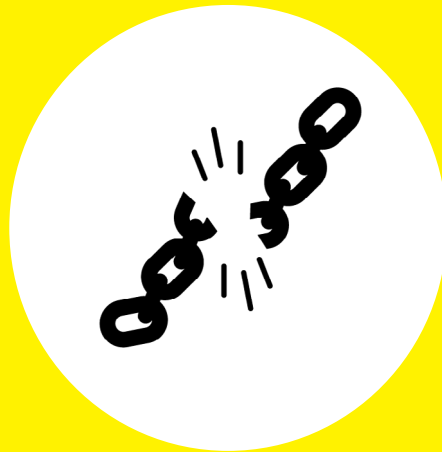
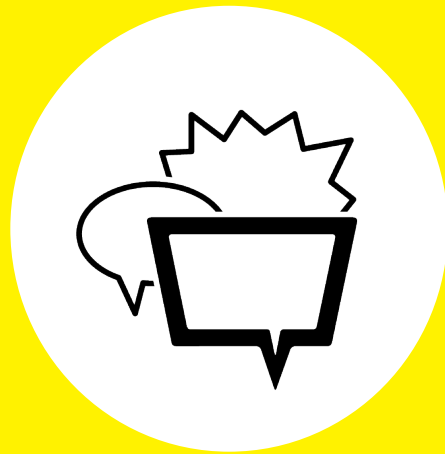


SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEO ACTION GUIDE

DIGNITY FOR DETAINED IMMIGRANTS ACT



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Everyday, tens of thousands of immigrants and asylum-seekers are locked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) while they fight for the right to stay here. Spending months or even years behind bars, people in detention don't have easy access to attorneys and are held in conditions that are oftentimes abusive and sometimes deadly. The COVID-19 pandemic has only heightened the dangers of detention.

U.S. leaders have expressed commitments to advance human rights and racial justice, but the overwhelming majority of people stuck in detention are Black and brown, both a reflection and reinforcement of systemic racism and racial inequity. Meanwhile, private prison corporations who run most detention facilities have seen profits soar into the billions of dollars.

People in detention have ties to family, faith, and other communities in the U.S. who could safely house them and guide them through the immigration court system if released.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Send a video on social media calling on your elected officials in Congress to cosponsor and pass the [Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act](#) (H.R. 2222, S. 1186), which would end the blanket use of immigration detention, eliminate the profit motive, promote humane alternatives, and strengthen transparency and accountability. [See our analysis for the bill here.](#)

If your Senators and House Representative have already cosponsored this bill, thank them for cosponsoring and encourage them to call on the Biden administration to take immediate action to free people detained by ICE and end our country's reliance on immigration detention.

HOW DO WE TAKE ACTION?

1. **Designate a team lead** to coordinate (for group videos)
2. **Check if/which of your [Senators](#) and [House Representative](#)** have or have not yet cosponsored the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act and build a script accordingly
3. **Write a 30-60 second script** on why this issue is important to you and your community. Start by introducing yourself with your name, city, and state. Personal messages work best, but we have a sample script and messaging you could adapt from below
4. **Divide lines** from the script among you and your group members (for group videos)
5. **Film vertically** with natural lighting – no filters
6. **Send your video excerpt to the team lead** (for group videos)
7. **Team lead compiles all video excerpts together**, making sure the final video is at most 60 seconds (for group videos)
8. **Add closed captions** to your final video – you can use [Threads](#) (the team lead would do this for group videos)
9. **Post on your social media platforms**, tagging your [members of Congress](#), @amnestyusa, and the hashtag #WelcomeWithDignity. Don't tag handles at the beginning of your post, which could limit its reach. For group videos, each group member should post on their own channel.
10. **Drop your video off in this folder** by September 20: <https://bit.ly/3DeVTI7>. By sharing your video in this folder, you agree to have it shared on AIUSA digital platforms.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



