

RECAP: Community Conversation

Advancing a Holistic Narrative Around Immigration

Thank you for joining us for this community conversation on how to advance a holistic and multidimensional narrative on immigration in Ohio and beyond.

Watch the recording here ([English](#), [Spanish](#)) and access links and resources from the webinar below. Also, [sign and share](#) the #OhioStandsWithImmigrants petition! For answers to questions raised during the webinar, see the end of this document.

Participants

Viles Dorsainvil, [Haitian Community Help and Support Center](#)
Jona Hilario, [OPAWL – Building AAPI Feminist Leadership](#)
Houleye Thiam, [Mauritanian Network for Human Rights in US](#)
Lynn Tramonte, [Ohio Immigrant Alliance](#) and [Anacaona](#)
Claudia Longo, [Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio](#)
Avery Martens and Angela Lin, [Ohio Voice](#) (moderators)

Email angela@ohvoice.org or ltramonte@ohioimmigrant.org with questions!

Public Opinion Research and Analysis

- Goodwin Simon Strategic Research and Wonder: Strategies for Good - [Heartwired for Change](#) Strategy Guide
- First Nations Messaging Fellowship: [Passing the Message Stick](#)
- People's Action Institute: [Building a Bigger We: Changing Hearts & Minds on Immigration in Rural and Small-Town America](#)
- Race Forward/Butterfly Lab for Narrative Strategy: [A Future for All of Us](#)
- Lynn Tramonte/Anacaona
 - Medium: [Immigration Policy and Media Narratives are not a Blood Sport](#)
 - Medium: [The Most Powerful, Least Used Narrative Tool: Humanizing Photos of Immigrants](#)

Talking Points and Tools

- Ohio Immigrant Alliance: [General Talking Points](#)
- Opportunity Agenda - Vision, Values, and Voice: [A Communications Toolkit](#)
- ASO Communications
 - [Here to Stay: How to Talk About MAGA's Authoritarian Agenda on Immigration](#)
 - [Messaging Guides](#)
- Comm/Unity Network: [Journalist Style Guide: Reporting at the Intersection of Immigration, Policing, and Incarceration](#)
- Muslim Counterpublics Lab: [Narrative Interventions - A Guide to Rejecting Collective Responsibility](#)

Local Advocacy - #OhioStandsWithImmigrants Petition (OPAWL/OHIA)

- [Individual](#) sign on
- [Organizational](#) sign on

Examples of Narrative Excellence in Action

- WYSO - [Haitians the Heartland](#)
- OPAWL - [Love Has No Borders](#)
- Goodwin Simon Strategic Research and Wonder: Strategies for Good - [Winning the Freedom to Marry for Same-Sex Couples](#)
- Ohio Immigrant Alliance - [Canvassing in Small-Town Ohio to Stop a Father's Deportation](#)

Art Drives Connection and Understanding

- Ohio Migration Anthology and Illustrated Memoir Project - [Video](#)
- Tam Tam Magic - [West African Griot Tradition](#)
- Maketank - [Illustrated Memoir Project](#)
- Ohio Immigrant Alliance - [Ohio Migration Anthology](#)

Ohio Is Home: Building The Nest of Protection in our Communities

- [Main Site](#) - multilingual
- [Ohio Immigrant Hotline](#) - report abuses, request resources, and more!

Volunteer & Get Involved

The best way to get involved is through your local immigration group or coalition. There is a list [here](#) and there are many others who aren't listed. For other opportunities:

- **Ohio Immigrant Alliance** is looking for people in certain counties to help oppose ICE contracts, particularly in Butler, Geauga, Seneca, Morrow, and Allen county but anywhere in Ohio is good. Email ltramonte@ohioimmigrant.org if you are interested in that or want to find out about other potential volunteer opportunities with OHIA. Also, sign up to join the Ohio Immigrant Alliance email list [here](#).
- [How to get involved with PPAO](#)

Donation Links

- [Haitian Community Help and Support Center](#)
- [OPAWL — Building AAPI Feminist Leadership](#)
- [Mauritanian Network for Human Rights in US](#)
- [Ohio Immigrant Alliance](#)
- [Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio](#)
- [Ohio Voice](#)

