

1. DON'T "OUT" PEOPLE WHO ARE UNDOCUMENTED.

This information in the wrong hands can be life or death. If it isn't 100% absolutely necessary information, don't include it, don't bring it up, and don't ask. Even if it is already public information, you never know who is listening or reading, or what their intentions are. Also consider this when choosing where to do voter registration drives where people may feel pressured to disclose their status.

2. DON'T "OUT" AREAS WHERE UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE LIVE.

Example: "We are going to organize/reach out to people in X neighborhood, because there is large undocumented population there." Did I need to know that? No I didn't. And ICE doesn't need to find out either. Keep that to yourselves and those you are working with. If you were not explicitly asked by undocumented people there to organize with them, what business do you have going and making a bunch of noise there? Are you 100% familiar with how to protect their information, communicate safely and securely, and execute their safety and emergency plans? Probably not. Organize your own folks to leverage the resources and power you have.

3. DON'T PRIORITIZE APPEARING AS THOUGH YOU ARE "CENTERING THOSE MOST AFFECTED" ABOVE NOT GETTING THOSE "MOST AFFECTED" DEPORTED.

Political gatekeeping and tokenizing, especially in the social justice and nonprofit community, leads to safety issues. Citizens- do not pressure undocumented people to out themselves or appear publicly just so you look like good allies or that you are "Centering those most affected." Most of y'all "center" people publicly without "centering" them in the decision making anyway (but thats none of my business). While there is nothing to suggest that this individual was pressured to speak in any way, in order to communicate the seriousness of this advice, it's important to share that a DACA recipient was recently detained by ICE shortly after doing a press conference about fears of deportation. Update: They are deporting the DACA recipient without a hearing. Centering people includes way more than just physically having them show up to stuff. It also means centering their needs, risks, and boundaries when you are organizing.

4. DON'T LIST BUILD IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

Lots of events, workshops, know-your-rights type events are happening around immigration and documentation.



DON'T GET YOUR UNDOCUMENTED FRIENDS IN TROUBLE: A HOW-TO

Many US Citizens take our citizenship for granted. It's something most of us never worry about or think about, and the majority of us have never experienced life without it. As a consequence, we are incredibly out of touch with what privileges come with citizenship and what our impact as citizens can have on our undocumented friends and neighbors.

If we are serious about defending DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), organizing against ICE raids and detention centers, and exploring other ways to exercise allyship with undocumented folks, there are precautions we must take.

Organizing against deportations and the forces that carry them out is not like campaigning for a candidate, an initiative, or other causes we may all have experiences with- the risk is much higher. While organizing efforts may very well include politicians and initiatives, the nature of the work means that if we are not careful, we can literally get our colleagues, friends, and their families locked up or deported.

**You should not consider the following list legal advice nor an exhaustive list of precautions to take. If there are undocumented people in your lives or on your campaigns, someone should be reaching out to get familiar with their personal boundaries, risk levels, and safety plans.*

Consider doing away with the sign in sheet (there is no grant or money in the world more important than peoples actual lives). There is only so much information you really need to collect for contact information. Phone numbers, addresses, things like that are more than likely none of your business. This includes taking photos of rooms where undocumented people are gathering.

5. PROTECT YOUR LISTS AS IF YOUR OWN DEPORTATION DEPENDED ON IT. If you are going to have a sign in sheet anyway or other list of some sort, someone should be watching it all times. No one in the organization should have access who doesn't need to. It should be destroyed as the soonest opportunity.

6. DON'T PUT YOUR OWN NAME ON LISTS. For example: Is there a link you can sign onto if you want to volunteer to protect undocumented people by keeping them in your home? Don't fucking sign things saying you're going to violate the law. I shouldn't have to say this. It's one thing to put your email on a chain to keep up with updates from the white house or local organizations, but it's another to put your name on a list of people who are helping people do things the federal government explicitly does not want. I don't care how reputable the organization is. Information gets compromised. Don't do it.

7. SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO ON YOUR OWN, AND YOU SHOULD.

You don't need to join a church to keep someone in your house. You don't even have to tell anyone that you are doing it. You shouldn't tell anyone you are doing it. You should definitely not brag to anyone about it for ally points or street-cred. You would be putting yourself at legal risk, but more importantly, are endangering the person or family you are trying to help. If you can do sneaky shit like keep someone in your house (or finance it for someone else), keep your name off lists saying you want to do that. Do it because it's the right thing to do, not because you want to make sure people know how hardcore you are. Just do it and tell nobody. Create systems of anonymity if you and close friends are organizing it.

8. UNDERSTAND THAT HOMELAND SECURITY, ICE, AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES ARE NOT LIKE YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Surveillance is real and so is the number of times both police departments and federal agencies have broken their own rules and laws to get the job done. When I say real, I mean malware on cell phones to collect data undetected, undercover pretending to be activists

and organizers, ICE agents pretending to be undocumented, and so forth. ICE can also “ghost” a cellphone to pretend to be people close to undocumented folks and/or lure them into custody. I don’t care how many of your friends are police officers or if you live in a sanctuary city. Your University or College could be a sanctuary campus, but they will still hand over every undocumented student they know of if the law requires it (don’t just believe me, ask your institution yourself). Don’t talk to them about your activities with undocumented friends, look into the kind of technology that ICE, Homeland Security, the FBI, and so on use to conduct their operations and adjust accordingly- while local police are still becoming more and more militarized, these agencies have them beat by a long shot.