**Sample script you could adapt from
if your congressional officials *HAVE
NOT* cosponsored Dignity:**

- “My name is [FIRST NAME] and I live in/am from [CITY/STATE].” (Say this at the beginning of your solo video. For group videos, each person should say their name and city before their first individual line.)
- “I urge you, Senators [LAST NAMES] and/or Representative [LAST NAME], to cosponsor the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act.”
- “People shouldn’t be detained for seeking safety or because of their immigration status. Locking up thousands of asylum-seekers and immigrants endangers lives and perpetuates systemic racism.”
- “The Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act is a transformative bill that would drastically shrink immigration detention and shift us towards a system centered in dignity and human rights.”
- *[One sentence on why this is a priority for you in the elected officials’ district/state ([you can find more local information here](#)) or highlighting how you have a personal story or connection to immigration and refugee issues.]*
- "Every single day, thousands of immigrants and asylum-seekers are unjustly trapped by ICE behind bars. The time to cosponsor the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act is now. As your constituent, I urge you to do so immediately."

**Sample script you could adapt from
if your congressional officials *HAVE*
cosponsored Dignity:**

- “My name is [FIRST NAME] and I live in/am from [CITY/STATE].” (Say this at the beginning of your solo video. For group videos, each person should say their name and city before their first individual line.)
- “I want to thank you, Senators [LAST NAMES] and Representative [LAST NAME], for being a proud cosponsor of the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act.”
- “People shouldn’t be detained for seeking safety or because of their immigration status. Locking up thousands of asylum-seekers and immigrants endangers lives and perpetuates systemic racism.”
- *[If you have a personal story or connection to immigration and refugee issues, you could integrate it here or elsewhere.]*
- “The Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act is a transformative bill that would drastically shrink immigration detention and shift us towards a system centered in dignity and human rights.”
- "Thank you again, Senators [LAST NAMES] and Representative [LAST NAME], for being a champion!"
- "Now we need you to call on President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas to take immediate steps to free people detained by ICE and end our country's reliance on immigration detention."



Additional messaging you could adapt from:

It's time to restore our humanity

- We must build an immigration system based on humanity, compassion, and respect
- Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness, no matter their immigration status

No one should be detained for seeking safety or because of their immigration status

- The punitive system of unjust detentions must end
- The standard for our immigration system should be freedom, not detention
- Detaining people simply for seeking safety in this country or solely on account of their immigration status is a violation of human rights
- The anguish of prolonged and indefinite detention is amplified by the horrors of inadequate conditions – no one should worry for their lives and their safety in facilities the government forces people into
- No one should lose months and even years of their lives simply for seeking safety or because of their immigration status

There are compassionate alternatives to detention that are efficient, effective, and humane

- We need to invest in true, community-based support services
- Case management programs that help people find legal representation, guide them through the court system, and connect them with other community resources are successful and cheaper by pennies on the dollar. Using these programs recognizes the humanity and dignity of people seeking safety, as well as their families. It ensures people don't get funneled into long-term detention and can be safe and together while they go through the process of seeking safety

For-profit detention fuels human rights abuses

- Immigration detention centers run by private prison companies or local or county jails have a well-documented record of harsh conditions, negligent care, and lack of accountability
- The US government should move out of the business of using private prison companies and local or county jails for immigration detention. For-profit detention furthers cycles of human rights abuses, making suffering profitable. People seeking safety should not be valued by the dollar amount their detention produces
- A handful of corporations should not be responsible for the wellbeing of people seeking safety in this country for years to come. These corporations are responsible to their stakeholders, not the public. We need a system that prioritizes transparency
- If we end for-profit detention, we have the power to finally put a stop to mass detention

White supremacy cannot inform our immigration policies

- The increasing and punitive use of immigration enforcement has disproportionately affected Black and brown communities, both a reflection and reinforcement of systemic racism and lack of racial equity
- Policies subjecting people seeking safety and immigrants to cruel and dehumanizing policies that have unjustly blocked them from entering the US, locked them up, and deported them, long pre-date the Trump administration, as do the foundations of a punitive system

