

**DO YOU HAVE A
SPACE, RESOURCES,
OR TIME TO OFFER?**



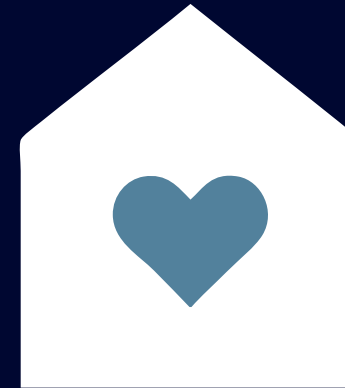
CRLN

**CHICAGO RELIGIOUS
LEADERSHIP NETWORK
ON LATIN AMERICA**

To learn more about sanctuary organizing contact CRLN's Immigration Organizer at crodriguez@crln.org or 773-293-3680. To learn about other ways to support ongoing deportation cases follow OCAD or #not1more on Facebook.

SANCTUARY

Q&As



As people of faith and people of conscience, we must pledge to take the lead of directly-impacted communities engaged in transformative work. This includes opening up our congregations and communities for sanctuary. We must pledge to fight with ALL our siblings, brothers, and sisters in the ongoing struggle to dismantle U.S. militarism, neoliberal economic and xenophobic immigration policy, and other forms of state and institutional violence. We are united by our liberating faiths and inspired by the power of people to organize and to find allies to work for sustainable economies, just relationships and human dignity.

WHAT IS SANCTUARY?

“Sanctuary” is a changing and expanding term increasingly being used (and sometimes appropriated) within different contexts, spaces, and policies after the election. For faith communities, however, sanctuary is an ancient tradition that has become closely associated with congregations that have offered their brick and mortar structures as a refuge for undocumented communities fighting for justice in the US within the last fifty years. Sanctuary within congregations has currently operated under ICE’s 2011 memo listing churches (as well as hospitals and schools) as “sensitive locations.”

However, knowing that these spaces are never really safe from ICE and with Trump’s recent election, the future role and possibilities of sanctuary are uncertain. Until then, however, we must continue to prepare to offer and support sanctuary as one tactical part of larger organizing efforts to change the conditions that necessitate sanctuary in the first place.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO OFFER SANCTUARY?

Sanctuary is not a given, which means sanctuary spaces must be ACTIVELY organized and defended by the community--from below. In the same way that directly impacted communities have taken risks and put their bodies on the line, faith communities must be prepared to move out of their comfort zone when asked to. This also means that there’s no checklist for sanctuary, every case is different.

However, here are different examples of what sanctuary looks like:

- Sanctuary involves hosting community members, offering hospitality and accompaniment
- Holding critical conversations about whiteness, immigration, and criminalization, supporting the leadership and decisions of those directly-affected
- Using the resources at your di\$posal and offering Know Your Rights information
- Forming a immigration taskforce and mobilizing your networks

It looks like an deep and informed spiritual stance committed to enacting our own visions of community care and safety.