



WAR BROUGHT US HERE

Organizing for Sanctuary through an Anti-War Lens: A Toolkit

This toolkit is a project of IPS's New Internationalism Project.

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Foreword:

As we face one of the most openly anti-immigrant presidential administrations in U.S. history, the campaign for sanctuary cities becomes more important each day. Today's sanctuary movement has roots in the struggles of the 1980s to turn churches and other places into safe spaces for refugees from Central America as the U.S. funded right-wing governments and paramilitary forces that made life in that region a violent nightmare for many.

But there is another, more recent, history of activism that is relevant to today's fight for sanctuary cities. In the lead up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, with precious little opposition to the drive for war at the federal level, activists across the country worked at the local level to get cities and towns to join protesters in taking a stand against the invasion.

The initiative was called Cities for Peace, and the Institute for Policy Studies launched it in 2002. The campaign involved city councils and state legislatures passing resolutions that opposed the invasion. They called attention to the inevitable human costs of the war--both in the losses and harm to Iraqi lives and those of U.S. soldiers, as well as the economic impact on U.S. communities that would come from increased military spending, as well the deployment of military personnel who would otherwise be at home working and living in their communities.

As with today's struggle for sanctuary cities, Cities for Peace allowed for local dissent against federal policies. The initiative also allowed activists to talk with people about the connections between the U.S.' activities abroad and what happens in our cities and towns here.

That history remains relevant for today. It is crucial that activists in the U.S. stand up to the domestic anti-immigrant racism fueled by the president. But if the conversation stops at how the government treats migrants who make it to the U.S.--and does not explore what leads so many people to migrate in the first place--then it is incomplete. An honest discussion of migration today must examine what the U.S. does around the world--economically, politically, and with its military--that contributes to situations where so many people leave their home countries in search of better lives here and elsewhere.

The question of bridging the domestic and the foreign policies remains as salient as ever --and we must examine how U.S. actions abroad cause dislocation and migration. That understanding makes possible a much deeper engagement with the obligations of the United States, and our obligations as citizens and residents of what Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. described rightly as "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world." And that understanding makes possible a much broader and stronger movement to support refugees and immigrants, building beyond the moral questions regarding the character of the nation.

In the spirit of internationalism and the belief that change starts closest to home, this toolkit hopes to help generate conversations that examine the relationship of U.S. actions abroad to the conditions facing refugee and other impacted communities at home. It is our hope that this

toolkit will encourage examination of U.S. wars, militarism, and intervention which can be discussed by all our communities and raised as relevant demands at every level of government. Ultimately, we hope that communities will unite to stand against war and to protect the most vulnerable communities - especially those who have fled their home countries as a direct result of U.S. foreign policy.

The struggle for sanctuary today

The declaration of sanctuary cities (and California as a sanctuary state) since Trump's inauguration is a hopeful testament to the ways that communities are standing in solidarity with one another. As a movement rooted in the domestic and global immigrant rights movements, understanding the implications of policies abroad offers hope for creating a merging of movements into one that links the need for sanctuary with the need to end the wars and militarism that drive people out of their homes and to become refugees in the first place.

The connection between U.S. wars abroad and the flow of refugees into the country cannot be overstated. For example, when the first Muslim Ban came into force under Trump, many noted the fact that six of the seven countries on the list, were those being bombed by the U.S. The first Muslim Ban also included Iraq - a country that has been devastated and destroyed by U.S. military operations since 2003. Other examples include the U.S.'s involvement with the Saudi-led coalition forces in their bombing campaign against Yemen--while Yemen was consistently being placed on all three iterations of the Muslim Ban.

Other examples span the globe of U.S. wars, militarism, and intervention. This includes Latin America where economic policies such as NAFTA have devastated the Mexican economy, Honduras, where the U.S. is backing an authoritarian regime that came to power through election fraud, and El Salvador, where skyrocketing violence is linked directly to the legacies of the U.S. war of the 1980s and the deportation of U.S.-based gang members to the Central American country.

Despite the U.S. role in many countries abroad, it has never been entirely welcoming of immigrants and refugees - especially in the era of the War on Terror when politicians have cynically attacked immigration in the name of "national security." While this recent history sheds light on the politics of immigration and the communities so often excluded, earlier periods of U.S. history have also seen discriminatory laws and policies prohibiting immigration of certain people. Those include the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the expulsion of alleged communist and other radical immigrants during the 1920 Palmer Raids, and the combination of anti-communism and anti-Semitism that led to the large-scale rejection of many Jewish refugees during and after the Holocaust.

Because the U.S. government has historically and in the present developed a host of anti-immigrant policies, many communities have come together to establish their institutions and cities as sanctuaries. With origins spanning back decades, the contemporary sanctuary movement emerged from the violence and turmoil of the Central American wars in the 1980's, and the faith-based social justice community's desire and perceived moral obligation to assist those fleeing violence, especially that caused by the United States. During that period, sanctuary was most often practiced by churches, synagogues and other theological centers mobilized to house and protect asylum-seekers from arrest and detention by immigration authorities.

