

# ***CARE NOT CAGES: MASSACHUSETTS IMMIGRANT JUSTICE IN 2026***

*January 31, 2026 | Progressive Massachusetts Annual Meeting*



See **ICE?** Report to LUCE  
**617-370-5023**

**CONFIDENTIAL!**

**Save it in your phone!**

While you settle in, please take a look at our current fundraisers for families directly impacted by ICE operations in our state:

**Operationmilkweed.org**

# **WHO ARE WE?**

**SHANNON FLYNN & LEELA RAMACHANDRAN**

**WHAT IS LUCE?**

# WHAT DOES LUCE DO?

**L** Liberation  
**U** Union  
**C** Community  
**E** Esperanza/Esperança/Espoir/Espwa (Hope)

**IN HUBS**

43 across MA

+

**STATEWIDE**

4,000+ volunteers

# How does it work?

## Hotline Operators available 6am-8pm

Community members call whenever they think they see ICE, to ask about resources, to report when someone has been detained



## Local hub of volunteers

(often in coordination with an anchor local organization) **sends out volunteers to verify rumors**, make connections to local resources, canvass with know your rights info

## **L.A.V.A.** **melts I.C.E.**

- **Location** – be as specific as possible
- **Agents** – number · appearance · gear
- **Vehicles** – model · color · license plates
- **Actions** – what are they doing?

.....  
More resources at **LUCEMASS.org**



BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

NOW

THIS

*Fine, thank you.*

© Siembra NC

# Who is part of LUCE?

- Immigrant-led and Immigrant base building organizations:
  - Whose **bases are directly targeted**
  - Who **organize to build people power** (including legislative power, legal aid, providing direct services, mutual aid, etc)
- Community members (like you!) across the state organizing grassroots efforts to defend their neighborhoods





**BASE BUILDING ORGANIZATIONS**

**SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS**

**ORGANIZING IN LOCAL HUBS**

Matahari Women Workers' Center  
NUBE East Boston  
Neighbor 2 Neighbor  
Brazilian Women's Group  
ECCO Essex County Community Organization  
Mujeres Victoriosas  
Pioneer Valley Workers Center  
AARW Asian American Resource Workshop  
Muslim Justice League

Asian Pacific Islanders Civic Action Network Massachusetts  
UUMass Action  
HOMES FOR ALL MASSACHUSETTS  
PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network  
MASSACHUSETTS BAIL FUND

Faith Groups  
Immigrant Community Leaders  
Local Advocacy Orgs.  
WIN! The Welcome Immigrant Network  
Fuerza Waltham  
Local Service Providers  
You!

# 2025 Recap

Last year\*, verifiers responded to over **1,100 incidents** in **120 cities and towns** across Massachusetts

*What did this look like?*

# What did 2025 look like?

*Violent*

*District court, businesses, traffic stops, homes, immigration court, on streets, gas stations, and more*

*Quick*

Frequent local police + court staff collaboration

*Profiling*

***...our community members are being targeted wherever they are***

*Traumatic*

# Locations Hit Hard

Framingham, Milford, Marlborough, East Boston, Chelsea, Revere, New Bedford, Waltham, and more

*Also, suburban communities like Acton, Newton, Milton, Hudson which underscores the **need to organize in every single community.***

**WHY?**

# Psychological Warfare

**ICE has explicitly said  
“Our goal is to create the  
conditions within which  
people will self-deport.”**

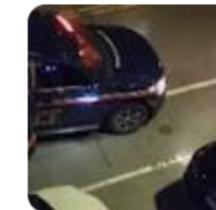
## so-called “Operation Patriot 2.0” Sept/Oct 2025:



**WBUR**  
ICE launches new immigration enforcement surge in Mass.

21 hours ago

**WCVB**  
ICE brings marked vehicle to Boston during enforcement surge



3 hours ago

### Also in the news

**The Boston Globe**  
ICE begins new surge in Boston, as its deportation machinery hardens into plac...



2 days ago

**Boston 25 News**  
25 Investigates: U.S. Border Czar Tom Homan warns of ‘permanent’ ICE surge in...



6 hours ago

**Boston Herald**  
Beacon Hill’s three most powerful Democrats slam Trump for ICE surge in Mass.



21 hours ago

**MassLive**  
‘Not about public safety’: Mass. Gov. Healey slams Boston ICE surge



1 day ago

**Boston Herald**  
Boston’s ICE surge to spread, Homan says



1 day ago

# Psychological Warfare

**The fear is the tactic! This fear allows corporations to exploit immigrant workers**

**They want to create the feeling that they are everywhere, but they are not.**

***When we organize with our neighbors,  
there are more of us than there are of them***

# **MAKING SENSE OF THIS POLITICAL MOMENT:**

**The immigration system is not broken.**

***It's working as intended!***

**These abuses of power did not start with Trump,  
this country has always run on immigrant labor  
while exploiting and criminalizing it**

# National History of Immigrant detention and criminalization (*abbreviated!*)

learn more at  
[freedomforimmigrants.org  
/detention-timeline](https://freedomforimmigrants.org/detention-timeline)



## 1700s

- 1790 Naturalization Act - U.S. citizenship may be granted to free white persons of “good moral character”; Native Americans, enslaved people, indentured servants, free black folks, and Asian folks were effectively excluded.
- 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts - Allowed for deportation of persons deemed “dangerous to the safety and security of the United States”

