

ICE Rapid Response Toolkit

Emergency Protocols and Tactical Coordination for Trans-Led Protection Networks





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PURPOSE

This toolkit is for fast, collective responses to ICE presence, raids, or detentions involving trans, undocumented, or criminalized community members. It's designed for local defense crews, mutual aid teams, neighbors, and accomplices who need a clear plan in the moment.

IMMEDIATE ACTION CHECKLIST (WHEN ICE IS SPOTTED)

1. Confirm Details

- Location: Address + landmark
- Type of vehicle (van, unmarked SUV, etc.)
- Number of agents + any markings or uniforms
- Behavior: Are they knocking? Grabbing? Filming?

2. Start the Alert Chain

- Use Signal, Telegram, or encrypted group apps
- Share only with verified trusted contacts
- NEVER post raid info publicly in real time

3. Deploy Rapid Response Roles

- **Observer:** Film from a safe distance (know local laws)
- **Runner:** Go door-to-door to warn others
- **Medic:** On standby with Narcan, first aid
- **Driver:** Vehicle ready for discreet relocation
- **Interpreter:** Language support if needed
- **Point of Contact:** Connects with legal and outside networks

RAID ZONE SETUP

Set Up a Perimeter

- Mark boundaries where observers can safely document
- Create a “soft circle” to shield targets without escalation

Keep Quiet, Stay Calm

- ICE thrives on panic. Keep directions simple.
- Use pre-agreed hand signals or color-coded cards for communication

Coordinate Evacuation or Shelter-in-Place

- Use signal jammers or Faraday pouches to cut surveillance
- Move targets to pre-arranged safe houses only when ICE exits



POST-RAID RESPONSE (FIRST 2 HOURS)

1. Confirm Who Was Taken (if anyone)

- Legal names (if known)
- Aliases or community nicknames
- Last seen location
- Contact their emergency phone tree

2. Contact Legal and Advocacy Orgs

- Transgender Law Center's BLMP
- National Immigration Law Center
- Local sanctuary or rapid response legal teams

3. Blast the Signal

- Use prepared press releases, zine-style graphics, and social posts (after ICE leaves)
- Focus on *trans identity + ICE violence* to increase attention
- Alert media contacts anonymously if possible

TOOLS TO PREP IN ADVANCE

- Laminated "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" cards in multiple languages
- Grab-and-go bags (meds, IDs, emergency cash, water)
- Signal phone trees with backup walkie-talkie plans
- Portable power packs + solar chargers
- Shared burner phones between neighbors
- Bail fund or commissary reserve

LEGAL PROTECTION PLANNING

- Pre-register vulnerable folks with immigrant defense orgs
- Prepare Power of Attorney forms for trans people at risk
- Identify lawyers who will take emergency ICE cases
- File gender and name change updates in protective jurisdictions

NEIGHBORHOOD-LEVEL STRATEGY

- Map every ICE sighting and share encrypted updates
- Organize weekly patrols or "ICE-free zone" walks
- Build a buddy system: no one travels alone
- Host community legal clinics for undocumented trans folks

WHEN YOU'RE NOT SURE WHAT TO DO

- **SHOW UP:** Presence matters
- **DON'T CONFRONT ICE DIRECTLY:** Focus on documentation + protection
- **PRIORITIZE THE TARGETED PERSON'S AUTONOMY:** Don't move people against their will
- **STAY SMALL + FAST:** Large groups attract escalation. Work in pods.



CONCLUSION

ICE is designed to isolate and terrify. Our job is to respond with rapid, grounded, collective resistance. Every raid you disrupt is a preserved life. Every safe house you build is a blow to the regime.

Legal Disclaimer

This document is for informational, cultural, and mutual aid purposes only. It does not replace medical or mental health advice. Always consult a trusted, trauma-informed provider or community-based peer collective when dealing with acute distress.

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