More recently, cities and other jurisdictions across the United States have declared themselves sanctuary cities. But what exactly is a sanctuary city and how can it provide safety for the most vulnerable? Across the country, the technicalities of what different regions and jurisdictions do, varies. But generally and traditionally, declaring a city as one that offers sanctuary to its residents, means that the local administration has either symbolically or as a matter of actual policy declared the city safe cooperation between local police and federal immigration officials to prevent deportations. Absent this cooperation, local police abstain from becoming the conduit through which individuals at risk of deportation are protected from Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

With all of this said, we know that this toolkit only addresses one part of the role of U.S. militarism in devastating marginalized communities. We recognize the need for expanded sanctuary that is inclusive of all marginalized communities that are under threat from various agencies of the state. However, we offer this toolkit as a first step in understanding the implications of U.S. wars and militarism abroad to underscore the role of state violence in creating insecure communities in countries around the world. It is our hope that with increasing and sustained engagement on the role of U.S. militarism in the lives of communities abroad, we can expand on the framework put forward in this toolkit to include communities domestically that are directly targeted by a U.S. that has become increasingly militarized and which has long impacted Indigenous and Black American communities.

Our challenge now, is to strengthen our movement and expand our conversations on protecting refugees and immigrants as well as other vulnerable communities, in a manner that will:

1. Support sanctuary cities/states in their efforts to protect undocumented people, asylum seekers, and refugees by helping provide materials for education and mobilization based on the direct connection that US foreign policy played in their displacement.
2. Help sanctuary communities and institutions to mainstream an analysis of the role that U.S.

wars play in dispossessing people from their homes, forcing them to become migrants or refugees in the first place.

3. Support existing sanctuary campaigns and work to broaden sanctuary beyond the traditional protection of immigrants and refugees from ICE and other deportation agents, to include protections of other communities victimized by repression and state violence.
4. Underscore the need to challenge prejudice towards immigrants and refugees rooted in racism, anti-Black racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia

What is this toolkit for?

This toolkit is designed to help strengthen the sanctuary and refugee rights movements by providing a platform to look at and strengthen sanctuary campaigns and policies through an anti-war lens. The goal is to highlight the role of the U.S.' actions in producing migration; the multiple systems of oppression, both in home countries and in the United States that impact refugees and immigrants; and the challenge of working to support refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants in the context of on-going parallel threats to the safety and security of other vulnerable people, particularly in Indigenous and Black American communities.

On the last point, there is a conversation taking place today about the separation of migrant families by federal agencies. There is a history by the U.S. of separating Indigenous children from their families too--with the logic that Indigenous parents were not fit to raise their own children. That reasoning is familiar, as the federal government uses a similar messaging to justify its practices today. In other words, the historic and ongoing treatment of Indigenous peoples by the U.S. is relevant to the attack on migrants today. Similarly, police violence and mass incarceration that disproportionately affect the Black population is important for immigrant rights activists to consider in their analysis, as police and detention are central to the oppression of migrants. We believe, then, that organizing in solidarity and defense of immigrants today is crucial. But our analysis of the problems facing immigrants is incomplete without considering other populations targeted by U.S. state violence--both within the U.S.' borders and beyond. It is the particular focus of this toolkit to make analytical links between the fight for sanctuary for migrants today and what the U.S. has done, and continues to do, abroad.

To this end, this toolkit includes several resources, including:

- 1) Articles and discussion questions on migration - including all the various reasons why people become migrants, refugees, internally displaced, or asylum seekers
- 2) Articles on U.S. militarism domestically and abroad, including how militarism affects people's lives and causes migration and displacement
- 3) Film suggestions related to refugees and immigrants with discussion questions

- 4) Guide to getting a sanctuary resolution passed in your city plus sample resolution language that includes challenges to the U.S. policies and wars that create the need for sanctuary
- 5) Outreach language including sample op-eds and press releases
- 6) List of relevant immigration/refugee/anti-war organizations

Fact Sheet on U.S. Wars, Militarism, Intervention, and Migration

- In 2017, the U.S. military was deployed in 149 countries around the world.
- The U.S. has close to 800 bases in 50 or more countries.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated that in 2016, 65.6 million people across the globe were forced to flee as a result of conflict including war and persecution; of those, about 22.5 million, of whom half are children, are refugees, meaning they have crossed borders into another country seeking safety and refuge.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees also estimated that there were more than 40 million internally displaced people in 2016 and 2.8 million asylum seekers.
- 1.3 million Afghans, Iraqis, and Pakistanis have been killed in U.S. wars post 9/11
- In just the first nine months of 2017, the U.S. dropped more than 2,400 bombs on Afghanistan, almost twice as many as in all of 2016.
- The War in Afghanistan which started in 2001, is now the United States' longest running war in the country's history
- The U.S. dropped 32,801 bombs in Iraq and Syria in just the first nine months of 2017, up from 30,743 in all of 2016
- There are currently ten countries that have Temporary Protected Status in the United States that allows for temporary resettlement in the U.S and the ability to obtain legal work permits

