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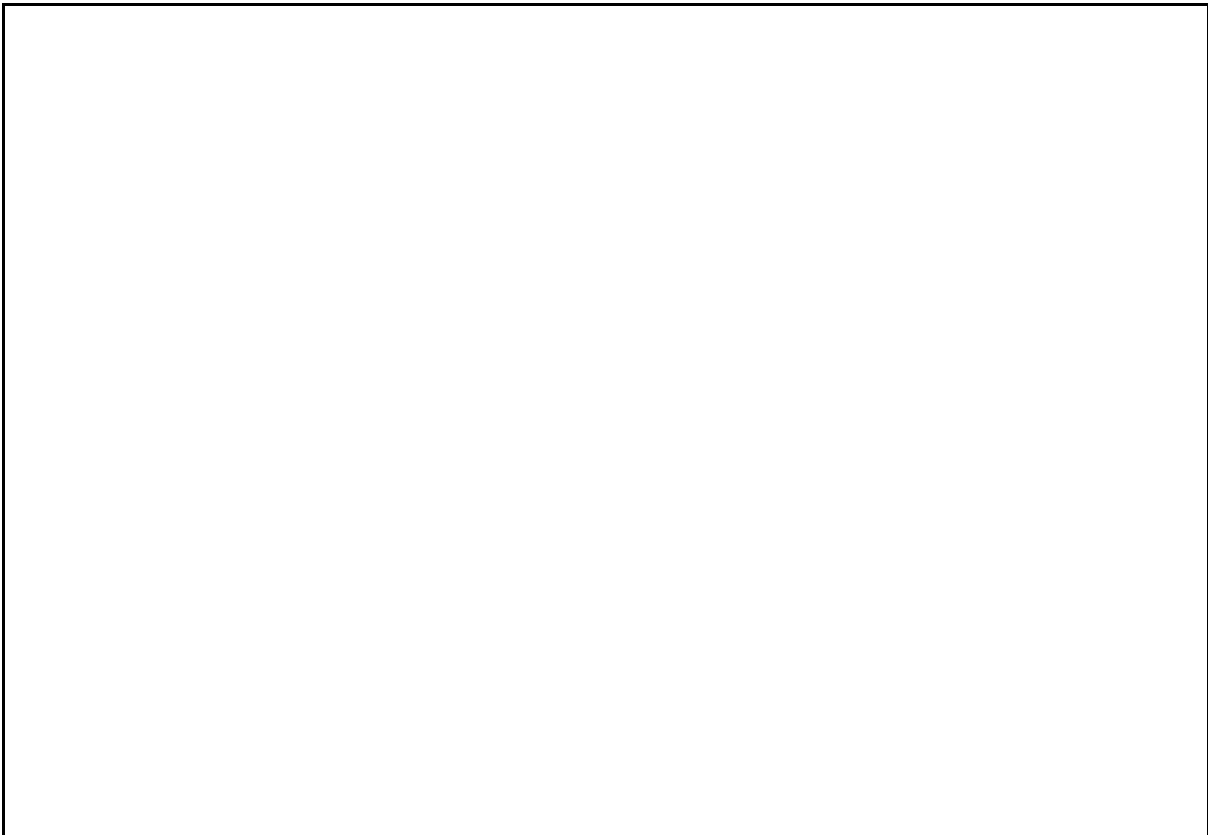
*We envision a world where the fundamental right to move is respected and appreciated by all.
Our view is that all human beings are entitled to respect, documents, and a process through
which to move, settle, and resettle in the world.*



December 2023 Newsletter

**Celebrating Our Huge Successes
in the Movement for Liberation
and Dignity for All!**

**Our Asylum Legal Empowerment Partnership is
a Rousing Success for the Community!**





From left to right: Katy (ALEP coordinator), Gladys (Pangea, immigration attorney), and Lizzie (Dolores Street Community Services, associate managing attorney) explain the asylum process to ALEP participants.

We are thrilled to announce that since the inception of the Asylum Legal

Empowerment Partnership (ALEP), **26 people have won their asylum cases!**

In partnership with [Dolores Street Community Services](#), we help workshop participants prepare their evidence for Court and prepare them for their hearings. Several participants were prepared for multiple hearings. **Now as asylees, these individuals are safe from the harm they feared** in their country of origin and they also have **access to additional public services** and resources here in the U.S.

