

# NASW MS Chapter Response To Immigration Raids Tuesday, August 6, 2019

NASW MS is saddened, disappointed, and outraged by the raids that disrupted the lives of 684 families. We stand with our immigrant community who like many of us sent their children to school, went to work, and eagerly anticipated the end of their workday so they could return home and hear about their child's first day.

As social workers, we abhor using the law as a weapon to penalize and traumatize families. We believe it is unacceptable and un-American. We are especially concerned about the traumatic effects on children who are separated from their families. The mere fact that this raid was planned for over a year shows that it was an orchestrated ploy. There were many less traumatizing ways that the "rule of law" could have been executed without such a display of force and disruption to families.

Social workers are encouraged to assist in this crisis in several ways. First, the NASW Code of Ethics Standard 6.04 on Social and Political Action reminds us to work to ensure that all people have equal access to resources, expand opportunity, and promote conditions that encourage respect for cultural and social diversity including act to prevent and eliminate domination of, exploitation of, and discrimination against any person. There is critical federal legislation you can support by contacting your Senators and Congressmen who are home from Washington on August break. Ask them to cosponsor and support the Stop Cruelty to Migrant Children Act S.2113/H.R. 3918.

Second, NASW MS will work with the Mississippi Immigration Rights Alliance (MIRA) in their advocacy and direct assistance to the community. This organization works closely with other community groups, including the ACLU (1.800.222.8000) and the Mississippi Center for Justice ([www.mscenterforjustice.org](http://www.mscenterforjustice.org)). In particular, the primary needs are monetary donations (go to [www.yourmira.org](http://www.yourmira.org) to donate any amount), attorneys with any immigration experience (contact Patricia Ice at MIRA at 601.354.9355 ext. 3), and social workers with experience with children or Child Protective Services (Bill Chandler at 601.354.9355 ext. 2). Bilingual volunteers are a plus! Additionally, any food, supplies, etc. may be brought to the MIRA office between 8:30 am and 8:30 pm, 4436 N. State St., Jackson, MS. For more information, visit the MIRA website at [www.yourmira.org](http://www.yourmira.org).

Lastly, some local religious organizations are speaking out and providing concrete assistance. Local churches include Scott County Baptist Association (601.469.1951), Morton United Methodist Church (601.732.6124) and Trinity Mission Church in Forest (601.469.1346).

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