



JEWISH COALITION *for*
IMMIGRANT JUSTICE NW

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My garden fills with flowers yet my heart fills with frustration. So much suffering, so much injustice. The world is going in the wrong direction and often I feel hopeless, overwhelmed. Maybe you do as well. Rabbi Tarfon speaks to me - "It is not your responsibility to finish the labor, yet you are also not free to avoid it." So we read the newsletter and go to committee meetings and make donations and call our representatives and look for many other ways to make a difference. We do what we can, we do not turn away from the struggle. –Beth Fine

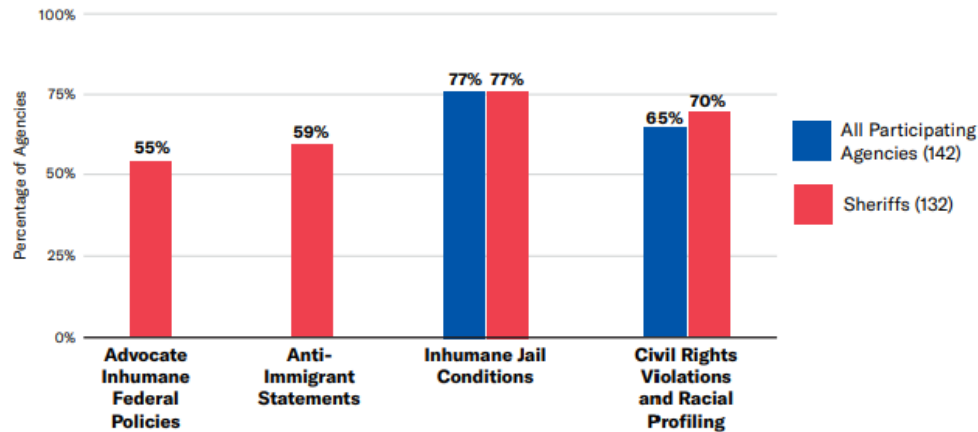
TAKE ACTION

License to Abuse: The Evidence Mounts that ICE's 287(g) Program Is Rooted In Racism

A recent ACLU report, [License to Abuse: How ICE's 287\(g\) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs and Civil Rights Violations](#) lays out in detail how racism is embedded in the law enforcement contracts between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies known as the 287(g) program. **President Biden as a candidate pledged to eliminate 287(g) contracts initiated under Trump – but currently, over 140 contracts with state and local law enforcement agencies are still in effect.** Note: 287(g) contracts do not exist in Washington State due to our advocacy to pass Keep Washington Working and Courts Open to All. The ACLU's report found, for example, that 57% of participating sheriffs have records of xenophobic rhetoric. 65% of participating agencies have records of racial profiling. 77% of participating agencies are involved with running inhumane jails, setting up the potential for profiteering by detaining as many community members as possible. The report

notes: “Some law enforcement agencies with 287(g) agreements also have detention contracts with ICE, essentially renting space to ICE for detention. When an agency has both a 287(g) agreement and a detention agreement with ICE, it has a dangerous profit incentive.”

