

# National Seminar Urges Immigrant Communities to Know Their Rights Amid New Trump Administration Policies

A national immigration group holds a webinar to inform those across the country about their rights within the immigration system.

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Immigration rights protest in Washington, DC, on July 10, 2020. Photo: Allison C Bailey // <https://nipnl.org/>

Thousands of viewers tuned in as speaker Yulie Landan, a fellow at the non-profit National Immigration Project, issued a stark warning on Jan. 29: “The new Trump administration’s immigration policies are designed to criminalize immigrant communities.”

During a national webinar, Landan and fellow experts urged attendees to stay organized, educated and diligent to protect immigrant communities. The organization's immigration lawyer Stephanie Alvares-Jones said immigrants should actively plan for a worst-case scenario.

“To think about how to prepare for this dangerous presidential administration,” said Alvares-Jones. “Think about how you would prepare yourself and your family in the event of a natural disaster.”

She was speaking just nine days after President Trump’s inauguration, joining Landan and another National Immigration Project attorney, Amber Qureshi, to address over 3,000 attendees in a national Zoom conference. The free event sought to protect the rights of the roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. Resources were available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole to maximize outreach.

Since its founding in 1971, the Immigration Project has advocated for immigrant equality, focusing on litigation, education and bridge-building to support immigration systems.

“It is scary and hard to keep track of what will happen to immigrants,” said Landan. “Trump signed 12 executive orders on his first day—some are not yet implemented but signed to create immediate fear and intimidation in immigrant communities.”

Landan pointed to abrupt measures such as the growing military presence ordered to the U.S.-Mexico border and the termination of select immigrant parole programs. She mentioned the abrupt suspension of refugee arrivals and the acceleration of deportations without judicial oversight.

Trump argued the necessity of these reforms as the Office of Homeland Security Statistics estimated that 11 million unauthorized immigrants were living in the U.S. in 2022—a half-million increase from 2020.

Most notably, Landan emphasized that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has dramatically increased its daily arrests. The Trump administration has authorized ICE and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to make arrests in any public setting. Previous policy prohibited unprompted arrests in locations such as schools, courthouses and religious spaces but has been lifted under the Trump administration.

As Landan listed the policy changes, over 50 comments flooded the Q&A section asking how to respond to ICE raids.

Amber Qureshi, a staff attorney for the organization, introduced the “Know Your Rights” protocol, immediately calming attendees with advice on their Fourth Amendment rights when facing ICE or Customs and Border Protection.

Qureshi emphasized that all agents need a “judicial warrant,” signed by a judge, to enter homes, workplaces and private spaces during arrests. She stressed that this is the only document that allows an official to legally enter a home unannounced—and officers almost never have one. An “administrative warrant,” she said, is not enough.

“Administrative warrants are issued by the Department of Homeland Security and are signed by an immigration officer,” said Qureshi. “This does not allow home entry no matter what they claim.”

The webinar provided the following images to show the difference between administrative and judicial warrants:

**Left Form: ICE Form I-205 (8/07) - Warrant of Removal/Deportation**

- Title:** DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, WARRANT OF REMOVAL/DEPORTATION
- File No.:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Date:** \_\_\_\_\_
- To any immigration officer of the United States Department of Homeland Security:**
- Subject:** (Full name of alien) \_\_\_\_\_
- Who entered the United States at:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Place of entry) on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of entry)
- Is subject to removal/deportation from the United States, based upon a final order by:**
  - ☐ an immigration judge in exclusion, deportation, or removal proceedings
  - ☐ a designated official
  - ☐ the Board of Immigration Appeals
  - ☐ a United States District or Magistrate Court Judge
- And pursuant to the following provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act:**
- This order is directed at federal immigration officers, not local police. Federal regulations only give ICE agents the authority to execute an immigration warrant.**
- I, the undersigned officer of the United States, by virtue of the power and authority vested in the Secretary of Homeland Security under the laws of the United States and by his or her direction, command you to take into custody and remove from the United States the above named alien pursuant to law, at the expense of:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature of immigration officer:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Title of immigration officer:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Date and office location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Right Form: Appendix B - Sample Judicial Search Warrant**