## 1800s

- 1823 “Doctrine of Discovery”, 1830 Indian Removal Act, 1850 Fugitive Slave Act
- **1865 Passage of the 13th Amendment** - This Amendment abolishes slavery “except as punishment for crime,” leading to prison labor to be contracted out for private profit
- 1882 The Chinese Exclusion Act, 1892 Ellis Island (detention facility) opens

## 1900s

- US Dept of Commerce and Labor begins patrolling US/Mex Border 1904
- 1921 Emergency Quota Act (3% rule), Mass Deportations during Great depression
- 1940s Bracero Program, Japanese internment, The School of the Americas is formed
- 1980s/90s first private prison, War on Drugs, NAFTA, Border Patrol & Wall
- 1996 laws expanded reasons for mandatory deportation and 3yr/10yr/lifetime bans



# National History of Immigrant detention and criminalization (*abbreviated!*)

learn more at  
[freedomforimmigrants.org/detention-timeline](https://freedomforimmigrants.org/detention-timeline)



## 2000s

- **2003 Creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** - The former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) dissolved & reformed into three branches:
  - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
  - Customs and Border Enforcement (CBP)
  - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): *immigration detention system now falls under the purview of ICE.*
- 2008 - The Bush administration pilots “Secure Communities” program: creating closer collaboration between federal immigration enforcement & local policing
- 2009 Immigration Detention Bed Quota - Passed by Congress, DHS must now maintain a minimum of 34,000 detention beds across the country on any given day.

## 2010s

- 2011 - The Obama administration expands the “Secure Communities” program, which relies on fed & local law enforcement partnerships to carry out ICE’s priorities
- 2012 DACA *temporary* protection for immigrants under very specific circumstances
- January 2017 - Obama remembered as “Deporter in chief” - detention numbers at a record high of over 40,000 per day and the Obama administration has deported over 3 million people, more than all presidents since 1890 combined.
- October 2017 - The Dignity Not Detention Act passes in California, the first law of its kind to restrict the growth of for-profit immigration detention contracting on a statewide level



# Biden Administration (2021–2025)

## Programs

- Safe Mobility Offices
- DACA Protections Restored
- Parole for CHNV Countries (1.3M admitted)
- Keeping Families Together (2024)
- Ended Family Separation

## Stats/Legal

- 271K+ removals in FY2024
- Refugee ceiling up to ~100,000
- Court challenges by GOP-led states
- Some programs blocked late 2024



# Trump Administration 2.0 (2025–Present)

## “Mass Deportation” Agenda

### Key Policies

- **EO 14159:** Limits Asylum + Defunds Sanctuary Cities
- **EO 14160:** Ends Birthright Citizenship (blocked)
- **EO 14163:** Ends Refugees & CHNV Parole
- Wall construction resumed
- Proposed \$5M “Gold Card” Visa