- The list of TPS countries includes El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen
- Of these ten countries on the TPS list, the DHS has decided to end four of these countries' designation as such between July 2018 and September of 2019. This includes Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, and El Salvador. The remaining countries are pending decisions by the DHS.
- Though the U.S. frames TPS as humanitarian, it has intervened militarily or otherwise in most TPS designated countries
- Despite the fact that Trump's rhetoric on immigration from Mexico suggests a crisis in numbers, according to the New York Times with data from U.S. Border Patrol, the number of undocumented immigrants caught at the border is the lowest it's been since 1971
- After NAFTA came into force, nearly 500,000 Mexicans were migrating to the United States every year because NAFTA's detrimental impact on the Mexican economy.

Articles on Militarism, Migration, and Sanctuary:

One of the core purposes of this toolkit is to give activists and organizations who are already working on sanctuary and to support refugees and asylum seekers, the tools they need to include an anti-war analysis in their work. We recognize that there are many factors that influence the extent to which these discussions are initiated, such as community fears around challenging U.S. wars and intervention. However, the articles below provide a broad overview of U.S. wars, militarism, and intervention that we hope will help to provide more context for those who want to include this analysis in their work. We believe that this analysis can be powerful to shifting the narrative around migration to the United States, and thus significantly strengthen the sanctuary and refugee rights movements.

Title	Author & Date	Link
The Nation: The Disturbing Parallels Between US Policing at Home and Military Tactics Abroad	Danny Sjursen October 12, 2017	https://www.thenation.com/article/the-disturbing-parallels-between-us-policing-at-home-and-military-tactics-a-broad/
TruthOut: American Militarism: Costs and Consequences	Melvin Goodman March 5, 2013	http://www.truth-out.org/progressivepicks/item/14926-american-militarism-costs-and-consequences
In These Times: If We Want to Support Refugees, We Need To End the Wars That Create Them	Azadeh Shahshahani & Maha Hilal March 12, 2018	http://inthesetimes.com/article/20983/sanctuary-movement-trump-obama-wars-el-salvador-guatemala-syria-libya

<p>Collingwood Research: The Politics of Refuge: Sanctuary Cities, Crime, and Undocumented Immigration</p>	<p>Loren Collingwood October 16, 2016</p>	<p>http://www.collingwoodresearch.com/uploads/8/3/6/0/8360930/shelter_nopols_blind_final.pdf</p>
<p>Alternet: There Is A Massive Movement of Refugees Globally— International Community Shuts Down Its Borders in Response</p>	<p>Vijay Prashad November 29, 2017</p>	<p>https://www.alternet.org/migration/there-massive-movement-refugees-globally-international-community-shuts-down-its-borders?akid=16437.2685013.8MRNMD&rd=1&src=newsletter1085960&t=26</p>
<p>Huffington Post: The US role in forced migration from the Middle East</p>	<p>Azadeh Shahshahani October 23, 2017</p>	<p>https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-us-role-in-forced-migration-from-the-middle-east_us_59ee24cbe4b036b5fdb9e5b2</p>
<p>Haas Institute: Moving Targets An Analysis of Global Forced Migration</p>	<p>Hassan Ahmad, Nadia Barhoum, Sybil Lewis September 2017</p>	<p>http://haasinstitute.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/haasinstitute_moving_targets_globalmigrationreport_publish_web.pdf</p>
<p>Democratic Socialists of America: US Policies Drive Migration From Central America</p>	<p>David Bacon April 4, 2016</p>	<p>http://www.dsausa.org/us_policies_drive_migration_from_central_america</p>
<p>Foreign Policy: America’s Afghan Refugee Crisis</p>	<p>Dr. Robert D. Crews February 4, 2016</p>	<p>http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/02/04/americas-afghan-refugee-crisis/</p>
<p>Center for Latin American Studies, Berkeley: Latino Migration and U.S. Foreign Policy</p>	<p>Lisa García Bedolla Spring 2009</p>	<p>https://clas.berkeley.edu/research/immigration-latino-migration-and-us-foreign-policy</p>

Alternet: Children of the Monroe Doctrine: The Militarized Roots of America's Border Calamity	Arturo J. Viscarra, Michael Prentice August 11, 2014	https://www.alternet.org/migration/children-monroe-doctrine-militarized-roots-americas-border-calamity
The Nation: How US Policies Fueled Mexico's Great Migration	David Bacon January 12, 2012	https://www.thenation.com/article/how-us-policies-fueled-mexicos-great-migration/
Toward Freedom: The roots of global migration: Why Are People Compelled to Leave Their Homes?	Baher Kamal November 21, 2017	https://towardfreedom.com/archives/globalism/roots-global-migration-people-compelled-leave-homes/
World Food Programme: At the Root of Exodus: Food security, conflict and international migration	No specific author listed May 2017	https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000015358/download/?_ga=2.134601649.179421875.1509268214-1872499076.1484135788
LA Times: The case for nongovernmental sanctuary for immigrants	Pratheepan Gulasekaram Rose Cuison Villazor April 5, 2015	http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-gulasekaram-villazor-immigrant-sanctuary-network-20180405-story.html