9. STOP FUCKING INVITING YOUR UNDOCUMENTED FRIENDS TO THE DETENTION CENTER.

This is for my local folks. My bright-eyed bushy-tailed “just want to do some good” PNW softies. The Northwest Detention Center is Homeland Security territory and you can bet getting close to it or regularly attending events there lands you on a sweet list, potentially along with cellphone data, biometric information, and so on. “But an undocumented person invited me there, they always speak!” If you want stand at the detention center and risk your information then fine. But don’t bring your undocumented friends into the net of those who seek to capture them (whose information can also be compromised). The undocumented organizers who have been there for years have an incredible amount of political connections and lawyers- a safeguard most don’t have. There isn’t a damn thing that happens outside that detention center that Homeland Security doesn’t know every detail about. Who is going, what those people do for work, where they live, what they look like, the agenda, the times, the threat level. It’s their job. Undocumented people should be informed of the risks of participating in these places. Sometimes undocumented people go because they don’t know the risks. For example, sometimes when you go some weird guy you’ve never seen before is shuffling around the protest with google glass on and logging stuff into an iPad. That’s weird, people. Don’t bring your undocumented friends there. There are other things happening in the community.

10. DONOTCOMMUNICATEABOUTSENSITIVE ISSUES AROUND DOCUMENTATION, IMMIGRATION, ETC ON PHONES OR DIGITAL DEVICES, LET ALONE THE INTERNET.

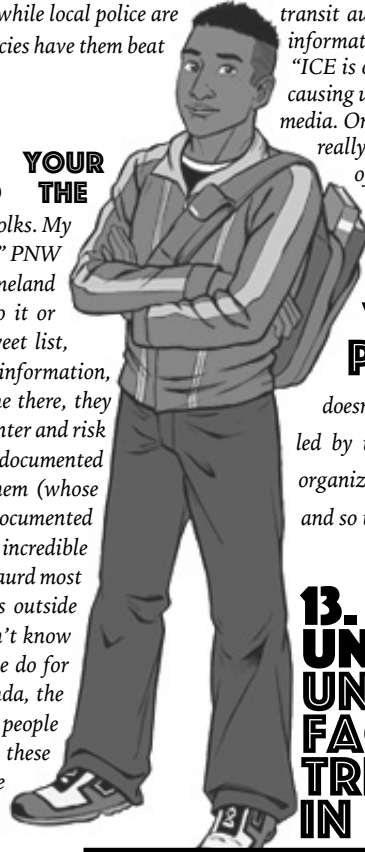
All that being said, your proximity to the detention center doesn’t totally exempt you from the surveillance or its consequences. Like any other activity you wouldn’t want the government having evidence of, keep it completely off of phone conversations, digital devices, and the internet. Malware is bad. Imagine getting any one of your phones, computers, laptops, tablets, or other devices scooped up with a court order or worse, seized at the border- something border patrol can do at any time. This includes searches of your social media feeds, messages, etc. If you use your fingerprint to unlock your phone, switch to an actual passcode. Legally your fingerprint is considered biometric data and is not protected, so they can force you to unlock your phone with your fingerprint. Not so with a passcode. Again, you shouldn’t be putting any potentially compromising information on your phone anyway, but safety first.

☑ THIS INCLUDES YOUR ENCRYPTED APPS LIKE SIGNAL.

☑ THIS INCLUDES YOUR EMAIL SERVERS LIKE RISEUP.NET.

☑ THIS INCLUDES SLACK.

I DON’T CARE WHAT YOUR CODER OR ANARCHIST FRIENDS SAID. **DON’T TALK ABOUT SENSITIVE SHIT ON THE INTERNET.**



11. DO NOT SPREAD INFORMATION THAT YOU ARE NOT COMPLETELY SURE IS ACCURATE AND VERIFIED.

Creating unjustified fear and paranoia can only make things worse, and is a form of control that we should not accidentally participate in. Many posts are going around without sources, without clear photos of logos and emblems (police and transit authorities being mistaken for ICE) etc. In addition to being verified, information should be time-stamped with location (including state). A basic “ICE is on the metro” post can get spread to metro areas all around the nation causing unnecessary panic. Do not post media of undocumented people on social media. Only videotape what is necessary and destroy what isn’t needed. There’s really no reason for you to have extensive photo or video footage of gatherings of undocumented folks. If they are hosting the event, they are perfectly capable of arranging their own photographers or videographers and likely already have.

12. DON’T POST PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

It doesn’t matter if you see them posting photos of themselves or organizations led by undocumented people posting photos or videos. I have heard large organizations recently retort that its “legal” to video tape “any public event” and so they will continue to do so- y’all are assholes. Cut it out.

13. TAKE THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND ALL THE RISK UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE FACE & HOW THEY ARE TREATED IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM.

White citizens- This is not like ratting out your buddy if you get caught shoplifting from Forever21. They do not get a fine or a night in jail or community service. Undocumented people do not have the same rights as citizens. Undocumented people can be held in the detention center indefinitely. Undocumented people, except in very specific circumstances, do not have the right to a public defender, or any lawyer. The risks you would usually consider are not the same. Learn about them!

14. DON’T ASK UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE TO TAKE COORDINATED ARRESTS.

If there is a time for political theater, now is not it. Do not ask your undocumented friends or rank-and-file to willingly give themselves to the legal system or draw attention to themselves so you can raise money or make a point. As a reminder, this is not a complete list nor are risk levels the same for all undocumented people. There are extra considerations and risks according to race, class, gender, and so on. We should not let fear and paranoia paralyze us from action or lead us to engage in patronizing behaviors, but we also should not treat the movement to protect the safety and dignity of our undocumented friends and family without the precaution and respect they deserve.

BY: FELICIA JARVIS.
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THIS ADVICE WAS WRITTEN IN COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL LEADERS FROM THE WASHINGTON DREAM COALITION, AN ORGANIZATION LED BY UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH.