



**NEW  
SANCTUARY  
MOVEMENT**  
OF PHILADELPHIA

2601 Potter St  
Philadelphia, PA 19125  
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[www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org](http://www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org)

Facebook: New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia

## **Sanctuary in the Streets Raid Response**

### *Guide*

In the face of the Trump Administration's extremist anti-immigrant agenda, Sanctuary in the Streets draws on our ancient traditions to respond with courage, spirit and bold action. Since a family cannot seek Sanctuary in a congregation if their house is raided, we will bring the congregation to them by holding an interfaith service. An internal memo in ICE prevents officers from conducting enforcement in sensitive locations, such as congregations, schools, and hospitals. The interfaith service claims the space as holy ground, as a place of worship, and therefore ICE should not conduct enforcement. Even if this memo is revoked, there is still thousands of years of tradition preventing law officials from entering a congregation. An interfaith service also sets the tone of the action as peaceful and prayerful. In this dark time people of faith must increase our light - by lifting up, and living out, our values of love and radical hospitality.

**Why:** We believe the mandates to love our neighbor and welcome the stranger are not just words, but calls to action. We ground ourselves in the faith and collective action of our ancestors – from Puah and Shiphrah who chose to follow God and thus defy Pharaoh, to Jesus picking grain on the Sabbath. We continue to respond to times of oppression with faith, boldness and risk. Sanctuary in the Streets responds to a call for solidarity from our immigrant members.

This disastrous political moment is also the birth of something big and beautiful and powerful. It is the birth of an expanded Sanctuary for everyone. We see Sanctuary as the umbrella to cover all of us from the storm, and the womb to birth a new world. We are committed to the work of building not just Sanctuary congregations or Sanctuary Cities, but a Sanctuary world. We stand in solidarity with all our brothers and sisters in this city and this earth fighting for collective liberation.

All our work, campaigns and community building are part of a larger vision to build Sanctuaries within ourselves, our cities, and our world for personal and collective transformation.

#### **The goals:**

- Stand in solidarity and accompany families targeted by raids
- Prayerfully disrupt raids - we will bring our presence, songs, prayers, and bodies to peacefully and prayerfully disrupt a raid. A small group will risk arrest by circling the house or the ICE vehicle.
- Put public pressure on ICE and the Trump Administration to stop all raids and deportations. These raids violate our values and we will not stand silent when ICE comes into a neighborhood and takes tares apart families. This action will shine a light on raids and uncover the persecution of immigrant communities in the US today.
- Raids and the threat of raids send a wave of terror through the immigrant community. Sanctuary in the Streets counters this with a message of hope, faith and planned action in immigrant



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communities.

### The Plan:

- Make sure this is something the immigrant community in your area wants. Talk with members or connect with a local immigrant justice organization.
- Set up a Raid Emergency Phone to publicize in immigrant communities. Buy a cheap cell phone and share it with members so it is staffed 24/7. In Philadelphia, we have a line for Spanish speakers and another for Indonesian speakers.
- Publicize number through media, congregations, immigrant members, businesses, etc. Create flyers with number and Know Your Rights Info. Form messaging in collaboration with the immigrant community or immigrant justice organizations. We don't want to spread panic, but inform people.
- Build a team of people who are ready to respond to a raid.
- **People must be trained before they are put on the text list. See below for a sample training.**
- Set up a text message alert system for people. In Philadelphia, we use ReadyAlert.
- When someone sees ICE activity or is the victim of a raid, they call the number and staff will activate the text system. Members respond and head to the site of the raid.
- The person answering the call will get as much information as possible: how many people are in the house? Do they have a deportation case open? Are there children? Is someone about to get home? How many agents are there? Do they have ICE on their jackets? Do they have a lawyer?
- One staff or member will put out on Facebook and call press.
- The team will gather a short distance from the raid, assign roles and then slowly walk to the site of the raid as we sing.
- When we get a call, we may not know the specifics of the person's case— it could be a mother and her child, it could be someone with a felony conviction. Whatever the case, we need to respond. We fight deportations for every person.
- We enter into this space with love and compassion for all there, including ICE officers. While we will disrupt what they are doing, we strive to extend our love toward them and recognize their humanity.
- A smaller group may risk arrest, but the rest of the group will not. Designated members will take photos and film the raid and NSM staff will call press.
- We will stay until ICE leaves. After, we will talk with the family to provide guidance on next steps, talk about accompaniment and be a support for them.
- Some people already have a response kit, but we will be distributing more.
- Connect with a local lawyer to learn the risks of each action and to invite legal observers.
- If there is enough people in your group, you can direct some people to go to the ICE field office while the majority go to the site of the raid.
- Prepare a group ready for jail support



