

Call to Action: #PardonSal

Join us in this action until Sal is free!

bit.ly/PardonSal

Salesh (“Sal”) Prasad is a beloved nephew, uncle, brother, artist and LGBT community member from Modesto, California. Sal is at risk of being deported to Fiji, a country he left over 44 years ago.

UPDATE: *On April 27th, an immigration judge granted Sal relief under the Convention Against Torture (CAT). His deportation is prevented for now, however ICE has a chance to appeal.* While he is now safe from deportation, a Governor’s pardon would offer Sal an opportunity to be recognized for his full humanity. See below on how you can get involved!

Background: Sal came to the U.S. as a Lawful Permanent Resident at the age of 6. He served 27 years in prison for a conviction at the age of 22. He was found eligible for release from prison due to his rehabilitation and remorse. However, in August 2021, after being found eligible for parole, instead of being released to the community, he was directly transferred from prison to ICE Custody at Golden State Annex. Shortly after he was detained by ICE, his mother passed away from COVID, and ICE denied him the opportunity to be released, even temporarily, to say goodbye or to attend her funeral. As a child, Sal experienced domestic violence within his household, and was sexually abused by an adult male acquaintance. The abuse pushed him to seek protection from gang members, and to self-medicate with drugs and alcohol. Sal took a person’s life at age 22 during an altercation. He is incredibly remorseful for this and understands the impact of his actions.

Sal is now 51 years old. While incarcerated, Sal focused on healing, rehabilitation, and change. He has healed from the abuse that he suffered through therapy and through reflecting on the transition he has made from victim to survivor. He reflected on the harm that he had caused and the incredible remorse he holds. He became a leader in prison and strives to help others who are incarcerated in order to fulfill his goal in life to help people rather than hurt them. Sal’s personal growth, community service, and strong ties to the community since his incarceration clearly demonstrate the efforts he has made to rebuild his life and give back to others.

Sal is not alone. ICE and CA prisons and jails have a history of targeting, detaining, and deporting community members *after* they have served time and have earned release. In addition to advocating for the



release of Sal and other community members, we must end the ongoing collaboration between ICE and our prisons and jails!

There are actions you can take to #PardonSal:

1. Donate to his Go Fund Me: <https://gofund.me/a2db5922>

2. Call and Email Governor Newsom with this Script:

Artwork by Sal:

Phone number: (916) 445-2841

Email Gov. Newsom

1. Scroll to the section titled "Contact the Governor" and select the topic "Clemency - Pardon"
2. Select purpose of communication "Leave a comment"
3. On the next page, select position "Pro"
4. Write your message:

"My name is ____ and I represent ____ (organization / faith community, or city/county where you live). I am calling in strong support of **Salesh Prasad** a Fijian immigrant and beloved artist. Salesh is at risk of deportation to Fiji, a country he left at the age of 6. Salesh was recommended for release by the Board of Parole Hearings in recognition of his service and leadership inside.

In early December, an Immigration Judge concluded that Sal does not pose a danger or a flight risk, and granted him release on bond. If deported to Fiji, Sal would be at risk of discrimination due to his Queer identity. His family and support system is here in the United States. I urge Gov. Newsom to pardon Salesh immediately and bring him home." "

5. On the next page, type in your First Name, Last Name, and E-mail Address

3. Sign and share his petition on change.org:

<https://bit.ly/PardonSal-Petition>

4. Submit a letter of support for Sal's pardon

One way to prevent Salesh's deportation is for him to receive a Governor's pardon. We are collecting support letters from friends, family, electeds, community organizations, and faith communities. Please use the template below, make a copy, personalize, sign, then email to: jennifer.friedman@sfgov.org.

- [Template for friends and family](#)
- [Template for organizations and faith communities](#)



5. Share on social media:

Sample tweet:

Salesh Prasad is a beloved brother, uncle, and artist and faces deportation to Fiji, a country he left in his youth. [@GavinNewsom](#) can stop this cruel double punishment by granting Sal a pardon. Take action: bit.ly/PardonSal [#PardonSal](#)

5. Read and uplift articles about Sal and his story

Guardian Article: [‘I won’t survive’: queer California man facing deportation after 44 years in US](#)

The Bay Area Reporter: [Guest Opinion: Let's not forget about LGBTQ immigrants in ICE detention](#)

Modesto Bee - Opinion Editorial: [Federal ICE transfers hurts Modesto residents after paying their debts to society.](#)

Powerful [6-min video](#) highlighting his story, and a recording of [Sal’s testimony](#) about his experience!

Salesh has support for his pardon from his family and dozens of community and faith orgs, congregations, and elected officials. Here are some of his supporters:

Community and faith organizations:

- Calvary Presbyterian, San Francisco
- Kehilla Community Synagogue
- Buena Vista United Methodist Church
- Pine United Methodist Church
- Pangea Legal Services
- Asian Prisoner Support Committee
- Freedom for Immigrants
- API Rise

Elected officials:

- Assemblymember Matt Haney
- Assemblymember Alex Lee
- Senator Scott Weiner
- Senator María Elena Durazo
- San Francisco Supervisor Hillary Ronen
- San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a [resolution urging Gov. Newsom to pardon Salesh](#)
- Alameda County Democratic Central Committee of California (DCCC), Stanislaus County DCCC, and San Francisco DCCC all passed resolutions urging Gov. Newsom to pardon Salesh

This call-to-action is hosted by:



QUEER DETAINEE