- Title:** Appendix B - Sample Judicial Search Warrant
- Name of the court:** UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT for the Central District of California
- Case No.:** 13-2895M
- In the Matter of the Search of:** (Briefly describe the property to be searched or identify the person by name and address) LG (V09100) cellular telephone
- SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANT**
- To:** Any authorized law enforcement officer
- An application by a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government requests that of the following person or property located in the \_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_ California (Identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give an inventory):** See Attachment A
- The person or property to be searched, described above, is believed to conceal (Identify the person or describe the property):** Read the attachment to make sure address/information is correct
- I find that the affidavit(s) or any recorded testimony, establish probable cause to search and seize the person or property. Such affidavit(s) or testimony are incorporated herein by reference and attached hereto.**
- YOU ARE COMMANDED to execute this warrant on or before** 14 days from the date of its issuance (not to exceed 14 days)
  - ☒ in the daytime 6:00 a.m. to 10 p.m.
  - ☐ at any time in the day or night if the warrant is issued for a search of a vehicle or other place where the search is authorized by law.
- Unless delayed notice is authorized below, you must give a copy of the warrant and a receipt for the property taken to the person from whom, or from whose premises, the property was taken, or leave the copy and receipt at the place where the property was taken.**
- The officer executing this warrant, or an officer present during the execution of the warrant, must prepare an inventory as required by law and promptly return this warrant and inventory to United States Magistrate Judge on duty at the time of the return through a filing with the Clerk's Office.**
- I find that immediate notification may have an adverse result listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2705 (except for cases of trial), and authorize the officer executing this warrant to delay notice to the person who, or whose property, will be searched or seized (check the appropriate box) ☐ for \_\_\_\_\_ days (not to exceed 14 days) ☒ until the time of the return, the later specific date of \_\_\_\_\_**
- Date and time issued:** 11-20-13 11:20 AM
- City and state:** Los Angeles, California
- Signature:** ALICIA G. ROSENBERG (Judge's signature)
- Printed name and title:** Alicia G. Rosenberg, U.S. Magistrate Judge
- Name and signature of the judge**

Comparison of an administrative warrant (left) vs. judicial warrant (right). Example provided in the webinar.

Qureshi said it is important to verify a judicial warrant, to see an officer's badge and to deny consent to enter a premises. She also advised remaining silent. These same principles apply when officials confront immigrants in workplaces, in their cars, at schools and in other private spaces. Communities can establish protocols to limit ICE's access and to protect private spaces, she said.

"The Fourth Amendment provides protection against illegal or racially profiled arrests that they don't want you to know about," said Qureshi. "Do not run, do not lie, do not resist arrest and do not answer questions—they'll use it against you."

Reactions of reassurance and gratitude flooded the chat. "Thank you for this information," one attendee wrote, while others responded with clapping and thumbs-up emojis.

To conclude, attorney Stephanie Alvarez-Jones said it's important to prepare for an emergency when facing ICE or Customs and Border Protection. She urged providing one's family—especially children—with personal immigration documents and multiple emergency contacts, just as you would "in the event of a natural disaster."

In a brief interview following the webinar, Alvarez-Jones emphasized that while her organization can do a lot to support immigrants, individuals must also take proactive steps in preparation.

When asked about opposing views, she pointed to former ICE Director Tom Homan's recent CNN appearance, where he expressed frustration over immigrants knowing their constitutional

rights. Homan mentioned cities like Chicago, where the ‘Know Your Rights’ movement is making ICE’s job harder—showcasing the effectiveness of these efforts.

“Preparation is the absolute best thing you can do. Do it for yourself and your loved ones,” said Alvarez-Jones. “Make sure that you know your rights, officials are frustrated that people are accurately exercising their rights against ICE. Education and preparation are the most critical at this point in time.”