

**STATEMENT FROM
JEWISH ACTIVISTS FOR IMMIGRATION JUSTICE OF WESTERN MASS (JAIJ)**

We are calling on all members of our communities to do everything possible to help get people out of ICE detention in the Bristol County jail in North Dartmouth MA before COVID-19 spreads throughout the facility. After a recent and somewhat successful class action court case in MA, some detainees from Bristol were initially released; but since then very few have been released, leaving about 100 more inside who are feeling desperate, fearing that they will die in ICE detention.

As we all know, social distancing and careful hygiene are the only things that help stop the spread of the virus. Clearly those in ICE custody (Bristol detainees live 50 to a room, eat together, and sleep 3 feet apart) are not able to protect themselves from COVID-19.

The vast majority of people in ICE detention have committed no crime. They have been taken away from their families and locked up only because they weren't able to get the necessary documents to enter this country when they fled from life-threatening violence and poverty in their home countries. Many inside have participated recently in hunger strikes and other protests. They are asking for community support to turn the minds of those who can release them, so that they don't die in ICE detention. Many have families in the US where they could go to await their hearings.

Below are details about two things you can do to help:

1. Speak out to get them out!!

- CONTACT THE OFFICIALS LISTED in the attachment and urge them to do everything in their power to call for the immediate humanitarian release of all migrants held in dangerous COVID-19 conditions in Bristol County Jail and elsewhere in our state.
- Attached is a sample letter and contact list for important officials. You can easily cut, paste, sign and send in one email to all the officials. You can also make calls - see the talking points and phone numbers.

2. Donate to the bond fund below as another way to make it possible for those in ICE detention to be released. Consider sharing all or part of your stimulus checks, if you are able.

- Bond for those in ICE detention is being organized and paid for by BIJAN, Boston-area Immigrant Justice and Accompaniment Network. The fiscal sponsor for BIJAN is the Episcopal City Mission, a 501c3 organization.
- Donate online at www.episcopalcitymission.org/donate. Select "Beyond Bond & Legal Defense Fund" when asked about donation type. Gifts are tax deductible.
- Write checks to Episcopal City Mission with "Beyond Bond Fund" in the memo line and mail them to: Episcopal City Mission, 138 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02111

The situation for detainees changes rapidly. For updates, check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JAIJWM> or join our mailing list by writing to us at: jewishimmigrationjustice@gmail.org

Thank you, and stay well and safe.

Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice of Western MA