Discussion Questions for Articles:

1. Think about the connection between the countries the U.S. has intervened in economically or militarily or politically, and the countries where refugees are fleeing from. What is the connection?
2. What are some of the narratives that deflect attention away from forced migration in immigration debates?
3. What are some of the root causes of migration identified in these articles? How do they impact how you see migration?
4. What would real accountability for forced migration look like?
5. How can sanctuary city policies address forced migration and the need to protect vulnerable communities?
6. Many discussions on Sanctuary focus on immigrants and refugees once they are in a host country. Based on these articles, what can be done to broaden the conversation to include

how forced migration happens and how and economic/military intervention in other countries results in dispossession and forced migration?

Films for discussion:

Films can be a powerful way of facilitating conversations around controversial issues. They also bring out the human dimension of migration and displacement in ways that can engage diverse audiences. The films suggested below are those which speak to war and its impacts, including forced migration. It is our hope that these films will help provide an additional platform through which to engage in conversation about how wars, militarism, and other interventions come at the greatest cost to those who must flee in order to preserve their lives.

The list below is by no means exhaustive, but are suggestions that to spark conversations in your community. Some of the films have their own websites with more information and others are available on commercial platforms such as amazon and netflix. Below the list of films, there is also a list of discussion questions that you can use to facilitate post-film conversations.

Harvest of Empire: This film examines the legacy of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the impact on immigration.

Who is Dayani Cristal?: Tells the story of migrants crossing the Sonora desert through retracing the story of a deceased migrant with a tattoo with the name “Dayani Cristal.”

Sentenced Home: Tells the story of Cambodian Americans who have to pay for their teenage mistakes by getting deported.

Human Flow: Documents refugee journeys from 23 countries and shows the struggles they face along the way and once they arrive to a new country.

The Citizen: Tells the story of an Arab immigrant to the United States right before 9/11 to tell a collective story of the experiences of Arab Americans and Arab immigrants in the immediate

aftermath of the attacks. (Note: the movie does not have a website of its own, but is available on multiple platforms including amazon prime).

The Golden Dream: Follows the journey of three teenagers from Guatemala to the United States in search of a better life. (Note: the movie does not have a website of its own, but is available on multiple platforms including amazon prime).

Under the Same Moon: This film tells the story of a young boy's journey from Mexico to the United States to find his mother in Los Angeles who migrated to give him a better life. (Note: the movie does not have a website of its own, but is available on multiple platforms including amazon prime).

For a Moment, Freedom: The story of Iranian refugees who get stuck in Turkey waiting for their asylum applications to be approved. (Note: the movie does not have a website of its own, but the DVD is available for purchase on amazon.com).

After Spring: Captures life for Syrian refugees in the Zaatari refugee camps in Jordan and the struggles they face.

The Resettled: Tells the story of refugees Iraq, Burma, Vietnam, Congo, and Liberia who have flee to the United States and the challenges they face.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some initial thoughts you had after watching this film?
2. Were there any stories in particular that resonated with you? If so, why?
3. What were some of the themes of the film?
4. What human rights issues did the film address?
5. What were some of the political issues happening in countries the characters were fleeing from?
6. How were immigration issues in this film addressed? Do they address any systemic issues in terms of immigration?
7. What connections did the film make between immigration and conflict if any? How much of the conflict portrayed was internal and how much was external as in involving intervention from another country?
8. Did this film make you think about immigration/forced migration differently? If so, how?

9. What responsibilities do countries such as the United States have when it comes to immigration/forced migration? What role does it play in creating forced migration in the first place?
10. After watching this film, what type of reforms do you think would be necessary to addressing immigration and conflict?
11. What role could sanctuary play in the lives of the characters in the film?

Guide to getting a resolution/ordinance passed in your city:

With renewed energy around sanctuary cities, many local communities have been working on getting resolutions passed in their cities. For those whose cities may already have resolutions in place from earlier campaigns, some are pushing for bills that are enforceable, rather than resolutions that are largely symbolic in nature. This next section is designed to help walk you through the process of getting a resolution passed and is completely adaptable for those who are at a more advanced stage in their local sanctuary work. The articles and films above coupled with the questions posed might also help you add language to any resolutions, bills, etc. that your community decides to move forward with.

Step 1: Determine Your Goal

Determine a clear goal/goals for the resolution and/or ordinance that you want implemented/updated, what you want included, prioritization of various issues, and what language makes the most sense for your jurisdiction.