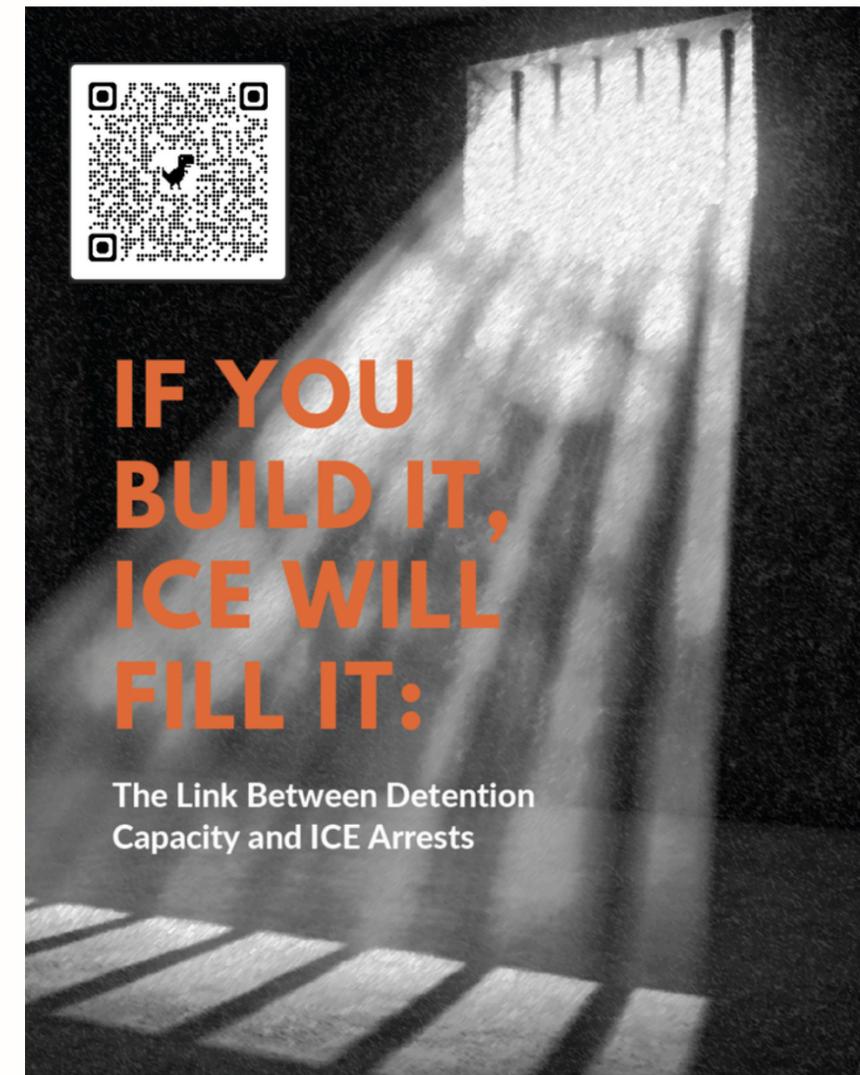
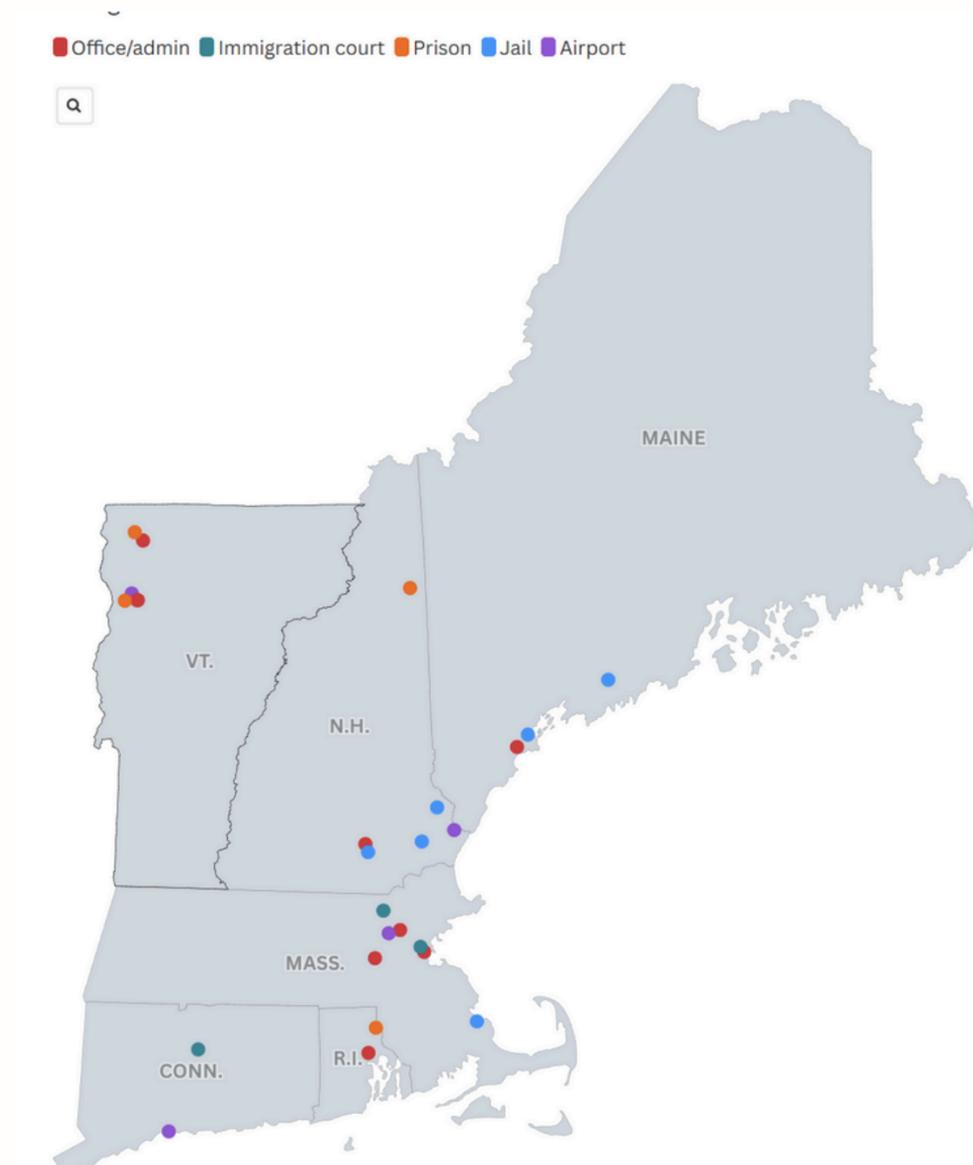
### Expanding Enforcement through “Big Beautiful Budget”

- Goal: **600K–1M deportations/year**
- **+10K ICE agents**
- “Alligator Alcatraz” Detention Center
- Bond hearings **denied**
- Retroactive expedited removal

