have the authority to use detention to enforce immigration laws.<sup>24</sup>

Through the cases above, the nineteenth-century Supreme Court granted the legislative and the executive branches nearly unrestrained power to exclude, deport, and detain noncitizens, which continues to impact immigration policy today. To date, these cases have enabled the U.S. government to forcibly remove nearly 50 million people from the country—often without the protections that would accompany criminal prosecution—and have set the groundwork for disparities in deportation rates, not only between Asians and other racial groups, but also within Asian immigrant communities.<sup>25</sup> In addition to funding lawsuits through mutual aid, Chinese American community organizations have engaged in a variety of strategies to resist against exclusionary policies, including mass protests in cities such as San Francisco, petition campaigns collecting thousands of signatures to Congress and state legislatures, as well as appeals to public opinion in newspapers and pamphlets.<sup>26</sup> A closer look at the way Asian Americans are responding to deportation and removal today can inform activism and movement building.

## **SYNTHESIZING CALLS TO ACTION FROM ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

Immigration statistics and these Supreme Court cases demonstrate how current policies are rooted in legacies of exclusion, systemic racism, and activism in the Asian American community. There are clear parallels between the struggles faced by Chinese immigrants to the U.S. in the nineteenth century—deportation without due process, criminalization without full legal protections, and the separation of families—and the experiences of Asian American communities

today. Akin to how Chinese organizations like the Six Companies organized legal defense funds and publicly challenged exclusionist policies in the late 1800s, Asian American organizers today are weaving together networks of mutual aid, legal support, and advocacy campaigns to support the historically marginalized immigrant communities that the Trump administration is targeting.

The remainder of this paper centers calls to action from conversations with activists and staff members from Asian American activist organizations. While numerous Asian American organizations collaborate in coalitions across the U.S. to fight deportation, we chose a sample that varied by region and scope. Many of the organizers we spoke with emphasized the need to adopt a holistic approach to liberation, address intersectional oppressions, plan short-term change through direct services, and enact systemic transformation through education, narrative shifts, and policy reform. Organizers working on combatting unjust deportation policies emphasized community care and refuge, as one activist explained:

An emphasis on community refuge means that every time a person is deported, that is one less neighbor you have. We are all impacted by Customs Border Protection. That is the son of your favorite bánh mì shop. That's the owner of the laundromat you go to. So how would you feel if you were taken away from your community? When Southeast Asian refugees first came here, we had to take care of each other. We always shared food with each other. We started businesses through community mutual aid. The state has never taken care of us; if anything, it has repeatedly tried to harm us. So how can we go back to our roots of taking care of each other and recognizing that all of us are vital building blocks to our community, regardless of the mistakes people have made?

The immigration statistics and Supreme Court cases discussed earlier are evidence of how the state has repeatedly tried to harm, exclude, and target communities of color, especially Asian immigrants to the U.S. In the absence of recognition or support from the government, a robust network of community level support built on resilience and solidarity has aided Asian immigrants for more than two centuries. Thus, while a long-term transformation of the U.S. immigration and criminalization system as well as narrative change about Asian undocumented immigrants are critical, this paper addresses the question, what can those of us in the Asian American community—both scholars and activists—do in the meantime? Below, we summarize the immediate calls to action based on interviews with six organizational leaders and staff, as well as organizational descriptions.



## ORGANIZATIONS:

### ***Woori Juntos (Houston, TX)***

Woori Juntos (a combination of Korean and Spanish that translates to “we together”) works to empower impacted Asian and immigrant communities across Texas through culturally competent services, education, organizing, and advocacy. Their programs focus on meeting the needs of and organizing low-income seniors, youth, and families affected by unjust immigration policies.

<https://woorijuntos.org/>

### ***VietLead (Philadelphia, PA)***

VietLead is a grassroots community organization that seeks to build working class Vietnamese and Southeast Asian community power in solidarity with Black and brown Philadelphians through a vision and strategy for self-determination, social justice, and cultural resilience. Their Community Defense program organizes formerly incarcerated Southeast Asian refugees living with final orders of removal in the United States to create community-based solutions against ICE detentions and deportations through case management, leadership development, and policy advocacy.