Step 2: Do Your Research

Do some research on your local city council. Determine if a sanctuary city resolution exists, whether or not it has been implemented, and what might be missing if so. If a resolution doesn't exist in this explicit form, especially if city officials sometimes refer to their city as a sanctuary city, do some research to explore if aspects related to sanctuary have been included in other resolutions.

Step 3: Assessment

On the basis of your research, determine what you should propose. Is it additional or tweaked language to an existing sanctuary resolution? Is it a resolution in its entirety? Figure out what makes the most sense based on where your city sits with sanctuary.

Step 4: Determine Your Targets

Find out how Council members have voted on related issues in the past and think about who might be receptive to being approached about this resolution. Try getting as much intel as you can about the council member, including their working relationships with other council members, and any other relevant external relationships.

Councilmember	Resolutions Voted On	Relationships (Internal/External)	Notes

Step 5: Identify Other Stakeholders

There may be overlap here when considering what relationships councilmembers have outside of city council, but try to think as broadly as possible about who is creating the problem (not just the obvious actors, i.e. federal immigration authorities). Then you can identify others who have a stake in the issue including those facing other problems with those same agencies. This is also a good time to identify potential allies that have power to shift the problem but have yet to leverage their power or who simply need more incentive, including city officials, editorial boards of local papers, and more. A great resource from [Tactical Technology](#) suggests that you map out in clear terms, the following categories of stakeholders:

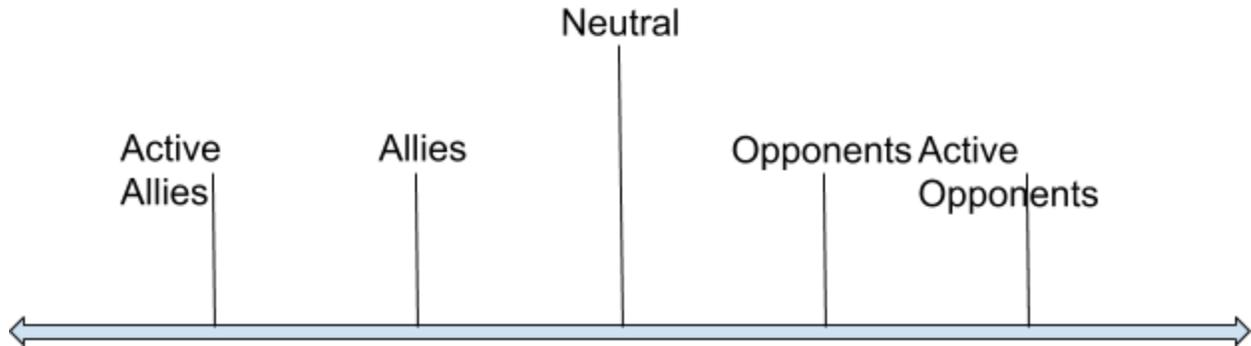
Active allies: Includes those who would benefit from and participate in your strategy around sanctuary.

Allies: Includes interested parties, but who may not yet be activated.

Neutral parties: Includes those who don't feel impacted by the issue one way or another.

Opponents: Includes those who stand to lose from sanctuary policies, but who might not be at the stage of active intervention.

Active opponents: Includes those who will proactively intervene in any attempts made by your group.



Step 4: Plan a meeting in your community

This first step is designed to help you take stock of who in your community might be interested in working on getting some sort of statement from local officials regarding sanctuary. From those who attend, you will also develop a good sense of what perspectives are in the room, what connections those who attend might have, and how to best move forward on strategizing to pass a resolution. You might consider making a list of organizations and individuals or use the basic table below to document who you think would be interested in tackling this issue.

Name	Organization/Individual	Email Address	Date of Contact

Step 4 A: Make a Meeting Agenda

Think about what you will need to address in your first meeting. You might consider doing an overview of the numbers of and challenges facing refugees and immigrants in your city, where your city stands with sanctuary policies, getting community perspectives on sanctuary, deciding on tactics that can be used both to further conversations and also figuring out how to begin the process for advocating/reinforcing sanctuary in your community.

Step 4 B: Take stock of who is in the room (and who’s not)

Use this step to map out the relationships and networks that those in the room have and that can be leveraged. Also, if there are impacted communities present, make sure to center their voices and listen to their perspectives on sanctuary and what will ultimately make the community feel

safe to them. Establishing relationships will also be a key step here as building power is critical to your ability to pressure local officials to act. You should also take note of who isn't in the room, but needs to be and solicit feedback from the attendees for ideas about reaching those folks.

Step 4 B: Make a Plan

The first important decision here is to decide on a clear goal and a timeline. If for example, your city already has a resolution but you want it to be stronger, think about what that would look like. Or maybe your group collectively decides that you want to push for an ordinance so that sanctuary policy is beyond symbolism. Once you decide on a specific goal, think about a feasible timeline for reaching this goal and what some realistic benchmarks might be.

