

Godmothers of the Disappeared Talking Points:

Regimes have disappeared people throughout history. ICE is now the agent of this in the US. Disappearing immigrants without due process and pushing a narrative that immigrants are criminals is the Trump administration's latest tactic of pushing a narrative of fear and division.

Also, regimes have used the young generations of oppressed people to be the troops that will persecute and kill the older generation.

In Argentina women organized to demand the return of their children who had been disappeared by the military dictator. They became Las Madres de La Plaza de Mayo.

Looking to the example of Las Madres, the women of CLUE have organized as The Godmothers of the Disappeared.

We gather every Tuesday in front of the LA Federal Building where men, women and children are being held by ICE, HSI, The National Guard and Marines with no due process.

We pray, sing, testify, demand the release of the Disappeared and encourage those implementing the persecution to stop. We are here to bring a humanizing presence, and to challenge the Us vs. Them narrative, and remind people that we are all interconnected, and that we are all somebody's child.

At our vigils we close with a ritual where we read the following statement:

We are Godmothers of the Disappeared.

We are here because we love our children.

We are here to tell our children who have been taken, we have not forgotten you. We will not rest until you are in our arms again.

We are here to tell our children in uniform, do the right thing. Return your brothers, sisters, and siblings safely to their homes. Lay down your weapons. You don't need to be afraid. Your mothers love you. You are safe.

We are here to tell the world that we are watching. We know the power of kinship, and we are here to remind everybody that we are stronger together than we are apart. When we have each other there is no reason to be scared.

While all genders are welcome to participate in our actions, this is a women driven initiative and women make the decisions.