The following excerpt is from the ILRC's manual entitled, "Motions to Suppress: Protecting the Constitutional Rights of Immigrants in Removal Proceedings." Please visit the ILRC's website (www.ilrc.org) to order this manual.

CHAPTER 4
ORGANIZING A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO RAIDS

§ 4.1 Introduction

One thing that legal workers and clients have learned over the years is that working together and organizing is often the best way to get the DHS to adopt and use fair and legal policies. Some communities have developed task forces made up of representatives from the immigrant communities and others that meet with DHS officials on a regular basis to express concerns about the way the DHS treats community members. In other communities there are volunteer networks to assist people who have been mistreated by the DHS. There have been many successful community responses to the recent raids activity and abuses at detention centers. For examples of other community responses please see Appendix 4-A.

Educating both the immigrant community and the larger public about immigration officers' abuses is another important way to put pressure on the DHS to treat immigrants with more respect and with more humane policies. The education can be done through the media (television, radio, newspapers), and through other organizations.

Local political representatives may also be a valuable resource. You may have city council people, state legislators, or members of Congress who are already sympathetic to this issue. If not, you may need to educate them on the issue to gain their support.

Community Responses and Solutions to Raids

In response to the surge in ICE Raids and the violations and abuses committed against immigrants during them, communities around the country have developed various successful solutions. They have established rapid response systems that include hotlines, holding responsive press conferences, rallies/protests against the raids, monitoring and documenting abuses, developing legal strategies to combat the effect of the raids including filing lawsuits and motions to suppress where rights have been violated, providing legal, economic, and other support to detainees and families affected by the raids, exerting pressure on legislators, ICE, and other local officials, conducting community Know Your Rights presentations, and producing and distributing Know Your Rights cards and other materials.
A litany of other community actions are available, including political action to get school boards and other public places to sign agreements with ICE so that they do not raid such places.

Different regions throughout the country have coordinated efforts to respond to raids through Raids Rapid Response Networks.\(^1\) If you do not have a Raids Rapid Response Network in your community this section will provide you with a basic framework for establishing a network. The important elements of creating a rapid response network in your community include:

- **Triage Centers:** Triage Centers are community based organizations that respond to calls about raids, investigate ICE conduct and interview arrestees. Triage Centers with accredited representatives and attorneys can also help by filing G-28's with DHS to access raid victims in a timely fashion.

- **Hotline:** A hotline is a phone number that can be set up at a call-in center or a trusted community based organization with a dedicated phone line for purposes of reporting raids.

- **Technical Assistance:** Technical assistance is provided by a team of legal experts who can provide legal advice regarding constitutional rights and removal defenses.

- **Pro bono immigration attorneys:** Pro bono attorneys provide investigative help by communicating with detainees on the day of the raid and representation during bond and removal proceedings. Organizations such as the American Immigration Lawyers Association, National Lawyers Guild and your local bar associations are excellent resources for assistance. It is also important to work with pro bono law firms that can pursue civil rights litigation relating to raids.

- **Pro bono attorneys:** Pro bono attorneys from major law firms are excellent resources for handling motion to suppress cases.

- **Listservs and conference calls:** Listservs and conference calls serve an important role in disseminating alerts about ongoing raids and coordinating logistical support.

- **Know Your Rights Trainings:** Community based organizations and pro bono attorneys should provide trainings to immigrants about asserting their constitutional rights during raids. Use red cards as an instructional

tool and self-help advocacy. See Appendix 4-B for sample outline for a Know Your Rights Training.

- Media Strategy: Create awareness in your community about the impact of raids on families and constitutional violations.

One of the first components of a Raids Rapid Response Networks should include a hotline. A hotline should be set up through a trusted community organization and should be well publicized as a call-in number for raids. The hotline personnel should be trained on how to take raids-related calls and obtain relevant information from the callers. In addition, the hotline personnel should have the phone numbers of the Triage Centers in order to call the closest Triage Center to a raid and activate a response. In some cases, raids occur in the very early hours of the day before legal offices are open for business. Under those circumstances, it is helpful to have a hotline open to take calls early in the day with access to key personnel at the Triage Centers who would also be available to take calls on their cell phones.

Triage Centers play a very critical role in gathering information about raids. By responding quickly to calls and going onsite to investigate raids, they can help get the names of the victims and family members, location of detainees, immigration status of the victims, alien registration numbers, nature of the enforcement action and other important details to distribute to the members of the Raids Rapid Response Network. In our experience, Triage Centers have also played another critical role in recording abuses. By getting to a raid while it is still in progress, the Triage Center members can record a chronology of events as they unfold, which is then helpful for pursuing a motion to suppress remedy in removal proceedings or for purposes of filing a civil rights action. For example, a Triage Center member may get to a scene of a raid at a home and find ICE officers outside of the house with occupants still inside. The Triage Center member may investigate and ask ICE to see a warrant for the arrest. If ICE refuses to show the warrant, fails to obtain consent and enters the home by force, the Triage Center member can document the events for purposes of proving constitutional violations. Triage Centers that have recorded these abuses in their community have also been effective in advocating on behalf of victims in removal proceedings and before ICE.

Recruitment of pro bono attorneys is an essential part of a Rapid Response Network. Pro bono attorneys play a critical role in representation of raids victims through bond proceedings and removal proceedings. Triage Centers and other Network partners should work together to identify motion to suppress cases and recruit pro bono attorneys from law firms. Triage Centers should write case summaries highlighting constitutional violations and compelling humanitarian cases for presentation to pro bono committees at law firms. Several national law firms have contributed to Rapid Response Networks by sharing talented attorneys who have successfully litigated motions to suppress or obtained other relief for raids victims.
Building a team of accessible legal experts who can provide ongoing technical assistance with raids cases is also important. Throughout the course of the raid, bond and removal proceedings, legal experts should be available to answer questions about constitutional rights and remedies and immigration remedies and deportation defense strategies. The availability of technical support helps in recruitment of pro bono attorneys and increases the capacity for more legal representation. Technical assistance supports the work of attorneys who do not regularly practice immigration law. Triage Centers also benefit from technical assistance during their investigations and consultation with raids victims. Accordingly, legal experts who provide technical assistance should be available to answer calls on an emergency basis during a raid and remain accessible during the course of bond and removal proceedings.

