



Special Newsletter | July 2019

*Pangea **PRIDE** Newsletter*

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for the tremendous support you have shown during these times of crisis ([ICE raids](#)) and celebration ([Pride month](#))!

We have been running a special fundraising campaign over the last month and we're short of our goal. Will you help us reach it?

If everyone on this list gives just \$3 before the end of the campaign on July 3rd, we can reach our goal and continue to grow our team and important work defending the fundamental right to move.

I ask for this added effort even if you've already given.

Please give a tax-deductible donation (Tax ID: 36-4748424) of \$3 or multiples of \$3 - \$30, \$300, \$3,000. Thank you!

Warmly,
Nilou

Thank you for standing with us and donating, especially those of you who give monthly. Through monthly support, you really help make our work sustainable in the long-term.

SUPPORT OUR WORK



The government's threats to tear up families through ICE raids is not a new fear tactic. Last year around the same time, the community stood strong against ICE's assaults on our communities. In the above photo, Francisco, the father of one of Pangea's detained clients spoke out at an emergency rally against raids and immigration detention (Feb. 28, 2018).

Crisis during Pride Month: ICE Raids

While this past month was a time of resistance, celebration, pride, and solidarity with the struggles of our LGBTQ community, the last week of June was struck with fear and intimidation tactics by the government. Our community feared ICE raids specifically targeting the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as nine other major U.S. cities, as announced by the federal administration.

But we responded with power and not panic. Pangea attorneys and partners in the Bay Area doubled up efforts: we increased rapid response phone dispatchers, placed thousands of trained [Migra Watch](#) volunteers on notice and on standby, reminded the community of their rights and our rapid response hotlines through announcements on English and Spanish language media, and coordinated with a network of attorneys to be on call in case of an emergency.

Mass community backlash forced the government to delay its threats against us. But we stand united as we remain vigilant, ready, and with power together. [Migra Watch Networks](#) were created for this precise purpose: to combat assaults on our community with legal and community organizing, neighborhood by neighborhood. We all share in this responsibility.



50 years after the Stonewall riots: Pangea celebrates the bold advocates of LGBTQ rights at the San Francisco

Pride march (June 30, 2019).

End the violence against trans and queer immigrants in ICE prisons. End immigration prisons.

The fundamental right to move has a significant meaning for many. For some, it means the right to move between sexuality and gender expression. Pride month is a celebration of the resistance of our LGBTQ family, but we cannot overlook the violence and disparities that our trans and queer community endure in ICE custody and within our systems. [Johana Medina](#), a trans-Latina, recently died at the hands of ICE at the beginning of Pride Month. While Johana was not a client of Pangea's, we stand in solidarity with her and the many others like her who are mistreated, assaulted, and held in solitary confinement in prisons across the United States. We will continue to uplift their stories until all immigration prisons are closed, and we will not forget.

The Resilience of Pangea's Clients Transcends All

Genders and Borders

Here is a glimpse into the separation, silencing, imprisonment, and journeys to freedom of three of Pangea's LGBTQ clients:

Amor Prohibido - Forbidden Love David, 19, Guatemala



Asylum Seekers board a freight train known as, "La Bestia" or The Beast, as they make the trajectory to seek asylum in the U.S. (Nov. 2014).

After a [Facebook post outing his sexual orientation](#) went viral in his hometown, David was beaten up by his friends and family in Guatemala...

[\[Click here to read more about David\]](#)

... Since his release from detention, David has been sharing the story of his migration, forbidden love, and his identity, including through media platforms like [No Immigrant No Spice](#).

Dressing Up in Drag as a Form Expression and Freedom Marvin, 24, El Salvador



A stunning transformation and visual representation of Marvin's right to move between his gender expression and drag (May 2019).

From childhood, Marvin was bullied, harassed, and nearly beaten to death, and no one ever stood up for him in El Salvador. He felt trapped and silenced for being who he was. Finding his freedom and creative expression by dressing up in drag and performing at local bars, Marvin began representing his department in El Salvador in national competitions for music, dance, and drag performances...

[\[Click here to read more about Marvin.\]](#)

...He hopes that his newfound search for freedom, which was violently repressed in El Salvador, will be fully realized in the United States.

My Existence is Resistance

Arely, 26, Honduras



Arely. Photo taken by Santa Fe Dreamers Project.

"I left Honduras because of the discrimination against transgender women. In Honduras, we are treated as if we have no right to live, we feel as if we aren't even allowed to breathe the air..."

[\[Click here to read more about Arely.\]](#)

Thank you for standing in solidarity with Pangea's clients and the LGBTQ community during Pride month. And thank you for helping us **close the gap!**

In addition to supporting Pangea, **please also donate to our community partners** for the critical services they provide for the LGBTQ community:

[Ei/La Para TransLatinas](#)
[Communities United Against Violence](#)
[Familia: Trans Queer Liberation](#)
[Transgender Law Center](#)
[Santa Fe Dreamers Project](#)

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

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

Thank you for helping us close the gap!

DONATE HERE

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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