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Press Contacts: Jorge Baron (206) 957-8609; Jorge@nwirp.org

Sandy Restrepo (206) 251-1627; Sandy@colectivalegal.org

WASHINGTON IMMIGRANT SOLIDARITY NETWORK LAUNCHES HOTLINE TO REPORT DETENTIONS AND OTHER IMMIGRATION ACTIVITIES

TO REPORT IMMIGRATION ACTIVITY IN WASHINGTON:

DIAL 1-844-RAID-REP (1-844-724-3737)

Washington – As the Trump administration continues to target our communities, the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network responds by launching a new phone hotline to report activity across the state. Levels of fear have increased since the new administration has come into power with increased instances of community members being detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol agents throughout the Evergreen state. The new reporting hotline launches Monday, May 8th, and will allow people to report situations in which community members have been detained by immigration agents anywhere in Washington, to a live hotline volunteer 7 days a week, between 6am - 9pm.

“When agents are pounding on your door, or when a family member has been stopped in the streets, it’s often hard to know what resources are available in the community. Some people don’t know what to do, or who to contact when this happens.” says Victoria Mena, Policy Director with Colectiva Legal del Pueblo, a nonprofit that provides immigration legal services throughout Washington. The hotline will allow people to report when loved ones or friends have been detained by immigration agents or other instances of problematic behavior conduct by immigration officials. When someone calls the hotline, volunteers will ask questions about the incident to collect as much details as possible. Including, what did the agents uniforms look like? What markings were on the vehicles? Callers will also be provided with information regarding resources available for those individuals detained by ICE or Border Patrol agents. *“We see too many people come into our offices after an ICE encounter has left them shaken,”* states Mena, *“Our hope is that community members will save this number: 1-844-RAID-REP (1-844-724-3737) in their contacts list so they can call as soon as possible to report these actions.”*

“Given our current social and political reality and the fear it engenders for immigrants, refugees, and other marginalized populations, it’s easy to feel paralyzed despite an honest desire to stand in solidarity,” said Reverend Staci Imes, a pastor with the Woodland Park Presbyterian Church in Seattle and one of the volunteers staffing the hotline. *“The 844-RAID-REP Hotline is a tangible way to say ‘we’re standing with you’. I can’t volunteer in person very often, but I can wake up a little early a few times a week and be*

available by phone—it's not much, but I can do that. Hopefully, the hotline will be one way to give people who are scared and in crisis a place to turn while also providing legal service providers with the information they need to provide vital assistance.”

Organizations across the state have joined the network to collaborate on these efforts, and build a united front to melt ICE in Washington. The hotline is one of the many rapid response tools that the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network is developing. Other resources, rolling out soon, include a text message alert system, a phone app, and on the ground trainings for community preparedness and rapid response.

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The [WA Immigrant Solidarity Network](#) is a rapidly forming coalition of immigrant and refugee rights organizations, ally groups and individuals, demanding justice, value and acceptance of immigrants and refugees in the Evergreen State, and across the world.