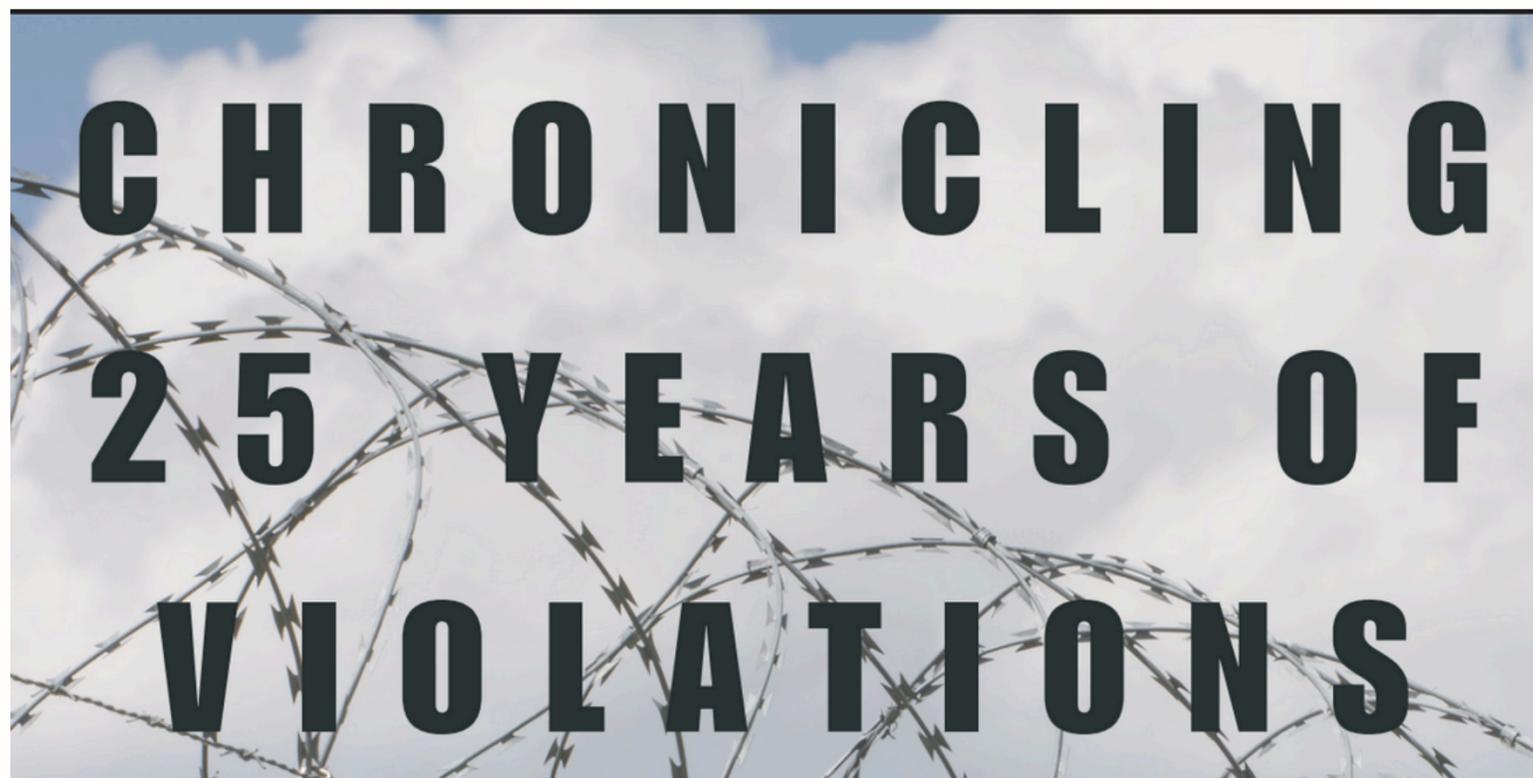


# Shut down Plymouth

- Less detention facilities = less arrests



# Shut down Plymouth



Being detained at Plymouth is **torture**. They make this a horrible place so that people do not fight their deportation.