Step 4 C: Decide on Tactics

Once you've decided on a goal and timeline, the next step is to figure out your strategy. This not only includes the step of determining your target as listed above, but also think about the tactics you will utilize. The tactics you use should be decided on in a way that escalates demands and gets you closer to achieving your goals. There is an extensive list of nonviolent campaign tactics developed by Gene Sharp that you can access [here](#). But some ideas include political education of target communities, rallies, petitions, and social media campaigns.

Specific tactics that you should think about at this stage including scheduling a meeting with a potential sponsor of any resolutions or bills you want to put forward as well as trying to schedule and conduct a hearing. If you are unsure who in city council might be supportive of sanctuary, try scheduling meetings (perhaps privately) with multiple representatives. This will not only give you a sense who could be a potential sponsor, but how others would vote - which will help you figure where you need to dedicate your efforts.

Both of these tactics will not only make the issue of sanctuary visible, but will also get the ball rolling and signal to city council officials that you/your community intends to get serious commitment to push the issue further.

Step 4 D: Make a Timeline

Decide as a group collectively what time frame makes the most sense. The timeline you come up with should also reflect any city council cycles/calendars in addition to thinking about one that is based on a realistic assessment of how long it will take to build a base large enough to pressure city officials to take action. Some campaigns may look at long-term education efforts

for the community at large to build support for sanctuary or for adding an anti-war component to sanctuary, recognizing that an actual city council vote and a potential win may be some time in the future.

Step 5: Take Action

Now that you have taken the time to power map, plan a meeting with your community and create a timeline, you can get started in taking the steps necessary to get sanctuary on your city council's agenda. Remember that this will take time and that political education of both the community and government officials may be necessary and useful in its own right. But with a good plan in place, your goal of making your community safe for those who are the most vulnerable and marginalized will hopefully be realized.

Getting a Sanctuary City Resolution Passed:

The language below was created for use by a variety of activists and advocates working on sanctuary. Therefore, you should feel free to use, change or amend as needed. Additionally, we have included a couple of links to resolutions that have been passed in cities across the country.

[California's Values Act](#)

[Cincinnati Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

[Culver City Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

[Hillsboro Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

[Minneapolis Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

[Portland Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

[San Francisco Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

[San Leandro Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

[Santa Ana Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

[Seattle Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

[Urbana Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

[Watsonville Sanctuary City Resolution](#)

SAMPLE RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

Whereas the United States is a country of immigrants and denying new immigrants entry is a violation of our ideals

Whereas the United States is a country that values religious freedom and the inclusion of people of all faiths

Whereas the United States has existed as a refuge for many people around the world

Whereas the United States has a responsibility to provide sanctuary for those who are forced to migrate because of the wars, intervention, and militarism on the part of this country

WHEREAS, Immigrants and refugees of all nations have contributed to the economic and social fabric of the United States

Whereas the United States should reject its history of discriminatory immigration policies that for example, resulted in the Chinese Exclusion Act

Whereas refugees in the United States have contributed 63 billion more in government revenues than the cost of hosting them

Whereas the United States has allotted 53 cents of every discretionary federal dollar to the military in 2018 – funds that are used to perpetuate war and which cause forced displacement

Whereas, instead of accepting entry of refugees fleeing from wars the U.S. funds and perpetuates, we instead deny them entry to the country

Whereas the United States, instead of engaging in endless wars, can redirect part of its \$668 billion dollar military budget to helping resettle refugees resettle

Whereas the United States has the responsibility under international law and our nation's identity as a country of immigrants, to welcome refugees, especially where U.S. wars led to their displacement

Whereas X City has a responsibility to protect all the immigrants and refugees that come to our city as a result of violent policies that the U.S. promotes abroad

Whereas, City X adopting a policy of sanctuary will increase cooperation between its residents and law enforcement, making our city safer for everyone

Whereas City X should commit to equal treatment of its residents regardless of their immigration status

Outreach & Education Strategy: Writing an Op-Ed

Part of getting a Sanctuary city resolution passed by city (or state) officials will involve major educational work that aims to shift the existing discourse on refugees, and directing attention to why Sanctuary is important, and, in the spirit of this toolkit, reframing public understanding of the root cause of migration. In the long term, this education of community residents can end up being as important as the final vote.

Writing op-eds can be an effective way to engage with individuals who might not otherwise have a vested interest in advocating for sanctuary. Through personal stories, they can also capture the human element of the issue and hopefully make people more interested or at least more aware of the need for sanctuary policies.