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**Spiritual Preparation:** Trainings cover what to do and how to act in a raid, but we also invite you to engage in a spiritual discipline as a community to prepare for Sanctuary in the Streets. Here are some of the things we have done as a community:

- Read about spiritual nonviolence. Rev Dr Martin Luther King's *An Experiment in Love* is a great article that talks about nonviolent action and love.
- In our trainings, strong emotions come up: feelings of hopelessness, uncertainty, powerlessness, and sadness. We practiced being aware of those feelings and then choosing to act with love, compassion and courage. This is hard and we want to practice as a community. We invite you to practice this at home, work, or on the train. During any moment of strong emotion notice those feelings and then choose to act in a way that reflects love, compassion and courage.
- How to stay grounded in moments of high stress or emotion. Find what grounds you and practice it. This may be breathing, or a mantra, or it may be locating where on your body you find strength or calm and touching that area.
- Fasting or a regular prayer meeting with others in your congregation.

**Lessons so far:**

- We are forming smaller groups to do deeper training around civil disobedience and ICE liaison.
- The importance of singing. In our role plays, the impact of singing came up over and over from every role - Sanctuary in the Streets members, those risking arrest, the family inside and the ICE officers. When in doubt, sing!
- Listening to how those playing ICE officers responded and felt. We remembered their humanity even as we blocked the raid.
- To be aware of all the different feelings that may come up within us, and understand we then have a choice of how to act.
- Deciding to step forward with courage
- How to move in as a group risking arrest: we saw the power of linking together in a line, but also the importance of moving in slowly and intentionally in the spirit of the action.
- Buddies or partners at the action
- Visuals - we need an identifying hat or vest for everyone. Signs and banners up front
- Roles - stay focused on your role - the others need you to be. The importance of someone coordinating the action overall



## **Sanctuary in the Streets Program**

1. Gather as a group at a distance.
  - a. Assign roles: Action lead, Family Liaison, ICE Liaisons, Leader of ritual (or divide into parts), Song lead, Singers, Person filming, those risking arrest, neighbors, press person
  - b. Review plan
  - c. Distribute banners and signs
  - d. Group risking arrest stay together
  - e. You have the right to be on the sidewalk as close as you would like
  - f. If ICE or other agency tells us to move, those who have signed up to risk arrest will stay, and the others will move back, but not leave. Police Liaisons will communicate
2. 1<sup>st</sup> song and begin to walk to house
  - a. hold hands or interlink arms
  - b. begin filming
3. Announce who we are and what we are doing
  - a. NSM
  - b. Sanctuary in the Streets - stand in solidarity with family and shine a light on ICE tearing apart families. Violation of our faith teachings to love our neighbor as ourselves and welcome the stranger. We are here as people of conscience, people of faith. We are nonviolent but cannot stand by while ICE comes into our neighborhood and takes people away.
  - c. We are here to hold an interfaith service, and claim this as sacred ground. This is now a sensitive location and ICE is not allowed to conduct enforcement here.
4. Interfaith Ritual (put together by Jewish and Christian members of NSM)
  - a. Form ourselves as community/ Call to Prayer
    - i. This could be introducing yourself to neighbor, hugging your neighbor, or simply putting arms around shoulders.
    - ii. If we know the name of person in house, we can mention them
    - iii. Opening prayer or silence
  - b. Blessing - claiming this space and house as holy ground.
    - i. Put down candles in perimeter
    - ii. Put central altar (box with cloth and objects people can bring)
    - iii. Those risking arrest line the inner perimeter of the holy ground
    - iv. "May a new light shine upon this house"
  - c. Song - Dios transformame en Santuario or Sanctuary
  - d. Reading or mention sacred text
    - i. "Teach us to hear, witness, take to heart, act on your sacred teachings"
    - ii. Examples:
      1. Leviticus 19:33-34: "When a foreigner resides among you in your land,  
34  
do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God. "



2. Luke 10:27: Jesus answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’[a]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’[b]”
3. Isaiah 1:17: Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.[a] Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.
4. Matthew 25: 34 -40 : “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’<sup>44</sup> “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