FIGURE 2
Records of Identified Abuses Among 287(g) Agencies



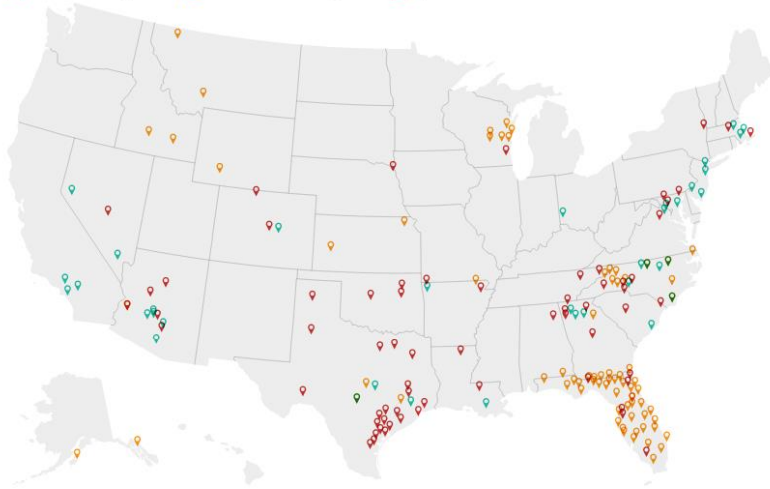
ACLU Research Report

The ACLU also flags that sheriffs’ status as elected officials heightens the potential for abuse of the position. Whereas police chiefs are appointed officials who can be removed by a mayor or city council, a sheriff can only be removed by the voters at the next election. Working without oversight, their actions are not subject to scrutiny or accountability.

ICE’s 287(g) program allows state and local law enforcement agencies to partner with ICE, “prioritizing the arrest and detention of criminal noncitizens.” Described by ICE as a “force multiplier,” the program has swept up individuals without criminal records into the ICE system. A 2021 General Accounting Office audit found that ICE’s priority appeared to be to sign as many such agreements as possible, whether or not they would advance ICE’s strategic objectives for the program. State and local governments assume the lion’s share of costs associated with implementing the 287(g) program, diverting resources from other law enforcement priorities. Municipal governments have found 287(g) expensive to implement and not cost-effective.

National Map of 287(g) Agreements

■ Jail Enforcement Agreements ■ Warrant Service Officer Agreements ■ Agreements that Ended



For links to individual MOAs, see [www.ice.gov/287\(g\)](http://www.ice.gov/287(g))
Map: ILRC - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

According to the US Justice Department, the 287(g) program has amplified the use of racial profiling. For example, the [American Immigration Council reports](#) that in one North Carolina County, “The investigation found that the sheriff’s deputies set up checkpoints at entrances to Latino neighborhoods; that Latino drivers were up to 10 times more likely to be stopped than non-Latino drivers; and that Latino drivers were often arrested for traffic violations for which non-Latino drivers received only citations.”

Other problems reported included that half of people detained under the program did not have serious criminal offenses on their record, instead being held for traffic violations. The availability of detention beds was also tied to the misuse of 287(g). A greater number of available beds was associated with detention of people without criminal records or with minor citations such as traffic offenses.

ICE does not provide guidance or standards to participating jurisdictions, and the administration of 287(g) is woefully inconsistent. Trainings by ICE have been inadequate in terms of content and trainee oversight.

The biggest casualty of 287(g) has been the devolution of trust, particularly between the Latinx community and law enforcement. Law enforcement relies on this trust to maintain public safety and solve crimes. 287(g) has also diverted local law enforcement dollars from programs with proven efficacy to one with no guidance, benchmarks or discernible purpose beyond targeting immigrant community members.

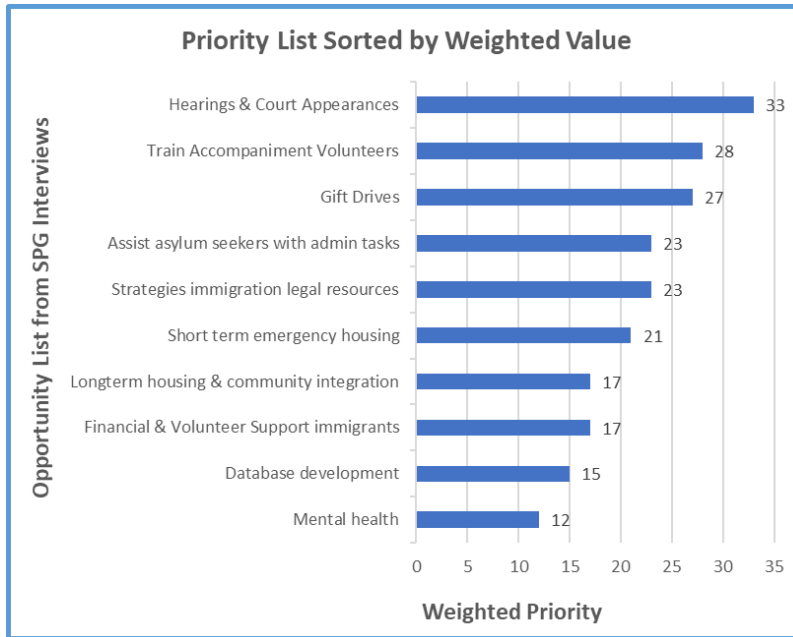
Write the Biden Administration telling them to end 287(g) [here](#).

