

From: Portland MultiFaith Organizing Group (shared by the Rev. Peter Swarr of Trinity, Portland)

To: Congregations/Community regarding increased ICE presence in Maine

As you likely know, there is now and is expected to be an increased presence of ICE and Border Patrol agents in Maine. The Portland MultiFaith Organizing Group has been working together to gather information and supportive resources. Below is what we have compiled at this point for you to be informed and prepared.

What we're expecting

Experts are saying that most likely there will not be large raids but rather that specific areas and individuals will be pursued, likely at their homes. Agents may wait outside people's homes for them to come out.

Some things to know and do if you think you see I.C.E. Activity

#1: Call The MAINE ICE WATCH HOTLINE

The hotline is basically the first response team. The hotline receives tips about ICE activity, and sends out trained verifiers who know how to verify activity. Verifiers work with the hotline team to inform and get support. The hotline also will inform established networks that support vulnerable people in that specific area so they can respond accordingly.

If you see what you think is ICE activity, the most important thing you can do is call the hotline. Please program the number **207-544-9989** into your phone so you have it easily accessible and add the following S.A.L.U.T.E. acronym to the contact card or save it somewhere – this is the concise information you need to provide the hotline.

- **Size:** how many agents/vehicles?
- **A**ctivity: what are they doing?
- **L**ocation: where is it (exact address if possible)
- **U**nit: what agency/uniform (ICE, Customs Border Patrol, etc.)
- **T**ime: when did you/are you seeing this happen?
- **E**quipment: vehicle description, clothing, badges, weapons, etc.

#2: Observe

We highly recommend watching [this 90-minute Non-violent Civil Resistance Training](#). If you don't have the time or want a reminder, outlined below are some options to observe. These are all optional and at your discretion - we are providing options, not instructions:

- Listen for whistles, car crashes, and strange commotion. Be ready to step out and be a witness. Don't agitate, be present. Your presence says a lot.
- Stand. Witness. Be Present. Form a Crowd.
 - Form a crowd and make noise to gain the attention of others.
 - Stay calm. It is more effective, safe and provocative. Do not incite violence.
 - Previous instructions were to ask officers if they were ICE or who they work for and to engage them, but the current instructions are to use your discretion if you feel safe to engage the officers. Your safety is paramount.
- If you have a whistle, blow your whistle to alert neighbors and gather more observers
 - 3x blasts: ICE is nearby
 - 1 long blast: ICE is detaining someone
- Do not ask for detainees' names if an agent will hear their response - this helps the ICE Agents.
- Record what is happening. Recording tips:
 - Record horizontally (landscape orientation) if possible
 - Record the agents
 - Do not upload or share videos that have any identifying information of detainees (names or faces) unless you are given explicit consent.
 - If a video does not have someone's face or name, be discerning about what you share publicly. Do not post or spread videos/information that is not verified to be happening currently in Maine. We do not want to create inflammatory chaos. Decide if sharing will be helpful or not.
 - The Cumberland County DA is working on a system to upload unedited videos of ICE behavior and actions. That has not yet been released. When it is, we will share.
- Know your rights and the rights of detainees
 - VIDEO: [We Have Rights When Documenting ICE](#)
 - VIDEO: [We Have Rights: In Our Communities, In Our Streets](#)
 - RESOURCE: [What to do if you are Arrested or Detained by Immigration](#)

What else you can do to help

Spread the word.

- Share the ICE WATCH Hotline information and S.A.L.U.T.E. acronym widely. You can forward this email or share this instagram post from MIRC (maine immigrant rights coalition) who is managing the hotline

- Print out and pass out these flyers ([English/multilingual](#)) and *Know Your Rights Cards* ([English/Other Languages](#)) to local businesses that have patrons who might be feeling vulnerable at this time.
- Share the [Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition Resource Hub](#) with anyone and everyone who is vulnerable or helping out in the community.
- Watch the [Non-violent Civil Resistance Training](#)

Resources & Links

There is no one organization that is leading the charge of observing, obstructing or organizing.

But here are some additional links.

- [Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition Resource Hub](#) has the most thorough list of resources and organizations to support
- [Presente Maine Instagram](#) also tends to share good information on their Instagram
- ILAP [Get Help for a Person who has been detained by immigration officials](#)
- ACLU [Preparing for and Responding to Immigration Enforcement Activity in Maine](#)
- If you want to donate to support people detained by I.C.E.:
 - [Maine Solidarity Fund](#)
 - [Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project \(ILAP\)](#)
 - [Project Relief](#)
- [Prevention Action Change](#) de-escalation trainings and beyond