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*We envision a world where the fundamental right to move is respected and appreciated by all.  
Our view is that all human beings are entitled to respect, documents, and a process through  
which to move, settle, and resettle in the world.*



**Quarterly Newsletter | October 2019**

# *Pangea Quarterly Newsletter*

## **Policy Advocacy: Pangea helps pass AB 32, a bill to shut down private prisons in California**



After the legislature passed AB 32, Pangea client Floricel, community partners, and advocates gather at the Capitol in Sacramento to celebrate (Oct. 2019).

On Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, our communities won an important fight: [the fight to end private prisons](#) from profiting off of people of color, the poor, and those who have been failed by this system. [AB 32](#), a new law in California, will prohibit the operation of private, for-profit prisons, including facilities that operate as immigration detention centers.

[Pangea was proud to advocate for AB 32](#) along with our community and an intersectional coalition of immigrant rights and criminal justice advocates. Pangea clients like Floricel Liborio Ramos educated the public and lawmakers on the need to abolish prisons by sharing first hand experiences. Floricel's for-profit detention at Mesa Verde Detention Center in California caused her to work for a dollar a day cleaning toilets, just so she could afford the exorbitant fees for phone calls to her three minor U.S. citizen children. For over a year, this was Floricel's reality. For over a year, the private corporation, GEO Group, profited off of Floricel's body and labor. For over a year, tens of thousands of tax dollars were spent to imprison her.

For years, Pangea has seen our immigrant clients unnecessarily imprisoned in for-profit facilities that tear people away from their loved ones and crush people into abandoning their cases, even when they qualify for immigration relief. We have seen the hardship and trauma that incarceration causes to individuals, families, and communities. The pain is irreparable. With AB 32, California will no longer allow this private profiting off of other people's pain.

While AB 32 is an important step toward fewer prisons and detention facilities, we must remain clear about the task ahead. "We have to shut down all prisons, not just private, not just for immigrants, and not just in California – but for all black, brown, and other individuals who have been criminalized, incarcerated, and exploited through our current system," said Pangea Director Jehan Laner Romero, Floricel's attorney at Pangea and legal advocate for AB 32.

## Client Representation: Aida is free!

San Mateo mother, [Aida Carolina Andrade Amaya](#), was finally released from immigration custody after a nearly 11-month ordeal that highlights the injustice immigrants face. Ten months ago, in the middle of preparation for her asylum case, [Aida was yanked out of her home by ICE and imprisoned away from her two children, Mario and Jade](#). Aida missed Mario's first birthday and wondered every day in prison if he would remember her when she saw him again.

ICE detained Aida in November 2018 based on false claims issued in the form of an Interpol Red Notice that came through her abuser in El Salvador, six years after Aida

arrived in the United States. After hearing from four expert witnesses, listening to Aida's heart-wrenching testimony, and observing Aida's zealous community support that consistently packed the courtroom, no reasonable judge could deny Aida protection in the United States. She was granted asylum and a work permit while in prison, while DHS continued to use the false claims in the Interpol Red Notice to keep Aida detained.

It wasn't until ICE and the Attorney General faced a federal lawsuit that they [ended Aida's unlawful detention](#). But not before requiring her to pay \$3,000. Aida worried how she would come up with the funds, but luckily, the bond was posted by the [Bay Area Immigration Bond Fund](#). She is now back with her partner and two children. If you want to help Aida get back on her feet with her family, please make a donation to her [GoFundMe](#).



After enduring nearly a year of unjust detention and bravely sharing her story, Aida is free and speaks at a press conference outside of the ICE building in San Francisco (Oct. 2019).

Thank you for standing with us, especially those who started making monthly contributions. Monthly donors help make our work sustainable in the long-term.

**SUPPORT OUR WORK**

**Community Empowerment: Pangea**

## expands *Promotora* deportation defense trainings for community to Santa Clara County

*Immigrants impacted by California's ICE raids become Promotoras*

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, the [Rapid Response Network in Santa Clara County](#) launched its first Promotora cohort -- an intensive deportation defense training by and for immigrants. It's the first training of its kind in Santa Clara County. The trainings will span the course of 1.5 months and will result in a graduate class of directly affected community members who will be integrated into the Rapid Response Network and its work to stop family separations in the county. This year's Promotoras are comprised of 23 immigrant families, a total of 42 people, all of whom have received legal services from the Rapid Response Network or who are at risk of deportation. Through these intensive trainings, Promotoras will learn how to use community strategies to free their loved ones from immigration detention and build a powerful movement for justice in their neighborhoods and communities.



**Pangea's Equal Justice Works Fellow demands justice and helps organize walk-out**

This October, at its annual fundraiser in Washington, D.C., [Equal Justice Works](#) disappointed the community by presenting its highest award to the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Amazon. Despite tremendous national pressure to end its collaboration, Amazon continues to provide critical infrastructure and support to ICE, which enables the agency to actively terrorize black and brown families across the nation. As a result, beneficiaries of EJW fellowships, whose projects specifically combat the terror of ICE and other injustices, were outraged.

Pangea's EJW Fellow, Pete Weiss, and over 80 other EJW Fellows [wrote a letter](#) demanding that EJW rescind the award to Amazon. When EJW refused, the fellows organized a walk-out at the fundraising dinner. Because of the fellows' bold and collective action, EJW's Board agreed to create a more transparent and inclusive process for selecting future honorees.



EJW fellows walk out at fundraising dinner demanding justice from within, Washington, D.C.

(Oct. 2019)

## Freedom to Move: Pangea is recognized by No Immigrants No Spice and presents at the Free Migration Project Conference

This quarter, Pangea was honored to be a beneficiary of the [BBQ Without Borders Fundraiser](#) that was supported by over 400 attendees and organized by [No Immigrants No Spice](#). If you missed the wonderful food, dance, and music

performances, join us next year!

The BBQ Without Borders came just a few weeks before Pangea presented alongside incredible scholars and professors such as Alina Das and Jacqueline Stevens at the [Free Migration Project's Open Borders Conference](#). "The [abolishment of ICE and borders](#) is not simply an absence of prisons and walls, but rather the presence of social programs, shared wealth, and cherishing humanity," says Niloufar Khonsari, Pangea Director and one of the conference panelists.

Despite the many challenges in our way, Pangea continues to envision possibilities for a freer future. We continue onward hasta la libertad siempre!



Pangea is filled with gratitude and joy as we receive \$10,000 by No Immigrants No Spice, San Francisco (Oct. 2019)

If you didn't get to be a part of the BBQ Without Borders fundraiser but would like to donate, please [click here!](#)

**With Love & Gratitude,  
The Pangea Family**

**(Nilou, Marie, Bianca, Celine, Luis Angel, Etan,  
Esperanza, Jehan, Mariel, Edwin, Pete & Sean)**

Pangea Legal Services is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax deductible. We will put every dollar of your generous contribution to work by providing direct legal services, policy advocacy, and legal empowerment for low income immigrant communities.

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