

Dear IMC-CAN Team Action recipient - Feel free to print/share this sheet with your action group and friends.

Here's How To Be Prepared for ICE Surges in Our Communities

Massachusetts residents should be prepared for an anticipated surge in ICE activity in our communities, which may mean many of us become witnesses—or choose to be witnesses—to enforcement actions unfolding in public spaces. Knowing how to act as a bystander legally and safely is essential: observing calmly, refraining from interference, protecting our own rights, and avoiding escalation while ensuring that those targeted are not isolated or abused. Equally important is understanding how to document what we see—accurately recording time, location, badge numbers or vehicle markings when visible, and capturing video or notes in a lawful way—so that communities can respond in real time and credible evidence can support later legal review or investigations. Being prepared turns fear and confusion into collective vigilance and accountability, helping protect civil rights and strengthening community safety.

[ACTION SUMMARY](#)

[SOURCES](#)

[ACTION DETAILS](#)

[BACKGROUND INFORMATION](#)

[BONUS ACTIONS](#)

[ACTION SUMMARY](#)

Estimated time: 60+ minutes, depending on your interest.

Read as much of the resource materials below as you wish.

Watch the MIRA Coalition *Bystander Training* Video and No Kings/ACLU *Eyes on ICE: Document and Record* Video

Join the LUCE Immigrant Justice Network

[SOURCES](#)

[MIRA Coalition](#)

[ACLU](#)

[No Kings Coalition](#)

[ACTION DETAILS](#)

Watch These Important Virtual Trainings

- [Eyes on ICE: Document and Record](#), No Kings Coalition/ACLU, 1/26/2026
- [Bystander Training, MIRA Coalition](#), 1/15/2026

Read These Important Bystander Resources

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[Witnessing Immigration Enforcement Resources](#), Mass Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy (MIRA)

Coalition

[Know Your Rights as a Protestor](#), ACLU

[KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: What You Can Do as a Bystander During Immigration Enforcement Actions](#),

ACLU of Rhode Island

[ICE Activity: Guidelines for Bystanders](#), Berkshire Alliance to Support the Immigrant Community

(BASIC)

[Rapid Response Networks in the Twin Cities: A Guide to an Updated Model](#)

[When the Feds Come to Your City: Standing Up to ICE: A Guide from Chicago Organizers](#), Immigrants Rising

LUCE Immigrant Justice Network

- [Learn about the LUCE Immigrant Justice Network](#). LUCE operates a statewide hotline system with a network of trained observers and ICE verifiers. LUCE networks directly with immigrant groups and communities.
- Put the LUCE Hotline phone number into your phone's contact list:
617-370-5023
- If you observe ICE in your community, call the LUCE Hotline ASAP.
- Consider [joining LUCE as an ICE Watch Volunteer](#).
- Memorize the **SALUTE** to ensure you can communicate the most useful information if you are reporting a potential ICE sighting.



Think You SEE I.C.E. in your area?
Call the LUCE Hotline:
617-370-5023

S	Size	number of agents and vehicles	"4 officers in a blue truck and a white sedan"
A	Activity	what are the agents doing?	"parked outside the grocery store watching people go in and out"
L	Location	address or street, direction if applicable	"corner of Union and Central, the bridge there on the corner"
U	Unit/ Uniform	ICE, DHS, HSI, ERO	"ball caps, masks, and vests with HSI on the back"
T	Time	date and time	"3:15 pm today"
E	Equipment	weapons, devices, tech, uniform	"body armor, pepper spray, phones, tasing, deterrents"

Tips for Bystanders and Allies Coping with Stress and Trauma:

- **Connect with a trusted support network** (friends, advocacy groups, mental health professionals).
- **Practice grounding and self-care activities** (journaling, breathing exercises, limiting exposure to distressing news).
- **Seek culturally and trauma-informed mental health care** if the stress or anxiety becomes persistent or overwhelming.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Getting trained as a bystander and learning your rights is an act of community care and personal responsibility. Training helps people understand how to observe and respond in lawful, calm, non-escalatory ways, protecting themselves and others in tense, high-stress situations.

Know Your Rights: Knowing what your rights are in public spaces—such as the right to peacefully observe and record from a safe distance—reduces fear and confusion and helps prevent impulsive actions that could put people at risk. Just as important, bystander education emphasizes safety for everyone involved: the person being targeted, nearby community members, and the witnesses themselves. In moments of stress, preparation allows people to act with clarity, preserve accurate information, and contribute constructively rather than react out of panic or anger.

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At the same time, we recognize that these are dangerous and rapidly evolving times, with changing ICE tactics and increasingly unpredictable responses to activists and observers. Just because an activity is legal does not mean it is without risks.

Self-Care, Risk Tolerance, and Informed Decision-Making: Being informed means more than knowing abstract rights; it means understanding your own risk tolerance, physical and emotional limits, and the potential legal consequences of different choices. No one should feel pressured to take actions beyond their capacity or comfort level, and seeking guidance from trusted legal organizations or an attorney is often the wisest step before engaging in any form of witnessing or documentation. Training should always be paired with thoughtful self-assessment and caution, so that people can support their communities without placing themselves or others in unnecessary harm.

Community: Being part of a group (an ICE Watch group, an Affinity Group, a neighborhood watch, etc.) adds an important layer of protection and resilience. Volunteers are not acting alone, but within a coordinated network that shares information, checks in on one another, and can quickly mobilize support such as legal observers, hotlines, or community advocates. Working in pairs or teams increases situational awareness, reduces isolation, and allows people to step back if they feel unsafe. This collective approach helps individuals assess their own risk tolerance, rely on agreed-upon protocols, and contribute to community safety in a thoughtful, disciplined way rather than reacting out of fear or confusion.

BONUS ACTIONS

On 1/25/26, in response to the murder of Alex Patti on 1/24/26 in Minneapolis, the IMC hosted a rapid response webinar with activists from Minneapolis. See this [LINK](#) for additional actions you can take to safeguard our communities and neighbors.

Share this link to [SUBSCRIBE TO THE IMC-CAN](#) with everyone you can (we are keeping this subscription free—it's ok to skip the “Pledge” button that appears).