- e. Petitions
    - i. For family
    - ii. Space for members to offer petitions
    - iii. For ICE officers. You can also invite officers to join in prayer
    - iv. For our actions today
  - f. We remember when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. Oppressed by Egypt and fighting for their liberation, the Israelites were fleeing Pharaoh's army, and were caught between the Red Sea and the army. God parted the waters to free them from slavery. In this moment, it is our faith that this liberation is possible now.
  - g. Song - Un puebla que camina or This is the light of God
  - h. Continue with songs, silence, prayers until ICE leaves
  - i. Closing of ritual:
    - i. Prayer for complete redemption and healing for this family, for city, country and world
5. When/if press comes— designated person or people should talk with them
  6. Post Ritual
    - a. Designated person will see if family would like to talk
    - b. Staff/designated person will talk with the family about next steps – finding a lawyer, possibility of accompaniment, emotional/spiritual support
      - i. Communicate with group
    - c. Debrief with group
    - d. Closing circle with group



## Sanctuary In the Streets Training

### 1. Welcome - 5 min

- a. Diversity welcome
- b. Celebration of all the people who have registered
- c. Agenda and logistics

### 2. Faith reflection - 30 min

- a. Pairs
- b. When is a time your spirit connected to social change? What did that look like?
- c. This can look like formal religion, spiritual connection to the Earth, moral integrity.  
Take 3-4 min each
- d. Share with group
- e. We are an interfaith group, and this program was born from conversation and prayer, and grew in a spiritual environment. That spark is the core of what we are doing here, and we invite you to bring your spiritual commitment to this program.

### 3. Experience of Raids: 10 min; Debrief: 20min

- a. Form groups of 4
  - i. What have you heard about raids? Do you know someone who was a victim, what happened?
  - ii. How are you feeling? -
  - iii. What stood out?
  - iv. What actually happened?
- b. In big group
  - i. Feelings - write up -
    1. today we will be noticing how we may feel at a raid, and then deciding how we act
  - ii. What happened? What did you notice?
- c. What are we learning?
  - i. don't know what will be there. Show up anyway.
  - ii. Level of uncertainty - notice and need to be okay with that

### 4. Program - 20 min

- a. Goals
- b. How does it work
- c. The agenda when we arrive
  - i. Hand out agenda
  - ii. What to do if ICE tells you to move back - whole group v. group doing civil disobedience
- d. Tone and spirit
- e. Discern if you would like to risk arrest (sign up sheet) - what does that look like
- f. Roles
- g. Questions?



## 5. Practice – 1.5 hours

- a. Count off 1-3 to form groups
- b. Now we are going to spend the rest of the time practicing. Directions:
  - i. One group will be Sanctuary in the Streets, one group will be the family and ICE, and the other group will be observers
  - ii. The group planning will go to the opposite corner and will have 5-10 minutes to plan and prep.
  - iii. We will run the role play. The Sanctuary in the Streets group will come in to find a situation happening.
  - iv. Stop and debrief.
  - v. Questions?
- c. First the 1's
  - i. Send them to other side of gym. 5-10 minutes
  - ii. Set up different scenarios. The first one set up to be slower and less confrontational to give the group a chance to get a feel of the program. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> can escalate
- d. Directions for ICE y familia - get them in role.
- e. Debrief
  - i. Bring group back. Take a few breaths, return to this moment, feet on ground. Feel your breaths
  - ii. What were some of the feelings that came up? Name the physical and emotional experience of the role play. Slow it down.
  - iii. What happened? What did you do? Slow it down. Bring down to what they did. Some things to look for:
    1. Look for things/behaviors that did work?
      - a. Ex of feeling one way, but choosing to act with love and courage
      - b. Ex of techniques that grounded us
    2. What tipped you off? What happened right before?
    3. What would be something you could do to avoid?
    4. What would you want to do?
    5. Look for things that worked
  - iv. ICE- how was it for you? How did you feel? What did you notice?
  - v. Family – how was it for you? How did you feel?
  - vi. What are we learning about how we want to do this?
    1. Some examples (see 'lessons so far' above):
      - a. We have options and choices. When we are conscious of patterns we have, we can make internal choices
      - b. Importance of roles
      - c. Learning what grounds us
      - d. Singing
      - e. Perspective of family and ICE agents
  - vii. Application



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1. Find a partner. One or two things you want to apply or try out.

6. Closing Activity

a. Example:

- i. Form circle
- ii. one word: how you are feeling now as you take one step into circle. People can shout whenever – even at same time.
- iii. Applause