



# Free Migration Project Annual Report

2024



# Summary



In 2024, we continued our mission to promote freedom of movement as a basic human right and work toward abolishing deportations. Major campaign efforts included joining the newly-formed Shut Down Detention Campaign, which aims to close four regional detention centers, and continuing work on the End Medical Deportation Campaign. These initiatives reflect FMP's commitment to centering impacted communities, advocating for systemic change, and using diverse strategies like legal action, education, and public mobilization.

We also continued to provide accessible immigration legal services, supporting over 90 clients in cases involving asylum, DACA, unaccompanied minors, family reunification, and survivors of trafficking and domestic violence. Collaborations with organizations like VietLead and United Stateless helped address statelessness and harsh immigration penalties while amplifying community-led advocacy. Educational initiatives, such as partnerships with Haverford College and Migrantes Unidos, further empowered immigrant communities through political education.

FMP faced internal milestones, including shifting Board roles, completing our 2021 strategic plan and outlining a new one for 2025–2027. Despite anticipated challenges from shifting immigration policies under the Trump administration, we remain resolute in our vision for justice and collective liberation.

In solidarity,  
Adrianna & Dave





# Campaign Work

## Shut Down Detention Campaign

We are proud to be a member of the newly formed Shut Down Detention Campaign. Our campaign goal is to shutdown the four regional detention centers: Moshannon, Elizabeth, Pike, and Clinton. We hope to do this by ending the ICE contracts and not replacing these four with new detention center(s). We demand freedom for those imprisoned in detention centers and not transfers into other facilities.

The Campaign values were defined collectively and establish that we are committed to abolishing all forms of detention and de-carceration, centering those directly impacted to guide our strategy. We define freedom as more than the absence of imprisonment or surveillance—it is the unhindered right to act, speak, and think freely without restraint by the state, corporations, or other oppressive forces.

Recognizing that criminalization is rooted in white supremacy and profit motives, we firmly oppose all forms of it. Our approach includes holding elected officials accountable to human dignity, regardless of their history, and embedding our struggle within the broader movement for human rights and liberation. We advocate for bodily autonomy and embrace diverse tactics, such as education, art, legal actions, lobbying, and more, which have fueled our growth. Grounded in care, we practice compassion for our community, ourselves, and the world we aim to build.

While we use legal strategies as tools, we acknowledge they are insufficient for achieving true liberation. We focus on permanently ending detention and reallocating resources to support community needs, rejecting prison industrial complex tools like probation and surveillance systems. This campaign centers organizing and people power to create a just and liberated future.

**To take action and learn more about the Campaign, you can check out the toolkit at [bit.ly/SDDtoolkit](https://bit.ly/SDDtoolkit)**

# Campaign Work

## End Medical Deportation Campaign

In 2024 FMP continued to lead the End Medical Deportation Campaign to organize throughout the country against the private removal of undocumented patients by hospitals. In the past year alone we have worked with community members, medical professionals, and advocates in Wisconsin, Indiana, Florida and Kentucky to stop medical deportations. These connections have helped us understand the great need for this type of campaign across the country.

In January 2024, the ordinance passed by the Philadelphia City Council in December 2023 came into effect. This law continues to be refined, and we are in talks with both City Council and the City Health Department to assure that it is implemented appropriately and to the benefit of immigrant patients. We anticipate that even more undocumented patients will be at risk under the Trump administration. While we don't have the resources to lead local campaigns outside of Philadelphia, we have had discussions with partners in other jurisdictions to evaluate passing a similar policy as the ordinance here in Philly.

On a celebratory note, Claudia, A.V.'s niece and a fierce advocate against medical deportations was presented with the Community Leadership Award at the Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition's 20th Anniversary Gala. Claudia has become a leader while working with the End Medical Deportation Campaign and is largely responsible for engaging Councilmember Harrity to be a champion for the End Medical Deportation Ordinance.