<https://www.vietlead.org/about>

### ***Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL)***

Founded in 1983, AJSOCAL is the nation’s largest legal and civil rights organization for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. By offering free legal help, engaging in impact litigation and advocating for policy change, AJSOCAL prioritizes the most vulnerable members of AAPI communities while fostering advocacy for civil rights and social justice.

<https://ajsocal.org>

### ***Minnesota 8 (Saint Paul, MN)***

Minnesota 8 is a community-led organization dedicated to ending detention and deportation within Southeast Asian communities. They are a political home for Asian Americans to build collective power, provide direct services and support, and aim for liberation from the cycle of trauma from state-sponsored violence.

<https://minnesota8.org/>

***SEARAC (Washington, DC)***

SEARAC is a national civil rights organization that builds power with diverse communities from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. They focus on education, immigration, and data equity. Their goal is to advocate for the reform of outdated and unjust immigration laws, push for gubernatorial clemencies, and uphold civil rights in the incarceration and immigration systems.

<https://searac.org/>

***SEAC (Charlotte, NC)***

SEAC, or the Southeast Asian Coalition, is a grassroots organization that focuses on empowering Southeast Asian communities through cultural and civic education, youth and leadership development, and community organizing. They work to address social justice issues by centering the needs of Southeast Asian, Black, Indigenous, and LGBTQIA+ people.

<https://www.seacvillage.org/>

***Individual:***

- Get involved by sharing your time, energy, and resources with a community organization—local efforts are especially needed to monitor, document, and/or verify ICE activity.
- Support mutual aid and legal defense funding—donate financially to organizations providing case management to Asian American communities.
- Attend a high-quality Know Your Rights Training, which is often sponsored by a local immigration advocacy organization.

***Organizational:***

- Create emergency preparedness plans for ICE in your workplace—businesses, religious institutions, organizations, and private spaces—and create a policy to protect employees and green card holders.
- Develop and communicate an ICE deterrence and response plan to your employees. For example, businesses could consider placing signs on their doors that read “Private” or

“Employees Only.” Do not allow federal agents in without a valid judicial warrant.

- Train teams and employees on their constitutional rights.
- Dedicate and/or reallocate more money to mutual aid—financial support can help cover the high cost of hiring a lawyer, as well as support family members who cannot go to work due to the risk of detention.

### **Local:**

- Prioritize building local community coalitions and strengthen local government responses to ICE activities. Many organizations are attempting to prohibit state and local law enforcement from using state resources for civil immigration enforcement.
- For those living in Blue States—demand local state government to build protections for immigrants, even if you will be challenged in court. For example, Mayor Jim Kenney sought to keep Philadelphia a sanctuary city during the first Trump administration despite warnings from the Department of Justice.<sup>27</sup> Other more recent examples from include California legislation to increase transparency and accountability:
  - SB 627 (No Secret Police Act): This bill introduced in 2025 would require law enforcement to wear visible identification.<sup>28</sup>
  - SB 805 (No Vigilantes Act): Publicly announced in June 2025, this bill would ban use of bounty hunters in immigration enforcement and require visible identification.<sup>29</sup>
  - AB 49 (Immigration Enforcement at Schoolsites): Under state committee review, this bill would prevent ICE from entering schools/childcare centers without valid identification, judicial warrant, and written statement of purpose.<sup>30</sup>
- For those living in Red States—advocate local government officials not to collaborate with ICE, citing the risk of trust and cohesion with immigrant communities.