*Robenson*

## **Introduction**

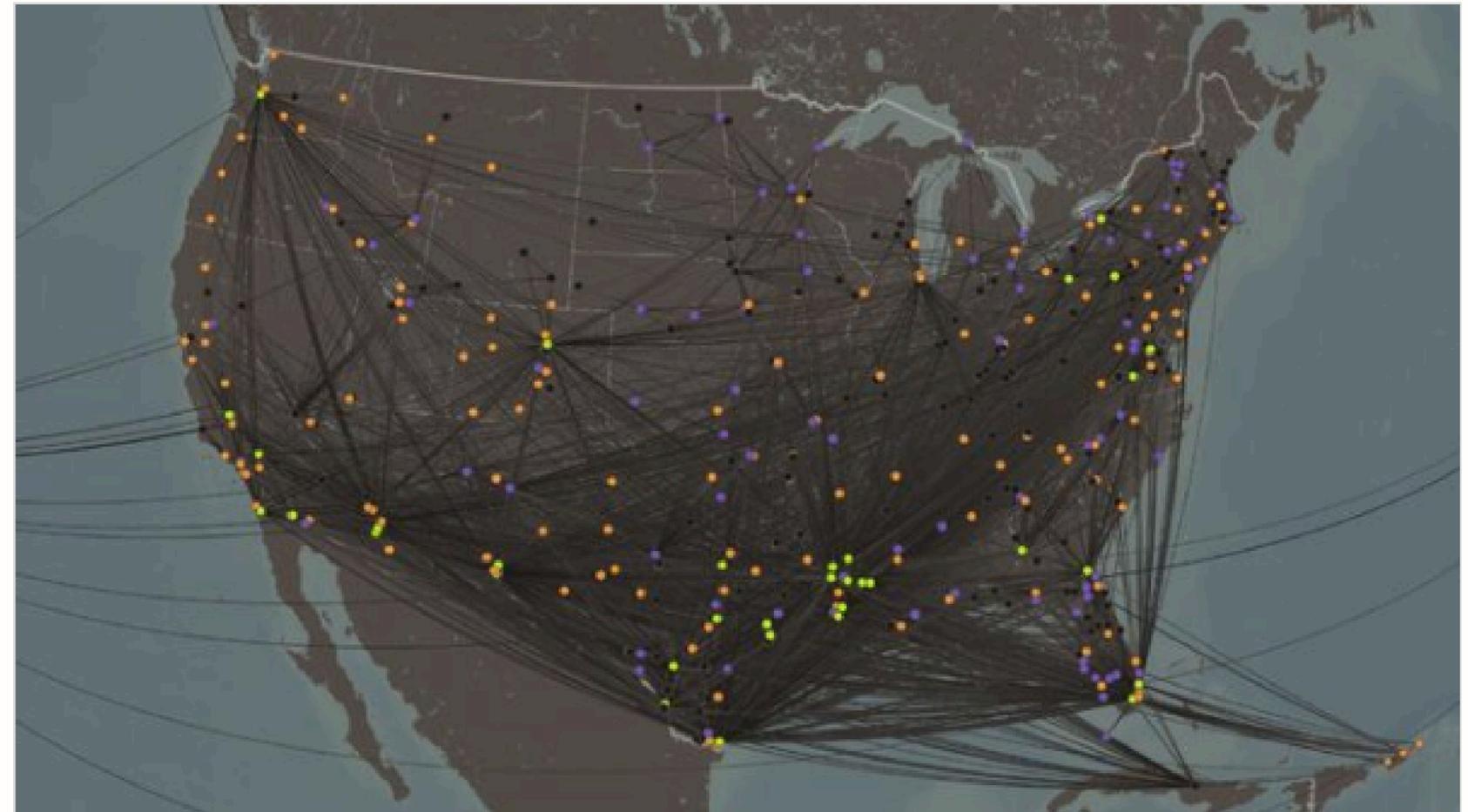
There are currently over 36,300 people detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in jails and detention centers across the United States.<sup>1</sup> As of August 2024, 389 of them are detained at Plymouth County Correctional Facility in Plymouth, Massachusetts.<sup>2</sup>

Immigration detention has a long history in Massachusetts. As early as 1906, the government detained noncitizens it had flagged for “additional review” in a freight shed in Boston Harbor.<sup>3</sup> These included children traveling alone, individuals with physical or mental illness, people with “inadequate or questionable documentation,” and uneducated, poor, criminalized, “sexually deviant,” or politically radical immigrants.<sup>4</sup> Plagued by overcrowding and inadequate medical care, the freight shed was later replaced by the East Boston Immigration Station in 1920.<sup>5</sup> Amid increasing national origin-based restrictions and racialized quotas, any immigrants who were not from Western Europe were far more likely to face scrutiny, and detention there.<sup>6</sup> The East Boston Immigration Station detained and processed more than 23,000 noncitizens during the thirty years it remained in operation.<sup>7</sup>

**12% of those detained from January through July have been transferred at least four times — more than double the same period in 2024**

*\*tougher to locate loved ones, torturous for people detained*

**Conditions are bad because it's meant to deter people from fighting their case**



**How ICE detainees are moved miles away from families and attorneys**

ICE relies on a vast network of detention facilities to house immigrants across the country, sometimes transferring people up to 15 times before deportation.

 Los Angeles Times / Nov 11, 2025

# Dignity not Deportations



## The Dignity Not Deportations Act (H.1588 & S.1122)

- Currently, MA allows local/state entities to rent detention space and sign contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Commonwealth must put a stop to the use of our state and local resources to support deportations without due process.
- The Dignity Not Deportations Act would:
  - Prohibit Massachusetts entities from voluntarily renting beds or entering contracts with ICE. By eliminating detention space available to ICE in state and local facilities in MA, the Act will limit MA's role in indiscriminate mass deportations.
  - Prohibit MA entities from donating time and volunteering their resources to ICE by signing 287(g) agreements that deputize local officials as ICE agents. Local officers couldn't be deputized to identify and process undocumented immigrants who have pending/active criminal charges and prohibit local officers from enforcing immigration as part of their routine police duties or an ICE-led task force.