# Legal Services & Community-Supported Deportation Defense Campaigns

## Legal Services

Free Migration Project offers comprehensive immigration legal representation to low-income clients, prioritizing support for some of the most vulnerable individuals navigating the U.S. immigration system. Our work focuses on cases involving asylum seekers fleeing persecution, unaccompanied minors, DACA recipients striving to maintain their protected status, families seeking reunification, and survivors of human trafficking or domestic violence pursuing a path to security and justice.

Currently, our organization represents more than 90 clients in various stages of their immigration proceedings, providing critical legal support and advocacy to help them navigate complex and often hostile legal landscapes. With the intensification of anti-immigrant policies and enforcement under the Trump administration, many of our clients—like countless immigrants nationwide—will be at heightened risk of detention or deportation. In anticipation of these challenges, we are committed to not only providing strong legal representation but also mobilizing community support and collaboration. We work closely with grassroots organizations, advocacy groups, and local communities to build networks of care and resistance that amplify our clients' voices.



# Legal Services & Community-Supported Deportation Defense Campaigns

## Support for Stateless Leaders

Free Migration Project has been partnering with United Stateless, a national organization led by stateless people whose mission is to build and inspire community among those affected by statelessness, for several years now by representing stateless members and providing technical legal support. Stateless people are not legally considered a citizen of any country and often struggle to access education, healthcare, immigration status, and job opportunities.

Along with the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, we represented Miliyon, a co-founder of United Stateless. Miliyon was forced to leave his country of origin decades ago after the government there stripped him of his citizenship and tortured him. He came to the U.S. and applied for asylum, but his case was wrongly denied. FMP worked with Miliyon to reopen his case and lift his deportation order, and after fighting his case for more than two decades, Miliyon was finally granted asylum by the immigration judge this June.



# Legal Services & Community-Supported Deportation Defense Campaigns

## Pardons Work

We have continued to build our partnership with VietLead, a grassroots organization serving the Southeast Asian community in Philadelphia, to address the devastating impacts of harsh immigration penalties on individuals and families. Together, we work to reunite families separated due to past criminal convictions and help deported Cambodian and Vietnamese community members return to their U.S. homes. Our efforts also extend to supporting individuals currently at risk of deportation, filing pardon applications, and exploring every possible legal avenue to safeguard their right to remain with their loved ones.

This year, we are representing "One," a Philadelphia community member whose family fled the Cambodian genocide, in his fight against detention and deportation. His case has become a rallying point, with VietLead and FMP mobilizing public support to push for his release before the next administration takes office. By collaborating with peer organizations like VietLead, we have been able to approach these complex cases with creativity and resilience. Our work includes mobilizing resources, organizing community support, and amplifying stories of resilience and injustice to bring about meaningful change.







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# Education & Outreach

## Haverford College Collaboration

Free Migration Project was honored to collaborate in testing Herramientas para la acción (Tools for Action), a community-informed political education curriculum designed specifically for Spanish-speaking immigrants. This innovative program emerged from extensive conversations with immigrants and immigrant-led organizations, reflecting their needs and perspectives. Coordinated by Lina Martínez Hernández and Marguerite Kise, with funding from Haverford College, Herramientas seeks to empower immigrant communities through knowledge and connection. FMP's role in this partnership involved evaluating the curriculum's information, designs, and activities, providing critical feedback to refine its content and ensure its relevance and impact. These tools aim to equip participants with the resources, knowledge, and networks necessary to engage in advocacy and organizing efforts spearheaded by local pro-immigrant groups and campaigns.

As part of this initiative, in May, FMP engaged its community through the Border Abolition Study Group, hosting a dedicated session for Spanish-speaking immigrants. This session focused on Chapter 2 of Herramientas, titled "Police, Incarceration, and Surveillance." During this gathering, participants explored how these systems disproportionately affect immigrant communities and discussed strategies for resistance and collective action. By facilitating this dialogue, FMP helped create a space for shared learning and empowerment, advancing the curriculum's goal of building informed and connected communities ready to advocate for their rights.



