



October 2, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

In our United Methodist work in the area of immigration, we have been assisted by information shared with us by the National Immigration Litigation Alliance (NILRA). Today we received the following information from the NILRA concerning immigrant children in the U.S. that is deeply concerning.

Beginning tomorrow, October 3, 2025, ICE will launch an operation reportedly named “Freaky Friday,” targeting unaccompanied children aged 14 and older of all nationalities.

- Children detained and released will be sent a “threat” letter from ICE threatening indefinite detention and immediate transfer to ICE upon age-out if they do not waive jurisdiction under the TVPRA and withdraw applications for relief
- Children will be offered \$2,500 to return to their countries of origin
- If children do not comply with the “offer”, the letter intimates their parents in the US will be arrested
- ICE plans to detain all children who reach the age of 14 and are ready to be released from detention, and they anticipate legal challenges.
- There are indications that the age threshold for this threat letter may be lowered to 10 years old.
- We understand they plan to first target detained children but will also target children released from custody.

Given this alarming information, we strongly encourage annual conferences and local churches to the extent possible, to:

- Provide Know Your Rights presentations to the families of children in ICE custody advising them of this plan and their right to not sign anything document without consulting their attorney
- Also, consider advising the families of immigrant children out of ICE custody about the possibility of receiving an ICE letter.
- If a child receives a letter, please consider helping them to prepare an affidavit that particularly highlights the manner in which this ICE letter was delivered (was counsel present and able to advise, were youth able to ask questions), evidence of coercion or intimidation, underlying fear of being returned to the country they immigrated from.
- Litigators are coordinating and we will provide more information shortly on who to direct these affidavits to.
- Please report concerns to the HHS Ombudsman office here: [UCOO@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:UCOO@acf.hhs.gov).

Conference Chancellors may be able to provide support in this critical situation.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. We are here to support you.

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