

Immigration Advocacy

Resource Tool Kit

Immigrant Experiences and Representation

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Updated October 7, 2020

Produced in follow-up to our panel *Lingua Franca: Immigrant Experiences and Representation*, we created a resource tool kit to share with attendees to address topics brought forth in Isabel Sandoval's film and the discussion. We are grateful for the participation of all of our panelists, and for the insight they provided in cultivating this list. Thank you to Isabel Sandoval, Ricardo Aca, Rose Cuison-Villazor, Allegra Love, and Jhett Tolentino.

This tool kit includes information and resources regarding immigrants' rights, and organizations and groups dedicated to supporting immigrant and LGBTQ+ filmmakers.

The resources we include are broken out into three sections, as follows:

- Concrete Actions You Can Take
- Immigrants' Rights and Immigrants Advocacy Organizations
- Know Your Rights
- Arts Organizations that Support Diversity and Representation

Concrete Actions You Can Take

Actions you can take right now to be more informed and to support immigrants and LGBTQ+ persons in the United States

Learn About Laws and Policies Around Immigration

The landscape of immigration in the United States is complex, and is often highly politicized. Educate yourself about immigration policies and procedures, and how to better understand immigration in the United States.

- **Read fact sheets from the American Immigration Council**
Read fact sheets from the American Immigration Council on topics regarding immigration and the immigration system in the United States.

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/topics/how-immigration-system-works>

- **Download community resources from the Santa Fe Dreamers Project**
The Santa Fe Dreamers Project offers resources to help persons and organizations be supportive of immigrants. Resources include guides and advisories to nonprofit organizations regarding immigration enforcement, what to do if a loved one is arrested, and lists of attorneys who can help in the case of an arrest.
<http://www.santafedreamersproject.org/community-resources>
- **Repeal NYS Bills that enable discriminatory policing of persons of transgender experience**
People of transgender experience are subject to scrutiny and criminalization by police and law enforcement in New York due to discriminatory language and interpretation of New York State Assembly Bill 0654/New York State Senate Bill 02253. At the links following, you can learn more about the law, and contact local representatives to seek that they repeal the bill.
<https://p2a.co/gsqefkx>
- **Seek out local organizations and legal service providers**
Organizations in support of immigrants and immigration rights in your community are likely the best source of information on what is happening in your community. The Immigration Advocates Network has a state-by-state directory for Legal Services in support of immigrants in the United States.
<https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/>
- **Learn about the fight to decriminalize sex work**
Persons of transgender experience are subject to over-policing by law enforcement due to stereotypes about gender experience and forms of work that are criminalized.
<https://decrimny.org>
- **Support bond and bail funds for detained immigrants**
A bond fund provides financial support to persons who are detained, jailed, or imprisoned with the opportunity to be released on a cash bond or bail while fighting their cases. As the costs of bonds can be out-of-reach for many individuals, bond funds support the release of detained immigrants while they pursue their cases, so they can be with their families and communities, continue working, and—most importantly—live freely.

Free Our Neighbors

<https://www.freeourneighbors.org>

Freedom for Immigrants Bond Fund

<https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/national-bond-fund>

Immigrant Bail Fund

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

National Bail Fund Network

<https://www.communityjusticeexchange.org/nbfn-directory>

Immigrants' Rights and Immigration Advocacy Organizations

A list of organizations in the United States focused on providing information and resources to immigrants and refugees

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Immigrants' Rights Project

The ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project is dedicated to expanding and enforcing the civil liberties and civil rights of immigrants and to combating public and private discrimination against them.

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights>

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

The Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI) educates and engages African American and Black immigrant communities to organize and advocate for racial, social, and economic justice.

<https://www.baji.org>

Center for Immigration Law, Policy, and Justice (CILPJ) at Rutgers University

The CILPJ at Rutgers University explores contemporary and historical immigration and citizenship laws to better understand the complex ways that law and society determine who belongs in the United States.

<http://cilpj.org/>

Colectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo

The Colectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo (Intercultural Transgender Collective) is conceived as a bilingual and multicultural movement to defend and promote the human rights of transgender persons and gender diverse persons and communities in the United States, and to promote the active participation of transgender individuals in democracy in all forms.

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

Immigrant Defense Project

The Immigrant Defense Project works to secure fairness and justice for immigrants in the United States.