# Education & Outreach

## Political Education for Migrantes Unidos

Free Migration Project is proud to serve as a political education resource for Migrantes Unidos(es) (MU), a grassroots organization based in St. Louis, MO, comprised of asylum seekers and other immigrants without permanent status from Latin America. MU is deeply committed to the elimination of all forms of surveillance and detention in immigration systems. The group not only fosters mutual support among its members but also develops practical strategies for information gathering, self-care, and collective action to resist these oppressive practices.

As part of this collaboration, FMP is facilitating three educational sessions for MU members in Spanish, with translations provided in Haitian Creole to ensure inclusivity. These sessions, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024, are designed to empower MU members by building their confidence. Through deepening their understanding and situating their current experiences with immigration enforcement and surveillance within a broader historical and political context, the sessions aim to equip participants with the tools to engage civically and advocate for change in ways that are accessible and impactful. Through this partnership, FMP and MU are fostering a collaborative environment that prioritizes education, community-building, and collective action to dismantle unjust systems and promote immigrant justice.



# Infrastructure



## Board

The FMP Board is thrilled to welcome Setareh Ghandehari as its newest member! Setareh serves as the Advocacy Director at Detention Watch Network (DWN), where she collaborates with staff and members to drive the movement to abolish immigration detention in the United States. With over 20 years of involvement in social justice movements, Setareh brings a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to the fight for immigrant rights. We are deeply grateful and honored to have her join the FMP Board and look forward to her contributions in the years ahead.

As we celebrate this addition, we also prepare to bid farewell to Jasmine Rivera, our remarkable Board President, who will conclude her tenure at the end of the year. Jasmine has recently taken on the role of Executive Director at the Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition (PIC), a peer organization with which FMP has long collaborated. Jasmine's leadership has been instrumental in guiding the Board toward impactful and meaningful work, and her dedication to immigrant justice has been a cornerstone of FMP's success. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Jasmine for her years of organizing alongside us and wish her the best of luck in her new chapter. We are excited to continue working with Jasmine and the talented team at PIC as allies in the movement.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that Katia Pérez and Sundrop Carter will step into co-leadership roles on the Board. With their vast combined experience, deep knowledge, and commitment to FMP's mission, we are confident that their leadership will usher in a new era of growth and progress for the organization. Their vision and dedication promise to strengthen FMP's work and further its impact in advancing immigrant justice.





# Infrastructure



## Strategic Plan 2025-2027

This year we completed our strategic plan from 2021. Over the past three years, Free Migration Project (FMP) has taken significant steps toward building an equitable and sustainable organizational structure. In 2022, the board and staff participated in anti-racism and organizational equity training and developed a democratic decision-making process aligned with the organization's values. Efforts to promote staff well-being included adopting practices for work-life balance, such as mental health days, summer hours, and a remote work/office hybrid model. FMP also improved parental leave benefits and is working toward better wages. Despite these advancements, challenges remain, including maintaining revenue to expand staff. Additionally, while FMP's social media presence and visual identity have grown, the absence of dedicated funding for communications has limited audience reach. In 2023, FMP moved to a more accessible office space in Kensington, closer to clients, reflecting its commitment to community-centered service.

Despite initial hopes for immigration reform under the Biden administration, policies have regressed, and with Donald Trump's return to the White House in 2025, the immigration landscape is expected to worsen significantly. Anticipated developments include mass deportations, expansion of immigrant prisons, and the erosion of asylum and humanitarian protections. FMP remains committed to equity, justice, and collective liberation, even as our clients, partners, and staff may face increased government and public hostility. Guided by our vision, mission, and values, we have developed a strategic plan for 2025–2027, focusing on program development, personnel, budget, and communications. This plan, created with input from staff and the Board, will be reviewed biannually to ensure progress toward our goals as we navigate the challenges ahead with determination and solidarity.