**Strategies for Being a Better Ally to Undocumented Communities**

**COME OUT AS AN ALLY**

To be a good ally, you have to be active. Being vocal in your role is what helps bring change. Educate yourself and assist in the education of other individuals outside of undocumented communities. Use your privilege and resources to create spaces for those being oppressed and identify when an undocumented voice is not being heard. Being an ally though, does not give you authority within the movement. Stand in solidarity with those affected, but do not speak over the community. Instead, listen to what your undocumented peers are sharing and asking you to do and follow their lead.

**BE OF SERVICE, NOT SELF-SERVING**

Sometimes having good intentions can quickly result in it becoming more about making yourself feel good. Do not be concerned with being at the forefront of the movement or getting recognition. When offering to be an ally to those within undocumented communities, ask “What do you need?” or “How can I help?” instead of “I’m going to give you \_\_\_\_\_.”

**LEARN THE CORRECT TERMS**

It is important to know the appropriate ways to address immigrant and undocumented communities. Using the terms “illegal” or “alien” to describe immigrants dehumanizes them and is a tool of xenophobia and oppression. More appropriate vocabulary to use is “undocumented” and when in doubt, simply ask how an individual would like to be described and respect whatever wording they choose.

**BE MINDFUL OF INTERSECTIONALITY**

Be aware that “immigrant” is just one part of a person’s identity. Many immigrants also identify as LGBTQ+, people of color, women, and of different religions and faiths. As a result, their experiences can vary greatly, even though conversations around immigration in the United States often focus on Mexican immigrants and the Latinx experience. An informed ally needs to be conscious of these intersectional identities and consider their impact in the movement.

**GET INFORMED**

Rhetoric around immigration in media and politics can sometimes we oversimplified, so your own research is key to being a well-informed ally. Asking those in immigrant communities for information can be a good way to learn more, but they are not responsible for teaching you. Do the legwork to build a foundation of understanding first. We suggest checking out [www.informedimmigrant.com/resources](http://www.informedimmigrant.com/resources), which includes information for allies.

**TAKE ACTION**

Join local and national organizations that align with the vision and mission of the work you wish to do as an ally. Sign up for emails through these organizations to stay informed of current needs and action steps that are being taken, as well as learning about opportunities to plug in.