# Abolitionist Reforms

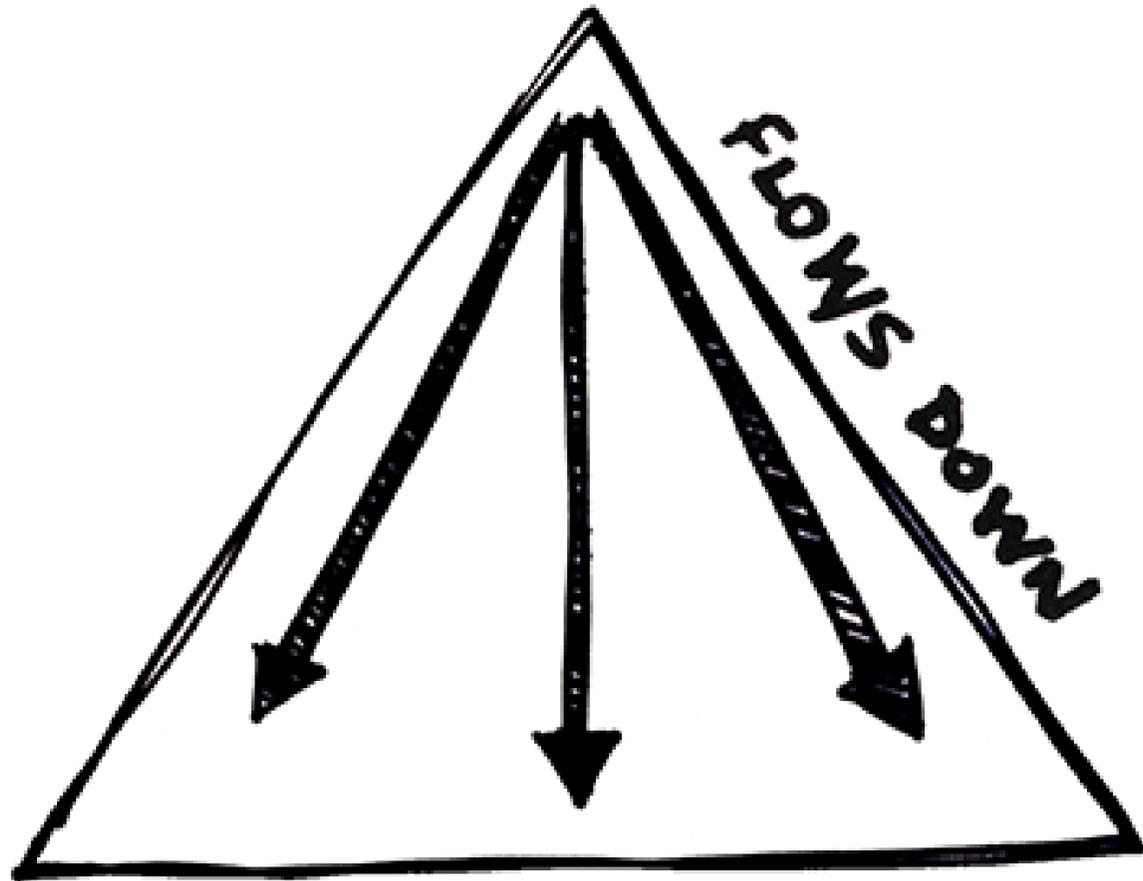
**Does  
This:**

Reduce the scale of  
detention and surveillance?

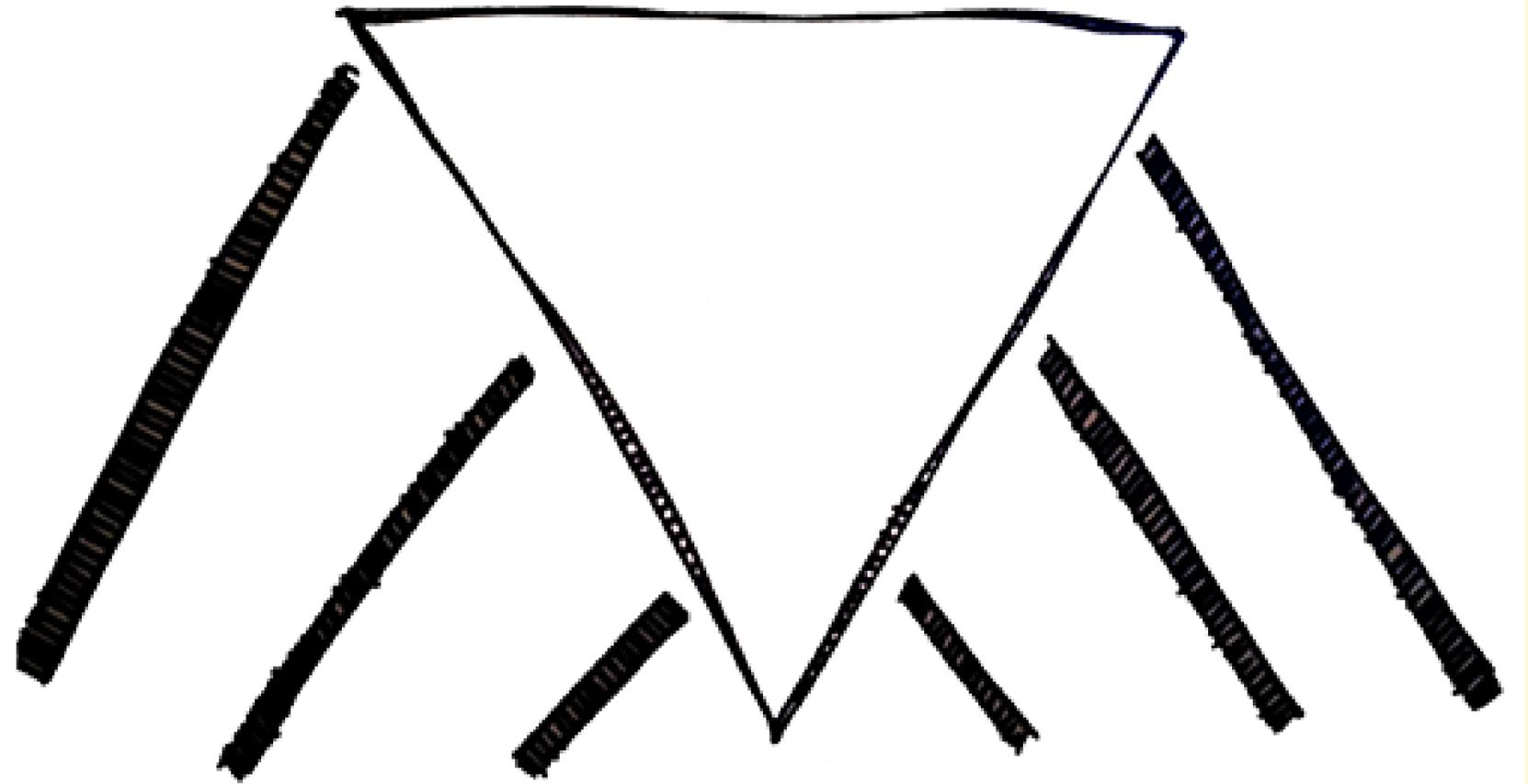
Chip away at the current  
system without creating  
new harms or helping some  
people at the expense of  
others?