ALEP also goes *beyond* the court victories and continues to support prior participants' leadership development. This includes [our new ALEP coordinator, Katy](#), a former participant who now continues to grow in her role helping with much of the planning and screening of participants of future cohorts.

ALEP continues to grow! For next year, we are already planning a Spring and Summer workshop series. With each additional asylum seeker, we fully train and resource, ALEP is working towards a future where this project will be entirely **asylee-led** and **self-sustaining**.

Please help support this crucial work!

**Calling for an End to Immigrant Detention
Everywhere 🦊**

AIDA HAS RECEIVED HER GREEN CARD!



Five years ago, Pangea client and an asylum seeker from El Salvador, Aida, was whisked away and separated from her family by ICE.

Former Pangea attorney, Jehan Laner, represented Aida through seemingly impossible odds. This past October, after years of litigation and hundreds of hours of advocacy and community support, **Aida received her green card!**



Aida, a formerly detained asylum seeker, now has her green card and is an advocate and leader in the fight for (im)migrant justice.

This fall, our client, Aida, and 17 other formerly detained leaders from across the state of California completed the pilgrimage from Bakersfield to San Diego to heal our communities and call for an end to ICE detention everywhere.

[Read more about Aida's persistence here](#), and how she overcame asylum, bond hearings, and appeals to finally receive her green card this past October!

Let's heed the call of Aida and her colleagues and help us support [Healthy Economies Adapting to Last \(HEAL\)](#), which is dedicated to helping communities divest from detention centers to build sustainable economies.

DONATE

After closing down the Yuba County Detention Center last year, we now have our sights on Mesa Verde and Golden State Annex!



Photograph: Brooke Anderson/Movement Photographer

Next year, we are focusing on increasing our statewide and cross-sector collaboration to fight for the dignity of those still unjustly incarcerated by ICE and who remain at risk for medical neglect, abuse, or exploitative labor practices in the hands of private prison corporations. This year, we supported detained leaders at Mesa Verde and Golden State Annex (GSA) detention centers when they launched a joint [hunger strike to demand their collective release](#) and shutdown of both facilities.

Check out media coverage of the strike: [CBS News](#) | [KQED](#) | [SF Chronicle](#) | [Appeal Democrat](#) | [Sac Bee](#) | [Davis Vanguard](#) | [WBUR](#)

Pangea, [Centro Legal de la Raza](#), [California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice](#), and other partners recruited immigrant rights and labor groups from across the state to form the [Strike Support Committee](#). At the request of detained organizers, our

attorneys rallied volunteer teams to file release requests for hunger strikers calling for their immediate release. Presently, we are actively working on increasing the leadership and engagement of other currently and formerly detained immigrants by supporting them in taking leadership roles in campaigns to stop deportations and end ICE detention.

Monthly leadership meetings and healing justice 🧡



Over the last four months, a group of formerly incarcerated people and their family members have met monthly to discuss the impact of ICE detention on their lives. These groups have grown every session, with leaders of the group reaching out to family members and in this simple act of vulnerability- breaking down years of isolation, shame, and grieving.

It has been wonderful to partner with [Colibri Collective](#) to share tools of healing, but perhaps the greatest resource of all has been in the relationships people have found in each other. In community, family members have held space for one another. They have witnessed how much of what they experience is not an isolated experience but one that extends among families, often silencing them. We have seen how leaders and their family members have found their voices in this space. They have claimed

their right to heal.

This is a series that we hope to hold annually every fall, and we are looking for other organizations to partner with to expand this space. The feedback we've received is that participants want the healing justice convenings to continue, and this feels like the start of a movement even as this series comes to a close.

Donations help us to continue supporting our larger organizing efforts!

Pangea statement on Gaza and Palestinian liberation: No Immigrant Justice Without Palestinian Liberation!



Illustration by asia bordowa, [DE-MIL-I-TA-RISE](#).

Pangea *unequivocally* supports **Palestinian liberation** and self-determination. As a community legal services organization, we know that the movement for immigrant rights must include liberation for Palestine.

