



Action Plan for Supporting Immigrant Rights & Reform

Feed Our Democracy believes that each of our small actions can add up to big change. This Action Plan for supporting Immigration Rights gives you some simple steps you can take to make a difference.

- There are 41 million immigrants in the United States.
- Since Trump killed DACA, over 800,000 immigrant youth have lost their protections from deportation and Trump has decreed that those who are still protected will begin losing their DACA in the thousands starting March 5th.
- In 2013, 83 percent of people deported from the United States were not given a hearing before a judge.
- The United States spends \$1.84 billion detaining immigrants.
- When the government has the power to deny legal rights and due process to one vulnerable group, everyone's rights are at risk.

ISSUES.

- DACA: The *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals* program, for undocumented youth who came to the United States as children, was terminated by the Trump administration and its future is currently in limbo as Trump refuses to renew the program and insists that it be part of larger Immigration Reform legislation that has been continuously stalled in Congress and vetoed by him. ([History of The Dream Act, DACA, and Other Policies Designed to Protect Dreamers](#))
- Immigration Reform: The current immigration system in the United States is in desperate need of reform in order to meet the nation's societal, cultural, and economic needs.
- Roadmap to Citizenship: Fundamental fairness as guaranteed by the Constitution requires that aspiring Americans living in and contributing to the US be brought within the legal embrace of US citizenship.
- Legal Rights and Due Process: More than half of individuals in immigration court proceeding are currently unrepresented, including 84% of those in detention.
- Deportation & Separating Families: The US has mandatory and disproportionate deportation laws that needlessly separate families.
- Protecting Workers' Rights: Immigrants perform some of the hardest, most dangerous jobs in our economy – for the least amount of pay. But they're routinely denied basic protections in the workplace.
- Racial Profiling & Harassment: In their communities, immigrants are subjected to racial profiling and harassment by law enforcement – and frequently forced to

prove themselves innocent of immigration violations, regardless of their legal status.

- Education for Immigrant children : Immigrants' children, many of them U.S. citizens or longtime members of the community, are often denied school enrollment or the educational services required under the law.
- ICE Abuses: many of ICE's removal tactics take away even the right to a fair hearing in court. These enforcements programs pose a variety of threats to civil liberties.
- Detention Rights: our immigration detention system locks up hundreds of thousands of immigrants unnecessarily every year, exposing detainees to brutal and inhumane conditions at massive costs to American taxpayers.

ACTIONS. Here are a few actions you can take now.

1. CALL your representatives. Tell your representatives in Congress not to use Dreamers as a bargaining chip. Trump wants to use Dreamers as a bargaining chip to enact drastic, permanent changes to legal immigration. Call your Senator and tell them: vote no on changes to legal migration and diversity visas. Use the scripts provided by [Indivisible](#) and [5Calls.org](#).

2. ATTEND A TOWN HALL and/or visit your member's local office. Demand relief for Dreamers now. During the first congressional recess of 2018, it's your first chance to demand that they focus on your policy priorities. Demand that your Member of Congress Support Dreamers, Not Trump. ([here's a great guide by Indivisible](#))

3. CONNECT WITH A LOCAL IMMIGRANT RIGHTS GROUP. The immigrant rights community has been working on defending immigrants and their families for years, and they are best able to help provide you with recommendations on how you can be most useful in protecting your communities. Look to [The Fair Immigration Reform Movement](#) database for a list of local grassroots organizations.

4. BE AN IMMIGRANT ALLY. Indivisible has created [a toolkit](#) outlining the many ways one can help ranging from calling your gov't representatives to accompanying immigrants to ICE check-ins.

5. HOST a Feed Our Democracy dinner/potluck/coffee (toolkit attached) to engage friends in action.

6. DONATE to umbrella groups dedicated to supporting immigrant rights and reform (see list below).

ORGANIZATIONS focused on Immigration Rights & Reform

- [Fair Immigration Reform Movement](#): a national coalition of grassroots organizations fighting for immigrant rights at the local, state and federal level. Led

Feed Our Democracy is a movement dedicated to the notion that the backbone of any democracy is an active citizenry. Whether native born, naturalized, or self-identified, we believe it is every citizen's duty to uphold the democratic ideals of freedom, justice, and equality. Our goal is to offer the inspiration and information necessary to turn each of us into citizen activists -- one event at a time. We encourage people to expand their communities and uphold their ideals as they Meet, Eat and Activate.

by a group of 44 organizations from across 32 states around the country committed to immigrant rights.

- [National Immigration Law Center](#): Dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of immigrants with low income. Has been at the forefront of many of the country's greatest challenges when it comes to immigration issues, and plays a major leadership role in addressing the real-life impact of policies that affect the ability of low-income immigrants to prosper and thrive.
- [American Immigration Council](#): powerful voice in promoting laws, policies, and attitudes that honor our proud history as a nation of immigrants. Through research and policy analysis, litigation and communications, and international exchange, the Council seeks to shape a twenty-first century vision of the American immigrant experience.
- [Hispanic Federation](#): has worked relentlessly to protect and advance immigrant rights since its inception. Their early efforts focused on local advocacy and collaborations with member agencies to develop citizenship campaigns, civics and ESL classes. Today, HF has expanded its focus to become a national provider of immigrant integration and other direct services and a national advocate for progressive immigration reforms.
- [ACLU](#): For almost 100 years, the ACLU has worked to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States.
- [Southern Poverty Law Center](#): an American nonprofit legal advocacy organization specializing in civil rights and public interest litigation. SPLC works to protect the rights of immigrants and their children to ensure they are treated with dignity and fairness.

RESOURCES.

- [Indivisible Immigrant Ally Toolkit](#)
- [ACLU: What's at Stake](#)
- [Southern Poverty Law Center: Immigration Justice](#)
- [National Immigration Law Center: Issues](#)
- [We Are Here To Stay](#)

CONTACTS.

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ACTION NOTES:

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