Social Media

- Haitian Community Help and Support Center
 - Facebook: [Haitian Community Help and Support Center](#)
- OPAWL — Building AAPI Feminist Leadership
 - IG: [@teamopawl](#)
 - Facebook: [OPAWL — Building AAPI Feminist Leadership](#)
- Mauritanian Network for Human Rights in US
 - Facebook: [Mauritanian Network for Human Rights in The US](#)
- Ohio Immigrant Alliance
 - IG: [@ohioimmigrantalliance](#)
 - Facebook: [Ohio Immigrant Alliance](#)
 - Threads: [@ohioimmigrantalliance](#)
 - X: [@tramontela](#)
 - Bluesky: [@lynntramonte.bsky.social](#)
 - YouTube: [@OhioImmigrant](#)
- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio
 - IG: [@ppaohio](#)
 - Facebook: [Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio](#)
 - X: [@PPAOhio](#)
 - TikTok: [@ppaohio](#)
- Ohio Voice
 - IG: [@ohiovoice](#)

Q&A

- 1.) What do you recommend to help college students step out of their comfort zones when they're being shown that DEI is not a priority in many spaces? They don't always have an intrinsic motivation, so how can we help them be curious and empathetic?

Assigning books like the [Ohio Migration Anthology](#) might be a good step. The content there is not overtly political. We have a discussion guide for Volume One [here](#).

- 2.) I have been printing out red cards for the Columbus, OH area but I was wondering if we know the larger groups of immigrant communities here? I want to make sure to get them out in the right languages.

Some top languages for Columbus include English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Japanese, Haitian Creole, Arabic, Swahili, and Somali. For Fulani-speakers, we recommend sharing [this](#) video as it is more common for people to speak the language than to read it.

- 3.) What strategies and advice can young indigenous organizations, like Comunidad Sol, implement to gain visibility, recognition, and a place in an environment where other organizations don't give us space because of our identity and youth?

Partner with an organization like Ohio Immigrant Alliance to introduce your organization to the broader community. We would be happy to set up a webinar for interested leaders/organizations to get to know you and your work. Contact ltramonte@ohioimmigrant.org.

- 4.) What efforts are being made to get Ohio organizations to be more involved with the immigration fight nationally? (Joining Coalitions nationally ex)

The [National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild](#) has set up a Midwest Regional Hub to coordinate information on raids. American Families United also has a [Great Lakes regional captain](#) based in Ohio.

- 5.) With the story of immigration being co-opted by the right, how do we deal with bad faith arguments and actors? There are some people that will not shake on their views of immigrant (especially when race is involved)

One word of advice: don't repeat the other side's argument. Even when you are answering their question or proving them wrong, don't repeat their language of raming. Instead of saying what we are against, say what we are for.

Strive to show connections between people who have never had to immigrate and people who have. What are common activities and experiences? Going to worship; taking kids to school; taking the bus to work; etc. Give examples that show things we have in common.

- 6.) One elephant in the room is the fear of being in the minority, aka, the so-called Great Replacement Theory. Jona is right - it's the same playbook. Should we, how, and when do we as immigrants and advocates begin to address and allay their fears of becoming the new minorities?

In public opinion research, there is discussion about scarcity versus abundance narratives. Our opponents want us to believe there are limited resources when it comes to wealth, power, and influence (scarcity or zero-sum mindset). We believe in a world where everything can thrive. Butterfly Lab calls this the abundance narrative, where we "recognize that there is enough for all if we live in alignment and the right relationship with the world around us, practicing love, care, community, and regeneration. When we center mindsets of sufficiency and generosity, resources can flourish into abundance. We call

people toward an abundance of imagination, to make a leap with us toward our shared future.” Read more [here](#).

- 7.) What efforts are being made to get youth (High school - College) involved in the immigrant rights movement and in the fight for immigration?

[Illustrated Memoir project](#) is focused on high school age students; contact Maketank for more information. High school, college students, and others are invited to get in touch with their [local or regional immigration organization](#) to learn about possible volunteer opportunities. Teachers can assign the [Ohio Migration Anthology](#) to their classes; see the discussion guide for Volume One [here](#).

- 8.) As we get more organized to counter this rise of anti-immigration actions, has the capacity increased or where are the gaps in organizing?

Ohio has gotten a little more capacity, but nationally the capacity of organizations is in flux because of funding threats. What we have seen that is exciting is the tremendous outpouring of grassroots energy and people self-organizing.

- 9.) Could the speakers comment on the efforts to criminalize solidarity work by constituting it as “harboring”?

Efforts to intimidate people who work in solidarity with immigrants will not stop us from doing so, because we know that our goals are just. Now is a time where people who were born into the privilege of citizenship must step up and show courage.

- 10.) How do we effectively communicate our unique immigrant stories to those who do not have any experience with it?

This is where we think art and books like the [Ohio Migration Anthology](#) and [Illustrated Memoir project](#) can be helpful. Also music. These are often easier entry points for connecting with immigration issues than a news article or program.