There were several key recommendations that emerged across the individual, organizational, and local levels: increasing awareness about recent legislative initiatives, sharing resources, and having intentional conversations to promote narrative change regarding immigrants and criminality. Specifically, interviewees highlighted the following national initiatives and protections through litigation and policy reform that have been proposed in recent years:

- **The New Way Forward Act**<sup>31</sup>

This bill would roll back harmful immigration laws, including removing deportation as a second punishment for certain convictions, ending mandatory detention, banning for-profit jails, ending automatic deportation, and providing people who have been deported an opportunity to return home. It was last referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement in 2023 and has not advanced further.

- **The Southeast Asian Deportation Relief Act**<sup>32</sup>

This bill would impact DHS's ability to deport Southeast Asian refugees who arrived in the U.S. before 2008. It would give greater protections to those with orders of removal, including establishing virtual ICE check-ins rather than in-person check-ins, and lengthen the time between check-ins to every five years. It would also provide a pathway for those Southeast Asian refugees who have been previously deported to return home and allow those with deportation orders to challenge them and remain in the U.S. It was introduced in 2023–2024 but did not pass the House or the Senate.

- **OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates v. Rubio:**

This 2025 class action lawsuit opposes efforts to strip citizenship from U.S.-born children. It is in response to Trump's Executive Order that denies citizenship to children born in the U.S. to parents who are undocumented or hold temporary visas.<sup>33</sup>

In addition, over sixty organizations, including the Japanese American Citizens League, the Fred Korematsu Center, and the Asian Law Caucus, filed amicus briefs in June 2025, challenging the discriminatory use of the Alien

Enemies Act for mass deportation and urging the courts to heed the lessons of Japanese incarceration.<sup>34</sup> Familiarizing oneself with these bills and litigation efforts and participating in efforts to reintroduce them in Congress could be a concrete way to take action.

Furthermore, given the rising levels of misinformation and disinformation about immigrants, organizers highlighted the importance of uplifting stories of immigrants. At the same time, interviewees warned against promoting a “good vs. bad” immigrant narrative that only portrays a select few as deserving to stay in the U.S.; instead, they encouraged fostering critical discourse that can disentangle and reveal the systemic issues affecting all members of a community, including the administration’s expansion of criminality. While immigration policies of the past century have allowed immigrants from more countries to enter the U.S., the misleading binary of deserving and undeserving continues to hamper the image of immigrants as a whole, as well as solidarity between groups.

Asian American communities today are grappling with echoes of the exclusionary policies that Chinese organizations sought to mitigate in the late 1800s. The first part of this paper linked the contemporary crackdown on immigrants under the current administration to the history of exclusionary immigration laws that have detained and profiled Asian immigrants based on race and national origin.

While the racialization of illegality for Mexican and other Latinx groups in the U.S. frames perceptions of who is deportable, Asians without legal status should also be brought into the conversation and prospects for intersectional coalition building.<sup>35</sup> The interviews with community organizations, however, suggest that rather than succumbing to an “us vs. them” mindset, many Asian American communities have coalesced around the current deportation crisis for solidarity and collective action. There is power that is generated from having conversations within communities, as well as across racial and political lines. Deportation is intimately linked with struggles for racial and economic justice. At a time when many immigrants are being hyper-criminalized, experiencing unjust detention and expedited removal, it is more important than ever to reflect on the values of the organizations interviewed here: that we find refuge in each other and shelter in our communities.

## LIST OF SUGGESTED RESOURCES

### 1. Contact Resources for Those Facing Removal

#### a. **Asian Americans Advancing Justice:**

Resource directory with U.S.-based organizations by language and state: <https://asianresourcehub.org/resources>

Immigration Relief Services for free legal screening:

email [immrelief@ajsocal.org](mailto:immrelief@ajsocal.org) or call

English/Other: 888-349-9695

普通话 / 广东话 (Chinese): 800-520-2356

한국어 (Korean): 800-867-3640

Tagalog (Filipino): 855-300-2552

ภาษาไทย (Thai): 880-914-9583

हिन्दी (Hindi) : 855-971-2552

ខ្មែរ (Khmer): 800-867-3126

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese): 714-477-2958

**b. Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center:** Legal Assistance: 202-393-3572 (available in Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Vietnamese, and Korean); Email: [helpline@apalrc.org](mailto:helpline@apalrc.org); Website: <https://www.apalrc.org/contact>