COMMITTEES

Accompaniment Committee

We continue to learn from our members and immigrant justice partners how we can best meet the needs of immigrant and refugee community members. Accompaniment focuses on supporting community members so that they have successful outcomes in their legal processes. Through our recent strategic planning process, we've learned that the definition of accompaniment is evolving in the community to include a wider range of supports. JCIJ's definition is evolving, too, to be consistent with and respectful of the working definition in the community.

The JCIJ strategic planning process has enabled us to confirm the major community needs and gaps for immigrant and refugee community members as they navigate the immigration system. During this past month, members of the committee joined the JCIJ Steering Committee to set priorities among the ten accompaniment needs most often cited by our immigrant justice partners. Our next task is to select areas for focus for the coming year that reflect the capacity of the accompaniment committee and JCIJ as a whole. A top priority will be to continue to support community members who need accompaniment for court hearings, bond posting and immigration appointments. We'll be refining our priorities and expanding our volunteer engagement and training opportunities as well.



If you are interested in helping us build out our strategic priorities, learning more or attending our next meeting, please let us know [here](#). The virtual August meeting is on August 17 at 7pm.

Advocacy Committee

45 organizations and congregations across the state signed on to the JCIJ sign on letter to Congresswoman Jayapal to end 287(g) that was organized with national Jewish group Never Again Action and Washington State immigrant advocacy organizations WAISN, Faith Action Network, the Church Council of Greater Seattle, OneAmerica and Seattle Indivisible.

The letter asks Congresswoman Jayapal to take action in her role as chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus to end the 287(g) contracts between law enforcement and ICE (see article above for more information) and encourage Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden to take executive action. We also invited Congresswoman Jayapal to join in a direct action to end police-ICE terror in Washington DC on July 25th that Never Again Action is organizing with Voces de la Frontera and United We Dream.

There was strong Jewish community support! Thank you to Jewish organizations and congregations who signed on: the Washington Coalition of Rabbis, Congregation Beth

Shalom, Congregation Kol Ami, Temple Beth Am, Kadima Reconstructionist Community, Bend the Arc Seattle, Immigrant and Refugee Task Force of Temple Beth Hatfiloh, Bet Chaverim Community Synagogue, Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, Never Again Seattle Network, and Never Again Action. Stay tuned for future updates and action on 287(g).

Please sign up [here](#) and join the Advocacy Committee for future meetings!

Congregational Collaboration

We invite all readers to join us as we begin to organize drives to collect needed supplies for unaccompanied minors represented by [Kids In Need of Defense](#), which addresses the multifaceted needs of unaccompanied minor children, and families of clients of [NW Immigrant Rights Project](#), which provides direct legal services, impact litigation, and education on behalf of immigrants. More details coming soon!

Immigrant Justice Book Group

The Immigrant Justice Book Group has met three times, reading a different book each time. Two of the books focused on undocumented immigrants and the injustices of ICE and the poorly developed immigration laws in our country. The third book was [The Displaced](#), a collection of writings from many refugees. All of the authors expressed the difficult feelings of being the "other" and of being "homeless," as in not having a place to belong.

The next book club is on July 25th at 7pm. We will read [The Ungrateful Refugee](#) by Dina Nayeri. She is a refugee from Iran. She was eight years old when she fled with her mother and brother. They were eventually granted asylum in the USA and settled in Oklahoma. Dina then made her way to Princeton University. She weaves together her own vivid story with the stories of other refugees and asylum seekers in recent years, bringing us inside their daily lives and taking us through the different stages of their journeys, from escape to asylum to resettlement. In these pages a couple falls in love over the phone, and women gather to prepare the noodles that remind them of home. A closeted queer man tries to make his case truthfully as he seeks asylum, and a translator attempts to help new arrivals present their stories to officials.