[Read our Full Statement Here!](#)

Defend Asylum and Immigrant Communities: #SaveAsylum!

Pangea joins the chorus of voices denouncing the Biden administration's proposal to radically curtail life-saving protections for immigrants seeking asylum in exchange for increased funding for foreign military aid to Israel and Ukraine. This proposal is a lose-lose for our communities in the U.S. and abroad. [Reports indicate that Biden's proposal](#) would involve:

- (1) Enacting a sweeping third country transit bad into law;**
- (2) Raising the bar in initial screenings; and,**
- (3) Expanding expedited removal nationwide.**

These proposed restrictions would gut the asylum system, violate international law, and trample due process.

The Biden administration's proposal includes sending an additional \$10.1 billion in military aid to Israel and \$13.6 billion for increased border militarization at the U.S.-Mexico border, as part of a \$110.5 billion supplemental funding request. We reject this attempt to [unjustly leverage the lives of our immigrant community members as bargaining chips to appease anti-asylum legislators](#). We affirm that there is no immigrant justice without Palestinian liberation. **The fundamental right to move and the freedom to seek protection from persecution is not up for negotiation.**

We need ALL pro-immigrant and pro-refugee advocates to **ACT NOW** to stop the White House from green-lighting these anti-asylum legislative proposals. **Join us to #SaveAsylum!**

Learn More and Take Action:

- **Spread the word:** Use DefundHate's [social media toolkit](#) to increase the pressure on Congress and encourage your friends and colleagues to speak up.
- **Contact your electeds:** Use this [Call Script from #WelcomeWithDignity](#).
- **Read:** [CGRS, Human Rights First, National Immigrant Justice Center, and Refugee International have published an analysis](#) of the legislative proposals being considered by Congress, breaking down how they would violate the United States' international obligations to protect refugees.

🌟 Honoring Our Community Leaders 🌟

Pangea Legal Services
COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Faithful Friends

Faithful Friends

Faithful Friends fought alongside us and the rest of our partners in the Yuba Liberation Coalition for years to shut down the Yuba County detention Center. **As a liberatory organization committed to abolishing unjust systems, Faithful Friends is not about charity work. Although they** helped countless detained immigrants upon their release or deportation, they also helped us mobilize hunger strikes, organize protests, and kept us focused and grounded through this often heart-wrenching struggle. Thank you for all you have done for us and our immigrant community, **Faithful Friends!**

Our Movement Continues to Grow: Meet Our

New Hires!



Elena joined Pangea in October 2023. Previously, she defended immigrants facing deportation as part of NYU's Immigrant Rights Clinic and the Advanced Immigrant Rights Clinic. Elena grew up in rural Montana, on occupied Niitsítapi and Salish Kootenai land. She is committed to supporting immigrant, Indigenous, and other communities impacted by U.S. militarism and bordering regimes, as they build local and transnational movements toward abolition.

[Elena Hodges,](#)
[Attorney.](#)



Maria joined Pangea in September 2023. As a daughter of farmworkers and an immigrant growing up in the Central Valley, Maria is dedicated to defending the rights of immigrants. Prior to Pangea, Maria worked as a staff attorney at the UFW Foundation (UFWF). She is excited to bring her years of removal defense experience to Pangea and continue advocating for clients in removal proceedings.

[Maria Renteria,](#)
[Attorney.](#)

We invite you to build on all of these accomplishments with us and expand our human rights work in 2024! We need your help to stay

strong and to keep on winning!

DONATE TODAY!



[Donations](#) help us continue supporting larger organizing efforts of impacted individuals and their loved ones as we continue to work towards abolishing detention centers by providing folks with stipends, transportation, and equipment for direct actions.

Please give a tax-deductible donation before the end of the year to help us continue to grow our impact for our immigrant community in 2023!!!



Thank you to the many of you who already donated or are giving monthly. Through monthly support, you help make our work sustainable in the long term. THANK YOU! 🙌

Here's to Solidarity and with Much Love, The Pangea Family

Ambri, Bianca, Celine, Dalia, Elena, Esperanza, Eunice, Gladys, Jessica, Jesus, Luis Angel, Madahy, Maria, Marie, Nallely, Pete, Roxana, Sean, Vanessa,

Victoria, and Ximena



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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