Tips for Writing an Op-Ed:

1. Decide on your intended audience. Who are you trying to reach? For example, are you trying to rally the crowd that already agrees with you, see if you can influence those who are positioned more in the center, or some other niche audience? Is the media platform you're approaching the right one to reach that particular audience?
2. Determine 1-3 points you want to clearly articulate in your piece, making sure that your main point is at the top
3. Offer evidence supporting the points you're making
4. Use your personal voice and talk about how the issue you're writing on impacts you or your community
5. Try to find a relevant news hook to connect your piece to
6. Identify opposing viewpoints and acknowledge them in your piece, especially if you are responding directly to one of them

7. Offer solutions to answer the critiques you're making. This will make for a stronger piece that engages readers
8. Keep it short! Most op-eds are about 600-800 words.

Sample Op-Ed:

“America’s Role in the Refugee Crisis: On World Refugee Day, Examine our Role in Displacing Millions around the Globe.”

By Dr. Maha Hilal in [US News](#)

JUNE 20 MARKS WORLD Refugee Day – the 17th time the United Nations-designated day has been observed. This year's comes as a record number of people are forcibly displaced around the world – 65.3 million, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. That's approximately equal to the populations of France or the United Kingdom.

World Refugee Day is dedicated to both remembering the struggles that refugees face while fleeing violence and to celebrating their invaluable contributions to the societies of which they become a part. This year's feels particularly poignant, as the Trump administration's efforts to suspend the entire U.S. refugee resettlement program — and to ban virtually all migration from several Muslim-majority countries — remain tied up in the courts.

Yet even as the administration rails against refugees, it continues to participate in the ongoing global warfare — much of it under the so-called "war on terror" — that perpetuates the refugee crisis. It's long past time to critically examine our country's role in forced migration.

The war on terror began in 2001, the same year as the first World Refugee Day. Since then, the U.S. has played a significant role in the displacement of people around the world — especially in the Middle East and neighboring areas, where we've almost exclusively pursued a policy of war and militarism. We've launched "regime change" operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, and bombing campaigns in Pakistan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.

This past April, President Donald Trump's continuation of the war on terror included dropping "the mother of all bombs" on Afghanistan, where the U.N. counts 2.7 million refugees. Together with Syria and Somalia, two other countries the U.S. has active military operations in, those three states account for over half of all people displaced outside their home countries.

For many, the alternative to displacement is death. Physicians for Social Responsibility and its international partners produced a report in 2015 estimating that 1.3 million Iraqis, Afghans and Pakistanis have died in the course of the war on terror.

Despite the fact that they're largely displaced by wars we've helped instigate, Muslim refugees in particular are portrayed in our media and by politicians as dangerous – as criminals, terrorists, financial burdens, etc. We're taught to fear refugees while simultaneously applauding ourselves as a country that is (supposedly) tolerant of them.

For example, U.S. military actions in recent weeks have displaced some 200,000 Syrians, according to one recent report. Yet Trump has referred to Syrian refugees as "Trojan horses," as though they left their homes in a covert attempt to undermine the U.S. government. It's not enough to try to bar them from our country – apparently Trump has to tarnish them in public opinion, too.

This seems to be the cruel illogic of our wars: to obscure the violence we've created and to deny the victims any sort of accountability, much less entry into the country that displaced them from theirs. Yet if we're serious about remedying the refugee crisis, then the solution isn't in the number of refugees we accept or deny – it's to end the wars that are displacing people.

The way to do this is threefold: First, we must rely on diplomacy to resolve conflicts. Second, we must acknowledge the harms our foreign policy has caused. Third, we must stop perpetuating wars that accomplish nothing in the way of making us safer (rather, they result in more conflict at home).

In the meantime, we should continue welcoming refugees. On this 17th World Refugee Day, let's take a critical look at our role in the refugee crisis and start rectifying the injustices we've caused.

Outreach Strategy: Press Releases

In the event that your group holds an action, a public meeting, a meeting with city officials, etc., writing a good press release will help get the media interested and engaged in the issue of Sanctuary. Press releases can be used to attract both local and national media platforms. There are several tips below to help write an effective press release, and you should feel free to use language from this template.

In many cases, journalists will simply take language from the press release (for example quotes from leaders) to include in a brief story.

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

DATE

Press Contact:

CONTACT NAME & TITLE IN ORGANIZATION OR COALITION

EMAIL ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

Muslim American Activists Host Rally Against Trump's "Muslim Ban" Policies; Call on DC Government to Protect Marginalized Communities

Where: John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW DC

When: Thursday, January 26, 2017, 4:30-6:00 PM

Washington, DC — On Thursday, January 26 from 4:30-6:00 pm, activists will protest the

Executive Order that President Trump is expected to sign. The order will include halting refugee admissions for at least 4 months, banning entry to the U.S. from several Muslim majority countries, and implementing intensive screenings of immigration applicants. Staging the protest outside of a DC government building (the Wilson Building), activists will call upon the D.C. government to protect Muslim and immigrant communities that the Trump administration is targeting. The event is being organized by the Muslim American Women's Policy Forum.

Organizers are calling on Muslims, refugees, immigrants and allies to join them in urging the DC Council to make a clear statement that they will protect these threatened despite pressure from the Trump administration.