Nayeri confronts notions like "the swarm," on the one hand, and "good" immigrants, on the other. She calls attention to the harmful way in which Western governments privilege certain dangers over others. With surprising and provocative questions, [The Ungrateful Refugee](#) challenges us to rethink how we talk about the refugee crisis.

Interested in joining us? Please sign up here! [Virtual Immigrant Justice Book Group - Action Network](#).

SUPPORT

Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network's [Fair Fight Bond Fund](#) (FFBF) urgently needs your support.

JCIJ has supported this crucial resource in the fight against deportation since its inception. In the fight for justice for detained immigrants, posting their bond is a powerful deportation defense tool, making it possible to secure legal representation and build their cases. The stats tell it all: when someone is released from detention, they are 8 times more likely to have a positive outcome in their case.

[Become a monthly donor](#) at any level - \$5, \$18, \$36, \$54 per month - to support deportation defense in Washington State. Your sustaining donations allows FFBF to continue bonding immigrant community members out of detention, giving them a fighting chance to win their cases and do so in community, alongside their families.

DONATE TODAY

FAIR FIGHT
BOND FUND

"If it weren't for all the organizations that helped us pay the bail bond, we wouldn't be here. I thank God there are really good people."



1-844-724-3737

FAIR FIGHT BOND FUND

WASHINGTON IMMIGRANT SOLIDARITY NETWORK

NEWS

Reproductive Justice Is Immigrant Justice

When the draft of the Supreme Court's decision in the case [Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#) first leaked, the [National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice](#) wrote, "If this opinion is the final decision, it will hit hardest people who already face barriers to care – Latinas/xs, Black people, Indigenous people, young people, immigrants, people with disabilities, people in rural and underserved communities, and people with low incomes."

Brenda Rodríguez López, Executive Director of the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN), powerfully shares her personal story in Teen Vogue: "[Undocumented People Seeking an Abortion After Roe Face Double the Legal Risk.](#)"

Brenda writes, "For immigrants, this direct attack on our bodies is a continuation of the dehumanization and violence we have endured in this country for generations through surveillance, detention, and forced sterilizations." Brenda explores overlapping barriers in choosing to get an abortion: shame in being raised in a religious tradition that views abortion as a sin, guilt to have an option many community members do not have, and fear that her

information would be shared with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and get used against her.

Brenda connects reproductive justice to the need for [health care equity](#) for undocumented immigrants. She concludes by saying, “I want our people to feel empowered and safe to make the best choices about our health, our bodies, and our families. All immigrants deserve to have autonomy over their bodily choices without fear of persecution. We know what is right for us, and we urgently need our laws to reflect that.”



Now that Roe v. Wade is overturned, [as many as 26 states will likely ban abortion](#). At present, 13 states having “trigger“ laws rolling into effect to automatically ban all or nearly all abortions. Brenda reminds us that undocumented folks seeking abortions face geographic barriers, many being unable to cross state lines due to border patrol checkpoints. Defending the bodily autonomy of undocumented immigrants necessitates strengthening safety nets that make reproductive care accessible geographically, but also culturally and linguistically. To that end, [WAISN](#) operates a hotline (1-844-724-3737) providing resources for immigrants in need of care.

In [Planned Parenthood's Raíz Program](#), Latinx leaders organize to break down barriers to healthcare access for the Latinx community. To support reproductive justice organizing in communities of color, check out Raíz, as well as [Planned Parenthood's Communities](#) for Black Americans and students.

UW Center for Human Rights Documents ICE Inaction on Sex Abuse in Detention

A [recent report](#) by the University of Washington's Center for Human Rights found that reports of sex abuse and assault at the Northwest Detention Center go unanswered; no follow-up takes place after the call. The Center found that ICE is in violation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act and ICE's own agency standards. Moreover, ICE's contract with GEO Group, which operates the NWDC, requires GEO to comply with these standards. Such abuses are of three types: abuses by guards, abuses by medical personnel, and abuses by other people who are detained.



