



HOPE CAN'T BE QUARANTINED

HOW TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANTS AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN DETENTION DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS

HOPE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, all across the Americas region public health experts, elected officials, and community leaders have asked all of us to practice “physical distancing” and severely limit the size of all gatherings. Schools, movies, restaurants, and places of worship have closed their doors, and much of our days is spent with our family, in our homes. We may feel alone, scared, anxious or just uncertain of what the future may bring.

For people in immigration detention facilities in the USA, Mexico, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Curaçao, the isolation and risks they face has only been intensified. In these countries, tens of thousands of adults, families and children are being held in

detention, simply because of their migration status. People in crowded detention facilities are some of the most at-risk of being exposed to COVID-19, and in many cases, have inadequate access to health care.

We know that in challenging times, we must lean on each other and find creative ways to stay connected. After partnering with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) on a campaign to send cards and letters of solidarity to immigrants and asylum-seekers detained in the USA, Amnesty International is calling on you to take this action on behalf of people in detention across the Americas, to remind them that they are not forgotten during these incredibly trying times. Help us light the lamp of hope across the region – from the tip of North America all the way down to the South.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

WRITE a letter to someone in immigration detention, sharing a message of hope and helping them feel less isolated in this difficult time.

SHARE a picture or story of you writing letters on social media, tag [@amnesty](#) and [@LIRSorg](#), and use [#HopeCantBeQuarantined](#)

LEARN about the immigration system and how to get more involved with AI, LIRS and our network of coalition partners.

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WRITE A LETTER

STEP 1

Write one or more messages of hope and encouragement in English or another language – check out the special instructions from our partners on the next page to see what’s needed most. Consider including a drawing or poem for extra encouragement! Sign the card with your first name and city/state.



STEP 2

Place cards in individual BLANK envelopes. Place the blank envelopes in a larger envelope or box and send to the partner closest to you for speediest delivery. See p3 for a list of local partners.

STEP 3

Share on social media to amplify your letter(s) and this action. See p4 for additional guidance.

SAMPLE MESSAGES FOR INSPIRATION

Feel free to mix and match some of the phrases below or write your own. Online translation tools or Spanish- or French-speaking friends can help, too!

English	Español	Français
Dear friend,	Querido/a amigo/a,	Cher ami.e,
Greetings from [city/state].	Saludos desde [ciudad/estado].	Salutations de [ville, État].
Please know that you are not alone or forgotten.	Quiero que sepa que no está solo/a, ni olvidado/a.	Sachez que vous n’êtes pas seul.e ou oublié.e.
I am thinking of you and your protection and safety during this challenging time.	Estoy pensando en usted y su protección y seguridad durante estos momentos difíciles.	Je pense à vous, à votre protection et à votre sécurité pendant cette période difficile.
I am in solidarity with you.	Me solidarizo con usted.	Je vous soutiens.
Thousands of people are working to keep you and your family safe.	Miles de personas están trabajando para que usted y su familia estén protegidos.	Des milliers de personnes travaillent pour assurer votre sécurité et celle de votre famille.
I am sending you love, strength and solidarity.	Le envío amor, fuerza y solidaridad.	Je vous envoie amour, force et solidarité.
Stay strong! Many people across the world are supporting you.	¡Manténgase fuerte! Le apoyan muchas personas en todo el mundo.	Courage! De nombreuses personnes à travers le monde vous soutiennent.



OUR CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

UNITED STATES

[ALLIES TO END DETENTION](#) – CALIFORNIA

Detainee Allies envisions a U.S. immigration system that welcomes refugees, protects asylum-seekers, and operated from the common sense that migration is not a crime and that detention and profit has no place in that system.

Special instructions: Please no glitter, stickers, or glue. Cards needed in English, Spanish, Arabic, Ukrainian and Haitian.

Send cards to: Allies to End Detention, 6549 Mission Gorge Road, #219, San Diego, CA 92120

[EL REFUGIO](#) – GEORGIA

El Refugio has been leading groups to visit immigrants and asylum-seekers detained at the Steward Detention Center since 2010. In addition to their visitation program, they support families and those recently released by providing short-term hospitality and housing services.

Special instructions: Spanish cards are needed! Please place a stamp on the outside of the envelope.

Send cards to: El Refugio Ministry, PO Box 3996, Decatur, GA 30031

[LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE SOUTHWEST](#) – ARIZONA

For more than 50 years, **Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest** has welcomed individuals and families during times of crisis and transition, built a self-reliant foundation where all people can fulfill their most basic needs, and preserved dignity and respect for our most fragile populations in Arizona. Services include refugee resettlement, legal immigration services, employment assistance, K-12 refugee education services, and women's empowerment.

Special instructions: Please do not place cards in individual envelopes. Cards needed in English, Spanish and other various languages.

Send cards to: 2502 E. University Drive, Suite 125, Phoenix, AZ 85034

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

[LA CASITA OF THE HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTRE OF ARIMA](#)

Send cards to: 36 Pro Queen Street, Arima, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies

Email: (for electronic messages) tterasguide@gmail.com

Note: Please don't mention Amnesty International in your solidarity letters!

CANADA

Send cards to: Amnistie internationale, CP 224731, BP Saint-Dominique

7038 rue Saint-Dominique, Montreal, QC H2S3B0, Canada

MEXICO

[CDH Fray Matías de Córdova](#)

Send cards to: 4a Avenida Sur, 6, Colonia Centro, Tapachula, Chiapas - MX - CP 30700

SHARE FAR AND WIDE

One of the most important steps you can take to offer hope to those in detention is to raise your voice and community awareness. Educate your friends and family about these issues. Tag your elected representations and let them know you support humane alternatives to detention.

And don't forget to show us your letters, poems, or however you're supporting those in detention at this critical time by tagging [@amnesty](#) and [@LIRSorg](#), and using #HopeCantBeQuarantined.

LEARN MORE ABOUT USA IMMIGRATION DETENTION

READ

AI: 'WE ARE ADRIFT, ABOUT TO SINK':
THE LOOMING COVID-19 DISASTER
IN UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION
DETENTION FACILITIES

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/2XV4GSC](https://bit.ly/2xv4gsc)

WATCH

LIRS: THE HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION
DETENTION

[HTTP://BIT.LY/2WZLK4X](http://bit.ly/2wzlk4x)

LISTEN

FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS:
MELTING THE ICE

[HTTP://BIT.LY/3DJLV5D](http://bit.ly/3djlV5D)

