



Statement on Wednesday's Staff Discussion about the Inhumane Treatment of Migrants & Asylum Seekers

On Wednesday, Community Coalition's staff discussed and reflected on the inhumane treatment of migrants and asylum seekers in America's concentration camps. The staff found it to be an especially timely conversation given the next day's July 4th holiday, a time when the United States flaunts its supposed values of freedom, equality, and opportunity for all no matter one's race or socioeconomic background.

This statement about that discussion is issued in solidarity with Black & Brown folks navigating the omnipresent challenges of actually experiencing those values in a society built on the logic of white supremacy. The two frameworks below, among others, were used to guide the conversation.

- **The dehumanization of poor and racial "others" as white supremacy flexes its muscles.** We discussed how the dehumanization of migrants and asylum seekers has ties to other social and economic justice issues, both domestically and internationally. Specifically, the staff discussed how African Americans are portrayed as criminals and disproportionately incarcerated, and how Muslims are depicted as terrorists and subjected to harsh immigration policies such as the Muslim Ban. As the homelessness epidemic in Los Angeles continues to worsen, we also see this dehumanization playing out in how the homeless are described as desiring their current conditions. **It's all used as justification for an unjust system which prioritizes profit over people.**
- **The border is everywhere. It's a concept that extends far and wide long after an immigrant has crossed the physical U.S. & Mexico border.** As [this map shows](#), there are immigration detention facilities in almost every single U.S. state. When you're an immigrant in this country, you live under more intense state surveillance and criminalization.

The reports and pictures emerging from the concentration camps are appalling. It's not a time for indifference or to stay quiet. Here are ways that you can get involved:

- **Call Congress: #CloseTheCamps Activation**
 - If you do not already know your elected Members of Congress, you can identify them by entering your zip code on www.contactingcongress.org
 - Determine if your Representative voted on the recent bill to give even more funding to ICE and CBP. You could find out how your U.S. Representative voted at <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2019/roll429.xml> and your U.S. Senator at



https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=116&session=1&vote=00185

- Call your Member's Washington D.C. office and ask to speak to their legislative assistant in charge of immigration.

- **#LettersOfLoveToKids Campaign**
 - These are letters of support to migrant children who are currently being detained by the federal government. You can read more about the initiative here: <https://www.todec.org/letters-of-love-to-kids.html>
 - Letters or drawings can be sent to **TODEC PO Box 1733 Perris CA 92570** *(please send your message in Spanish if possible)*