The logistical support needed to respond to a raid can be consuming, but there are tools that can help. After identifying the community groups and attorneys who will be involved, a lead organization should set up a raids listserv to serve as a vehicle for sending out raids alerts, requesting assistance, setting up conference calls, etc. Listservs have their limitations when it comes to sorting out a consensus on a plan of action, so it is important to set up conference calls to follow-up on the details of a plan. Many websites provide conference calls for free or at least provide a multi-user phone line where each party pays his or her own way for the call.

Part of any Raids Rapid Response Network should include a community education campaign to educate the immigrant and citizen community about their constitutional rights. Know Your Rights presentations should cover Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights in the context of immigration raids. Know Your Rights cards that are easy to carry and distribute should be circulated to vulnerable groups so that they can assert their rights even if they are not able to speak English. See Appendix 4-C for a sample "Red Card" providing information on how to assert constitutional rights when confronted by ICE. In addition, the community education materials should provide information about how to establish a safety plan in the event of an arrest. Parents should be prepared in advance to have a family member or friend available to care for their children in the event of an arrest. See Appendix 4-D for a safety plan list.

Along with documenting abuses during raids, it is important to develop a media strategy and present these stories to the public. Generally, the media has covered raids in a one-sided perspective favorable to ICE. It is critical that community organizations and attorneys speak out against raids and present the toll that raids has had on the constitutional and human rights of immigrants and citizens alike.
§ 4.2 Flowchart of Raids Rapid Response

ICE
Raid

Raids Victim, his/her Family
Member, or a Witness to a raid
calls Rapid Response Network
Attorney, Triage Center or Hotline.
Recipient of call gathers
information about the raid and

If raid is in progress, Triage Center
closest to the raid site to investigate

Triage Center will screen
cases for larger pro bono
pool of law firms that can
represent victims through
removal proceedings and
possibly file motion to
suppress.

Triage Center will notify pro
bono immigration lawyers about
raid activity.

Pro bono immigration
attorneys call ICE officer-
of-the-day to find out where
detainees are being held.

Pro bono immigration
lawyers provide detainees
consultation and screen
case for possible relief
(incl motion to suppress).
§ 4.3 Legal Support When Rights Have Been Violated

National organizations who are working on the issue of abuses of immigrants' rights can be valuable allies in your local struggles. They may be able to provide you with advice on dealing with the situation your community or your client is facing, and may be interested in gathering information from you about what is happening in your area.

*Detention Issues*

U.S. Detention Watch Network  
c/o Jobs with Justice  
1325 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: (202)-393-1044 x227  
Fax: (202) 393-7408  
Website: www.detentionwatchnetwork.org

American Bar Association Commission on Immigration Policy, Practice and Pro Bono  
INS Detention Standards Implementation Initiative  
740 15th St. NW, 9th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005-1022  
www.abanet.org

*Immigration Enforcement Abuses*

AFSC: U.S.-Mexico Border Program  
P.O. Box 126147  
San Diego, CA 92112  
Tel: (619) 233-4114  
Fax: (619) 233-6247  
Website: http://www.afsc.org/pacificsw/sandiego.htm

Border Rights Coalition  
715 Myrtle Ave.  
El Paso, TX 79901  
Tel: (915) 577-0724  
Fax: (915) 577-0370

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National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
310 Eighth Street, Suite 307
Oakland, CA  94607
Tel: (510) 465-1984
Fax: (510) 465-1885
www.nnirr.org

Immigrant Rights - General

American Civil Liberties Union
Immigrant Rights Project
125 Broad St.
NY, NY  10004
(212) 549-2500
Fax: (212) 549-2654
www.aclu.org

Amnesty International USA
National Refugee Office
350 Sansome St., Ste 630
San Francisco, CA  94104
(415) 291-0601
Fax: (415) 291 8722

Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law
256 S. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA  90057
(213) 388-8693; Fax: (213) 386-9484
E-mail: mail@centerforhumanrights.org

National Immigration Project of
National Lawyers' Guild
14 Beacon Street, Suite 506
Boston, MA  02108
(617) 227-9727
Fax: (617)-227-5495
www.nationalimmigrationproject.org

Women's Commission for Refugee

American Civil Liberties Union
Immigrant Rights Project
405 14th St., Ste. 300
Oakland, CA  94612
(510) 625-2010
Fax: (510) 622-0050
www.aclu.org

Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC)
564 Market St., #416
San Francisco, CA  94104
(415) 394-8695
Fax: (415) 394-8073
www.cliniclegal.org

Human Rights Watch
Children's Rights Division
350 Fifth Ave., 34th Floor
NY, NY  10018-3299
(212) 290-4700
Fax: (212) 736-1300
www.hrw.org

National Immigration Law Center
3435 Wilshire Blvd. #2850
Los Angeles, CA  90010
(213) 639-3900
Fax: (213) 639-3911
www.nile.org

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center
§ 4.4 Conclusion

This chapter was written to provide you with some ideas for establishing a Raids Rapid Response Network. You may find that your community has more or less resources to establish a network than the ideas provided above, but in either case the important point is to have a plan in place in the event your community is impacted by a raid. The ideas are meant to be modified to a scale that fits your communities’ resources.