Obtaining documents from multiple sources through the Freedom of Information Act, the Center for Human Rights carefully compiled and cross-referenced documentation of 63 incidents. The authors were able to conclude that ICE failed to produce documentation where they were mandated to do so.

A report of abuse triggers mandatory reporting, but these reports were largely absent from ICE's systems. Several examples were provided in which ICE was clearly made aware of incidents through multiple sources, yet those reports were never entered into the system ICE has for this very purpose and no related follow up occurred.

The Center for Human Rights also found that the agencies charged with auditing the NWDC had significant conflicts of interest, rendering their reports on the topic meaningless. "First,

auditors have a financial incentive to overlook abuses; second, audits rely on reviews of records our own research has shown to be inaccurate; third, grievances and other mechanisms by which detained people express concerns are routinely ignored; and fourth, there is often no consequence to receiving a critical audit.” The Nakamoto Group, whose deficiencies as an auditor we reported on in the [June JCIJ newsletter](#), advertises to prospective client detention center operators that it will “ensure your federal funding is not jeopardized due to PREA deficiencies.”

Unsupervised and unaccountable, the GEO Group continues to violate human rights law and contractual terms with impunity at the Northwest Detention Center.

Immigrant Justice Organization Spotlight: Casa Latina

Bolstering economic power in immigrant communities promotes the stability necessary for sustained immigrant-led organizing.

Seattle-based [Casa Latina](#) works to break the cycle of poverty in the Latinx immigrant community through educational, economic, and community organizing opportunities. Casa Latina offers worker’s rights and job skills trainings, English classes, and leadership development social justice groups like [Mujeres Sin Fronteras](#) (Women Without Borders), created for domestic workers at Casa Latina to organize, learn together, and share information relevant to Latina women.



A series of revelations about sexual harassment by employees threatened Casa Latina's stability in 2021. The board retained an independent investigator to review events and recommend internal changes. The agency has since restructured and retained new leadership including 3 Co-Executive Directors. The original complainants have since expressed satisfaction that remaining issues could be addressed by mediation facilitated by the National Day Laborer Organizing Network.

You can support economic development and immigrant-led organizing in the local Latinx community by employing workers from [Casa Latina's Day Worker Center dispatch service](#). Services include a wide variety of construction, gardening and domestic work. The salary scale used was developed by the workers themselves, and they keep 100% of their earnings.

SONGS IN THE KEY OF JCIJ

This month our first two songs were suggested by Rainer Waldman Adkins. As you listen, feel the power that these two amazing Jewish bands bring to a world full of trouble.

[“Hana Mash Hu Al Yaman”](#) by [A-WA](#) - Yemenite Israeli Jewish sisters Tair, Liron, and Tagel Haim form the band A-Wa (Arabic for “Yes,” pronounced AY-wah). In the song “Hana Mash Hu Al Yaman,” in English “Here is Not Yemen,” they sing about what their family left behind when they immigrated to Israel.

[“Minutn Fun Bitokhn”](#) by [Lebedik](#), a band and family of collaborations by Sasha Lurje and Seattle native Craig Judelman, explores various sides of Yid, according to their Facebook. The song, Minutn fun Bitokhn (moments of confidence) was written by Mordechai Gebirtig on October 2, 1940, in the Krakow Ghetto, before he was killed by the Nazis. Sasha and Craig wrote during Purim 2022, “We are confident we will see the strength and dignity of the Ukrainian people triumph - if you stopped reading the story of Esther halfway, it would seem very grim! So let us remember that as bad as it seems now, this is not the end, but rather the moment to act, to show solidarity and demand our governments do all they can to bring down this modern day Homen.”

[“Hold On”](#) by amazing singer-songwriter [Yola](#), asks the “next generation of Black girls to take up space, to be visible and to show what it looks to be young, gifted and Black.” Many awful things have happened this summer already. But we can still remind each other to hold on!

Be in touch with
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