"It's important we reject Islamophobia, xenophobia and anti-refugee violence," said Darakshan Raja, Co-director of Justice for Muslims Collective based in DC. She added, "In this moment we have to show up, resist and center leadership of directly impacted folks."

"It is unfortunate, yet not unexpected that President Trump is moving forward with his plan to not only ban immigrants from certain Muslim countries, but to also deny refugees, specifically Muslim refugees, entry into the United States," said Dr. Maha Hilal, Co-Director of Justice for Muslims Collective. "This collective punishment of Muslims represents the newest era of the War on Terror that is fundamentally racist, xenophobic, and Islamophobic, while failing to address the root causes of forced migration - which in many cases is a direct result of U.S. intervention."

Conclusion:

As many of the most marginalized communities face increasing uncertainty in the United States, we hope that this toolkit will contribute to conversations about immigration by highlighting the role of U.S. wars and militarism in driving migration. We hope that this toolkit will help provoke questions and answers to push these conversations further.

We also know that there is more to be said when it comes to creating sanctuary for all impacted communities, so we also hope that this toolkit and the content within can be used to facilitate critical discussions and to create broader and more inclusive frameworks that keep all of our communities safe from various state agencies, from local police departments to federal immigration enforcement.

Our communities have been under attack for far too long. But by ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our communities are safe, we can stand up and fight back.

Relevant Organizations:

Immigrant Rights Organizations:

Alliance for Global Justice:

<https://afgj.org/>

American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee:

<http://www.adc.org/>

Asian Americans Advancing Justice:

<https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/>

Black Alliance for Just Immigration:

<http://baji.org/>

Church World Service:

<https://cwsglobal.org/>

Courage Campaign:

<https://www.couragecampaign.org/>

Detention Watch Network:

<https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/>

Hebrew Immigration Aid Society:

<https://www.hias.org/>

Human Rights First:

<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/>

Immigrant Legal Resource Center:

<https://www.ilrc.org/>

Interfaith Immigration Coalition:
<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/>

International Rescue Committee:
<https://www.rescue.org/>

Juntos:
<http://vamosjuntos.org/>

Mijente:
<https://mijente.net/home/>

National Immigrant Justice Center:
<http://www.immigrantjustice.org/>

National Immigration Law Center:
<https://www.nilc.org/>

Oxfam:
<https://www.oxfamamerica.org/>

Project South:
<https://projectsouth.org/>

Refugee Council USA:
<http://www.rcusa.org/>

United We Dream:
<https://www.unitedwedream.org>

Anti-War Organizations:

About Face: Iraq Veterans Against the War:
<http://ivaw.org/>

Alliance for Global Justice:
<https://afgj.org/>

Codepink:

<https://www.codepink.org>

Friends Committee on National Legislation:

<https://www.fcnl.org/>

International Action Center:

<https://iacenter.org/>

National Priorities Project:

<https://www.nationalpriorities.org/>

School of the Americas Watch:

<http://www.soaw.org/border/>

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows:

<http://peacefultomorrows.org/>

War Resisters League:

<https://www.warresisters.org/>

Win Without War:

<http://winwithoutwar.org/>

World Beyond War:

<http://worldbeyondwar.org/>

United for Peace and Justice:

<http://www.unitedforpeace.org/>

US Labor Against the War:

<https://uslaboragainstar.org/>

Veterans for Peace:

<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/>

Other Helpful Resources:

Forced Migration Online: <http://www.forcedmigration.org/>

American Federation of Teachers: Immigrant and Refugee Children: A Guide for Educators and School Support Staff:

https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/im_uac-educators-guide_2017.pdf

Catholic Legal Immigration Network Sanctuary Cities Toolkit:

<https://cliniclegal.org/resources/sanctuary-cities-toolkit>

The Center for Popular Democracy and Local Progress: Protecting Immigrant Communities: Municipal Policy to Confront Mass Deportation and Criminalization:

https://www.informedimmigrant.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/CPDSanctuary-Cities-Toolkit_web.pdf

Freedom Cities Platform:

<http://www.freedomcities.org/>

Interfaith Immigration Coalition: Local and State Immigration Toolkit

<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Toolkit-Local-and-State-Immigration.pdf>

United We Dream: #HereToStay Toolkit; Sanctuary City/County/State:

<http://weareheretostay.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/UWDHereToStayToolkitHowtoBecomeaSanctuaryWelcomingCityCountyState-1.pdf>

Unitarian Universalist Sanctuary Toolkit:

<https://uucsj.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sanctuary-Toolkit-2017.pdf>

Local Progress: Resources for Protecting Immigrant Communities:

<http://localprogress.org/sanctuary-city-resources/>

Mijente: Expanding Sanctuary: What Makes a City a Sanctuary Now:

<https://mijente.net/2017/01/27/sanctuary-report/>

National Immigration Law Center: Sanctuary City Toolkit:

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/sanctuary-city-toolkit/>