**c. National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC)** Confidential Immigration Hotline (available in English and Korean): 844-500-3222

**c. Asian Law Caucus' Resources for Southeast Asians:** <https://www.asianlawcaucus.org/news-resources/guides-reports/resources-southeast-asian-refugees-facing-deportation>

### 2. Emergency Preparedness Plans

**a. Immigrant Legal Resource Center:** [https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/Step-by-Step%20Family%20Preparedness%20Plan\\_ENG\\_FULL\\_Nov%202024.pdf](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/Step-by-Step%20Family%20Preparedness%20Plan_ENG_FULL_Nov%202024.pdf)

- b. **United We Dream:** <https://unitedwedream.org/resources/stay-ready-with-a-preparedness-packet/>
- c. **National Immigration Law Center's Guide on "If You Are Detained by ICE":** <https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration>

### 3. Know Your Rights

- a. **WeHaveRights' Guide on How to Interact with ICE** (multilingual): <https://www.wehaverights.us>
- b. **ACLU's Guide on How to Interact with ICE:** <https://www.aclu.org/we-have-rights?redirect=we-have-rights>
- c. **ACLU's Know Your Rights Scenario-by-Scenario:** <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights>
- d. **NAKASEC's Know Your Rights** app for iPhone and Android: includes features such as reading one's rights out loud (such as to a law enforcement agent), sending a message to an emergency contact, looking up the nearest consulate, and helping create a family preparedness plan (available in 18 languages)
- e. **Immigrant Legal Resource Center's Red Cards:** lists constitutional rights regardless of immigration status (available for order in 39 languages): <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>
- f. **Stop AAPI Hate's "Know Your Rights | What to Do If ICE Stops You or Comes to Your Home":** <https://stopaapihate.org/2025/03/21/know-your-rights-with-ice>
- g. **National Immigration Law Center's Know Your Rights Resource on "What to Do if You Are Arrested or Detained by Immigration"** (available in Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese): <https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration>

4. Contact Resources for More Information on Immigration Support
  - a. **Collective Freedom:** Supports community members who have final orders of removal to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. They assist in navigating the threat of deportation, strategize for the opportunity to remain with their families and communities, and provide information on deportation preparation including resettlement in Southeast Asia, <https://www.collective-freedom.org>
  - b. **Ba Lo Project (Vietnam):** helping returning Vietnamese with reintegration and building community, <https://www.baloproject.org>
  - c. **KVAVO (Cambodia):** An NGO that provides transitional and reentry support to individuals deported to Cambodia. They lost USAID funding in 2025, but they are still trying to help people with getting identification cards to work and reintegration resources, <https://www.kvao.org>
  - d. **Immigrant Legal Resource Center:** <https://www.ilrc.org>
  - e. **New Light Wellness:** <https://www.newlightwellness.org>
  
5. Resources for Families and Friends
  - a. **National Immigration Law Center's** "How to Find a Loved One After a U.S. Immigration Arrest": <https://www.nilc.org/resources/how-to-find-a-loved-one-after-a-u-s-immigration-arrest>
  - b. **Immigrant Legal Resource Center's Step-by-Step Family Preparedness Plan** (translations available in Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Chinese): <https://www.ilrc.org/resources/step-step-family-preparedness-plan>
  - c. **Convergence Magazine, "How to Support Immigrant Communities During ICE Raid":** <https://convergencemag.com/articles/how-to-support-immigrant-communities-during-ice-raids>
  - d. **Immigrant Justice's Resource on "If Your Friend or Family Member Is Detained":** <https://immigrantjustice.org/for-immigrants/know-your-rights/what-do-if-you-or-loved-one-detained>



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