

Immigration, Safety and Security

Strategies to counter the fear-based narrative

THE FACTS ON IMMIGRANT CRIME RATES:

- **The security risks that immigrants pose are minimal.** Immigrants have lower than average incarceration rates, and undocumented immigrants are 44 percent less likely than average to be incarcerated.
- **Terrorism is not statistically associated with immigrants or refugees.** In the last 40 years, foreign-born terrorism has accounted for less than 0.4 percent of murders. The annual chance of dying in a terrorist attack by a refugee on U.S. soil is one in 3.64 billion.



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TO TAKE BACK THE NARRATIVE:

- **Don't repeat myths** when you're refuting them. Instead of saying, "Muslims aren't terrorists, they're our neighbors and friends," say "Our Muslims neighbors are our friends, and they share American values." People more easily remember myths than facts. Start with the facts.
- **Pragmatism is a useful frame.** Appealing to common sense and practical solutions is proven to work successfully at undoing the damage of an opposing message.
- **The frame of "immigrant rights" isn't well-received.** Instead, appeal to American values and our shared humanity. For example, you can frame prospective civil rights policies as not making one group safer but **making all residents safer.**



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WHAT COMMUNITIES CAN DO:

- **Don't only quote data.** Frame data within a larger immigration context or story. Find ways to share the stories of immigrants in your community. Frame immigrants' stories as inherently American, or highlight their struggles to get here.
- **Work to build trust.** Develop allies through engaging people on multiple levels: formal partnerships or business involvement, and informal engagement during neighborhood activities.

Sanctuary City:

Defining the term

Sanctuary, safe or trust policies vary widely, but all hold that local police are not required to perform federal immigration duties.



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For more resources and recordings, go to bit.ly/ILCsafety

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