Provide relief to people  
who could be or are  
currently detained or  
under surveillance?

- **Ending agreements** with local jails through executive, legislation, state, or local action
- **Reduce funding** to ICE and CBP
- **Ending local/state police collaboration** with ICE
- **Ending contracts** with private prisons

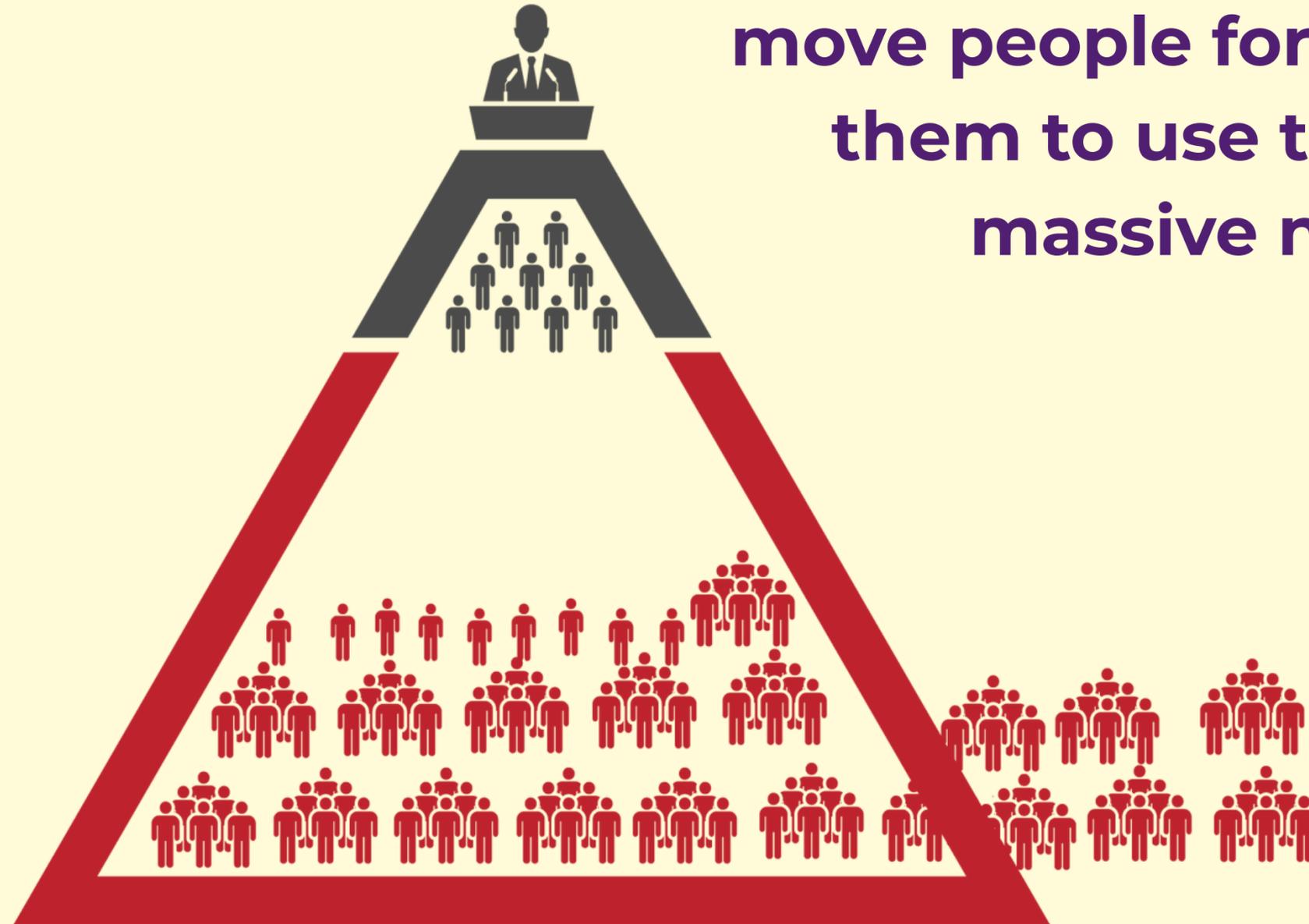


TRADITIONAL  
VIEW OF  
POWER

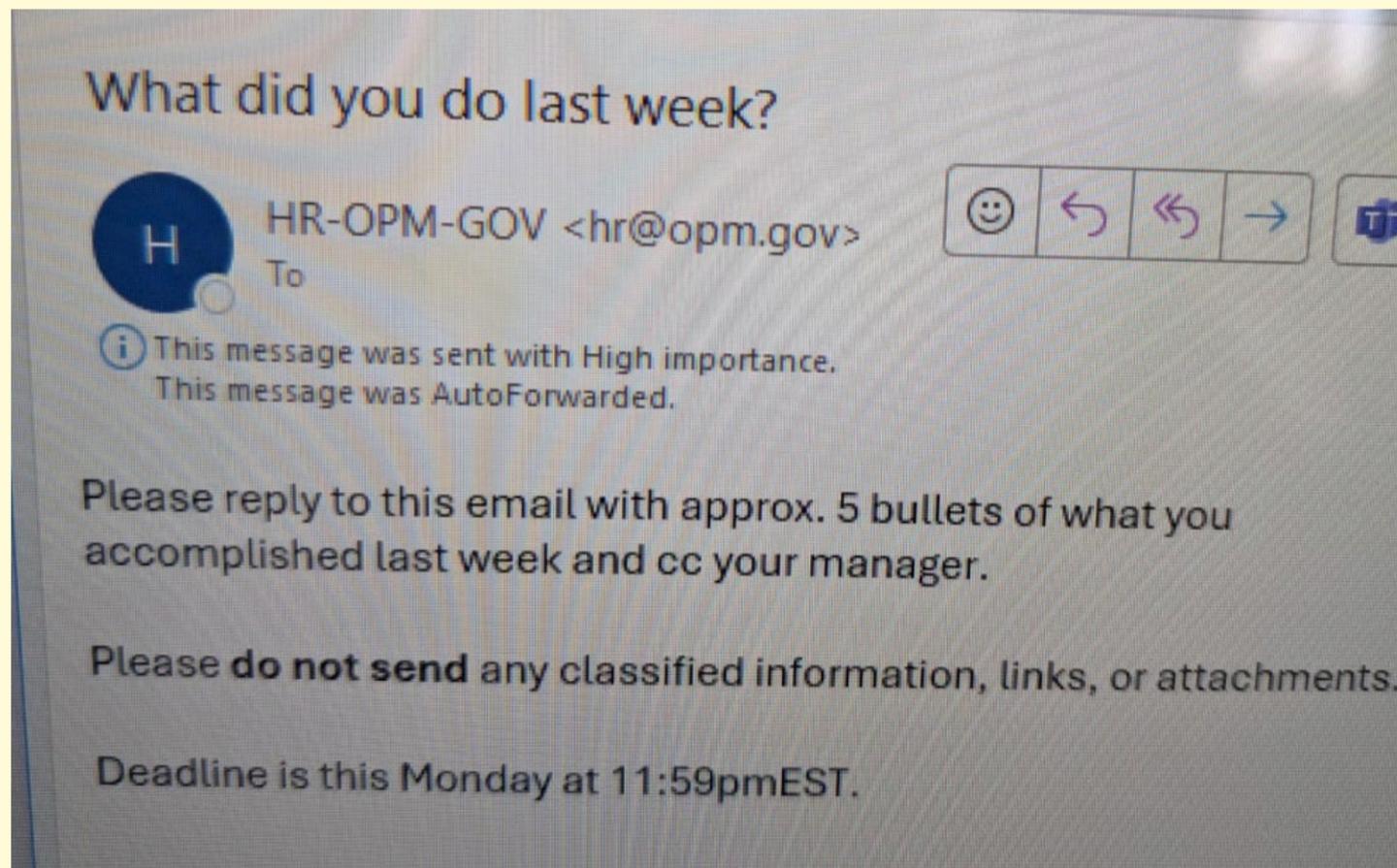


PILLARS OF  
SUPPORT

**The work of a social movement is to move people for a cause/issue and get them to use their power through massive noncooperation.**



# WHAT HAS MASS NONCOOPERATION LOOKED LIKE?



## Spring/Summer of 2025:

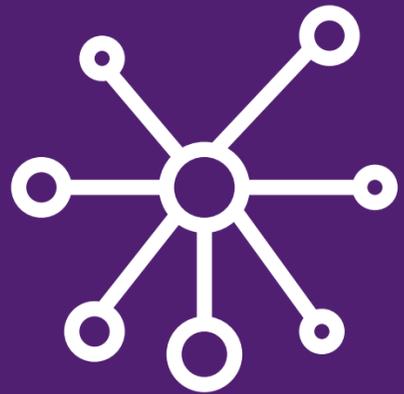
- **Over 1M of ~2.4M federal workers refused to comply**
- **Why?** Organizing
- **Result?** No follow-through on threats of job loss







**If verifying is not for you, there are so many ways to help out! We need you!**



Help organize and store resource info, help communicate trends to the community



Putting on fundraisers and other creative ways to raise money for impacted families



Safety teams at local events, proactive patrols of the hardest hit areas



Know your rights sessions and basebuilding efforts in your community

# GET INVOLVED!

**Sign up to join LUCE!**

[LUCEmass.org](http://LUCEmass.org)



**Sign up to join BIJAN!**

<https://www.beyondbondboston.org/join>



**Tell Congress: Stop  
detention expansion**



# GET INVOLVED!

## Write our loved one, Juan David, a letter!



Currently in Plymouth  
Letter writing  
instructions  
here



<https://www.lucemass.org/juandavid>



PC: Titus Kao