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

Immigrant Justice Corps

Immigrant Justice Corps mobilizes quality counsel to meet the needs of immigrants nationwide.

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

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) is the leading national organization advocating for the rights of unaccompanied migrant and refugee children in the United States.

<https://supportkind.org/>

LGBT Asylum Project

The LGBT Asylum Project provides support to immigrants in the San Francisco Asylum Office jurisdiction (from Bakersfield, CA, to Seattle, WA) who identify as LGBTQ+ and have been persecuted or have fears of future persecution if they return to their home country.

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

Make the Road New Jersey

Make the Road New Jersey builds the power of immigrant and working-class communities to achieve dignity and respect.

<https://maketheroadnj.org>

Make the Road New York

Make the Road New York builds the power of immigrant and working-class communities to achieve dignity and justice. Make the Road New York also leads work specifically supporting the experiences of transgender, gender non-conforming, intersex and queer (TGNCIQ) communities, and groups of individuals who identify both as immigrants and as part of TGNCIQ communities.

<https://maketheroadny.org/>

<https://maketheroadny.org/issue/tgnciq-justice/>

National Immigrant Justice Center

Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) is dedicated to ensuring human rights protections and access to justice for all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

<https://www.immigrantjustice.org>

National Immigration Law Center

The National Immigration Law Center (NILC) is one of the leading organizations in the United States exclusively dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of immigrants with low income.

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

National Center for Transgender Equality

The National Center for Transgender Equality advocates to change policies and society to increase understanding and acceptance of transgender people. In the nation's capital and throughout the country, NCTE works to replace disrespect, discrimination, and violence with empathy, opportunity, and justice.

<https://transequality.org/issues/immigration>

New Sanctuary Coalition

New Sanctuary Coalition (NSC) is a multi-faith immigrant-led organization that creates support systems for and empowers those navigating the immigration system. NSC's grassroots programs are designed to shine a light on and disrupt the systems that criminalize immigrants' existence.

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

New York Immigration Coalition

The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization that represents over 200 immigrant and refugee rights groups throughout New York.

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

Queer Detainee Empowerment Project

The Queer Detainee Empowerment Project assists folks coming out of immigration detention in securing structural, health/wellness, educational, legal, and emotional support and services

<https://www.qdep.org>

RAICES: The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services

RAICES envisions a society where all people have the right to migrate and human rights are guaranteed. Through their work, RAICES defends the rights of immigrants and refugees; empowers individuals, families, and communities; and advocates for liberty and justice.

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

Red Canary Song

Red Canary Song is a grassroots collective of Asian and migrant sex workers, organizing transnationally. Red Canary Song centers base-building with migrant workers through a labor rights framework and mutual aid, and believes that full decriminalization is necessary for labor organizing and anti-trafficking.

<https://www.redcanarysong.net>

Santa Fe Dreamers Project

Santa Fe Dreamers Project provides free legal services to immigrants and refugees to promote economic empowerment, community development, family unity, and liberation from detention.

<http://www.santafedreamersproject.org/>

Somos Un Pueblo Unido

Somos Un Pueblo Unido is a statewide community-based and immigrant-led organization based in New Mexico. The organization works to build a community that does not discriminate against people based on their national origin, that institutes humane migration policies, and that protects the human rights of everyone irrespective of where they are born or what documents they carry.

<https://somosunpueblounido.org/>

Translatinx Network

Translatinx Network has both a local and national focus, with a mission to promote the healthy development of trans people through the delivery of a wide range of information and services. Through promotion, outreach in education, and capacity-building, we encourage and strengthen the creation of safe and productive environments for TGNC+ community members.

<https://www.translatinxnetwork.org>

Upwardly Global

We support immigrants and refugees who want to contribute their vital skills to the professional U.S. workforce.

<https://www.upwardlyglobal.org>

Know Your Rights

Tools and guidance for individuals based on law and policy in the United States. Access and download guides, and keep them for reference.

ACLU: Know Your Rights

The ACLU has a set of guides on multiple topics, including on immigrants' rights, students' rights, protesters' rights, and rights when stopped by police.

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/>

ACLU: Immigrants Rights – Know Your Rights

A tool kit available in multiple languages.

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights/>

Immigrant Defense Project – Know Your Rights

A .pdf from the Immigrant Defense Project with information on rights that all persons have if confronted by Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE).

<https://immigrantdefenseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/IDP-ICE-Raids-Flyer-ENG-Jan-13-2018.pdf>

National Immigrant Justice Center – Know Your Rights Guides

Guides from the National Immigrant Justice Center with FAQ and legal rights information for immigrants of all statuses in the United States.

<https://immigrantjustice.org/know-your-rights>

Somos Un Pueblo Unido: Know Your Rights

Guides from Somos Un Pueblo Unido for rights on engaging with ICE and the police, for how to combat wage theft, and how to access college and financial aid.

<http://www.somosunpueblounido.org/know-your-rights.html>

Arts organizations that support diversity and representation

A list of arts organizations and filmmaking organizations that support diversity and representation behind and in front of the camera

African Film Festival

Based in New York, the African Film Festival, Inc., was founded in 1990 as a dynamic platform dedicated to increasing exposure to African arts and culture through the screening of cinematic works made by and about the people of Africa and the African Diaspora.

<https://africanfilmny.org/about/>

ARRAY

ARRAY is an independent film distribution and resource collective. ARRAY's work is dedicated to the amplification of independent films by people of color and women filmmakers globally.

<http://www.arraynow.com/home>

BlackStar Film Festival

The BlackStar Film Festival is an annual celebration of the visual and storytelling traditions of the African diaspora and of global communities of color, showcasing films by Black, Brown, and Indigenous people from around the world.

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

Chicken & Egg Pictures

Chicken & Egg Pictures supports women nonfiction filmmakers whose artful and innovative storytelling catalyzes social change. We envision an inclusive media industry in which women and gender-nonconforming filmmakers, representing a range of experiences and backgrounds, are fully supported to realize their artistic goals and build fulfilling careers in the documentary film industry.

<https://chickeneggpics.org/about/>

Firelight Media

Firelight Media is dedicated to supporting documentary filmmakers of color and cultivating audiences for their work.

<http://www.firelightmedia.tv/>

Hawai'i International Film Festival

As the vanguard forum of international cinematic achievement in the Asia-Pacific region, Hawai'i International Film Festival (HIFF) endeavors to recognize new and emerging talent, promote career development and original collaborations through innovative education programs, and facilitate dynamic cultural exchange through the cinema arts.

<https://hiff.org/>

Immigrant Filmmakers Organization

Immigrant Filmmakers Organization (IFO) seeks to connect and motivate immigrant filmmakers and artists so they can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the different ideas, stories, and cultures within their network.

<http://immigrantfilmmakers.org/>

New York Foundation for the Arts

New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) provides artists, emerging arts organizations, arts administrators, and students with critical support, professional development tools, and resources for defining and achieving career success.

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

NewFest: LGBTQ+ Film and Media

Founded in 1988, NewFest is New York's largest presenter of LGBTQ+ film and media and the largest convener of LGBTQ+ audiences in the city.

<https://newfest.org/about/>

SFFILM New American Fellowship

Created in partnership with the Flora Family Foundation, the SFFILM New American Fellowship offers six-month fellowships to narrative or documentary filmmakers who have arrived in the United States within the past 10 years as either an immigrant or a non-immigrant.

<https://sffilm.org/new-american-fellowship/>

The Bush Films

The Bush Films is dedicated to finding the best films about queer women, trans, and non-binary people, and making those films accessible to a community that is interested in the content but might have difficulty finding it on their own.

<https://www.thebushfilms.com/>

Trans Filmmakers Project

The Trans Filmmakers Project is a collective of dedicated professionals in the film and new media industry whose mission is to empower aspiring filmmakers of transgender experience by providing them with the education and resources needed to develop their abilities and create their own media.

<http://transfilmmakers.org>

Undocumented Filmmakers Collective

We center the film expertise of undocumented people not only as sources of stories but also as creators, artists, and primary audiences.

<https://medium.com/@undocufilmmakerscollective>

The Vilcek Foundation

The Vilcek Foundation was established in 2000 by Jan and Marica Vilcek, immigrants from the former Czechoslovakia. Our mission was inspired by Jan and Marica's respective careers in biomedical science and art history, as well as their personal experiences and appreciation for the opportunities offered to them as newcomers to the United States. Since then, the foundation has awarded over \$5.6 million in prizes to foreign-born individuals and supported organizations with over \$5 million in grants.

The Vilcek Foundation is a private operating foundation, a federally tax-exempt nonprofit organization under IRS Section 501(c)(3).

Learn more at www.vilcek.org.