



## The Never Again Action: Build Pods to Fight Fascism

### What is this guide & how should I use it?

This is a guide to getting you and the people you care about ready to fight fascism in the face of repression and a need for rapid response. The guide both serves to get you and your immediate circles ready to support each other in moments of political crisis, but also to give you the tools to look outward and support other members of your community who may be more directly impacted.

We examine the threats that this (re)new(ed) administration brings and the lessons we can draw from comrades and ancestors for fighting fascism. We conclude with a step-by-step guide to organizing into ‘pods,’ structures that can help us understand the needs in our local communities and stand up for our neighbors.

***This guide is a living document in a moment of fast-moving change.** Some aspects and resources may be out of date, while others will be added as they become available. Please continue to check for updates!*

*This is a project of Never Again Action, a Jewish-led mobilization against the persecution, detention, and deportation of immigrants in the United States. We are fighting for a world free of detention and deportation. We are fighting for collective liberation. **Join the movement.***

### What's in this guide?

1. [What does this new administration mean for me and my immigrant neighbors?](#)
2. [Got Your Back: Getting into formation with Never Again Action](#)
3. [Your guide to building pods](#)
  - a. [Steps to set up your pod](#)
  - b. [Spaces for organizing your pod](#)
  - c. [Resources to make your pod successful](#)



## What is Never Again Action?

[Never Again Action](#) is a movement of Jews, immigrants, and allies mobilizing to take direct action against the detention and deportation machine. We insist that everyone has the right to live and move freely and safely, with no exceptions.

## What do we fight for?

In memory of our Jewish, Queer, disabled, dissident, and anti-fascist ancestors, we are fighting fascism and deportation in the context of a broader movement to reject, disrupt and dismantle racial capitalism.

We fight for collective safety and liberation. We act from the knowledge that state violence and border militarization, from Palestine to Mexico, does not keep us safe. This year especially, those in power are misusing the notion of “Jewish safety” to justify violence against Palestinians in Palestine and to repress Palestinians, Muslims, Arab people, and others impacted by Islamophobia or anti-Arab discrimination in the U.S, [including, horrifyingly, through threatening deportation](#). Instead, our vision of safety is built through solidarity with displaced people and migrants worldwide.

We envision a world without borders, cages, anti-immigrant racism, oppression, and isolation, where all our communities can live with dignity.

## Our role

**As we flank immigrant organizers to take action against fascism**, we act as a model for the Jewish community (and other communities) of what it looks like to reject, disrupt, and dismantle racial capitalism. We build relationships of solidarity and support with other groups that are targeted by racial capitalism and white supremacy, and we take direct action to intervene in these systems.



## 1. From dehumanization to deportation: Why the fight for immigrant communities is a fight for us all

Fascism relies upon the dehumanization of society's "others." Our ancestors lived this. Many of those of us who grew up in the Jewish community learned how racist pseudo-science (aka eugenics) created false justification for creating a hierarchy of human worth. Eugenic 'education' and propaganda proliferated in European society in the early 20th century, creating the conditions for the violence of colonialism and the terror of the Holocaust.

Today, we see terrifying hints of the same patterns. When MAGA fascists label immigrants as criminals, it is their way of making a subhuman 'other'. We will not tolerate dehumanization.

**Mass deportation is fueled by fascist dehumanization**—in this case the dehumanization of people racialized as "foreign"—many of whom are in fact Indigenous to Turtle Island. We have seen Trump (across the U.S.), Abbott (in Texas), Netanyahu (against Palestine), and their cronies again and again deflect, minimize, and cover up the amount of death and destruction they cause. They devalue life by brutal calculation. They say things along the lines of "did 40,000 people really die?" or "isn't it their own fault?"

The fascists' [anti-immigrant fever dream](#) in Project 2025 is both a product of this dehumanization and reinforces its violent tropes. The laser focus on mass deportation brings us all closer to living under a fascist system, where dissent and otherness are both violently criminalized—a system where we are all less safe.

The fight against the dehumanization of immigrants is the fight against fascism and, therefore, the fight for our own collective safety. **Where fascists devalue the lives of those lost due to their own brutality, we must mourn and fight for all of our survival.**

How do we do that even while facing repression? We fight locally and within our communities.



Local sheriffs could facilitate deportations or local communities could clog up the deportation pipeline through action in solidarity. We can protect our neighbors, fund our movements, safeguard information from surveillance, and insist on humanizing everyone. We, as allies, can take risks and get in the way of fascist violence against our neighbors who might not have settled immigration status.

Immigrant organizers have always fought back against attacks on their communities and have stood up for the wellbeing of immigrant families against towering odds. Can we get prepared to stand alongside them?



## 2. Got Your Back: Getting into formation with Never Again Action

*"Courage? I quite don't know what that is. There's no such thing. It is in your mental character to do what you deem is necessary. Not so that you cover the manhole with your body. [You do it] because there are friends and you have to help them - it's not a matter of courage, but the result of friendship, solidarity, trust, love."*

-Marek Edelman, Warsaw Ghetto resistance fighter

Our communities are witnessing the federal government try to eliminate whole communities among our neighbors through mass deportations, attacks on trans communities, and plans for political repression. **It's terrifying.**

We can let our fear exhaust us or we could choose to channel it toward concerted action that protects and builds the world we want to see. One important way to do this is to lean on your community. Pods offer a structure for doing this successfully. **We build pods to protect one another and our neighbors when any of us are under threat.** We build pods so that we know what roles one another will thrive in so that we can be ready to confront something unexpected or deeply challenging **together.**

**You can get in formation alongside Never Again Action by:**

1. Building a pod to organize your own community to:
  - a. Create community in the face of fear
  - b. Find opportunities to protect against fascism
  - c. Act in support of your immigrant neighbors
2. [Becoming an NAA member](#) to get and stay in this fight for the long haul.
  - a. If you're a member and in a Never Again chapter, you have a ready-made pod! Come together with your chapter to check in on your partners and to assess whether and when it's time to take action!

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- b. If you are a member in a non-chapter area, [you can find other NAA members](#) in your area who can join you!  
★ Fill out the form to request help in finding people in your area connected to Never Again Action.
- c. If you aren't finding other members to organize with, your next friends' get together is a great place to start. Use the sample agenda below to orient your first pod meeting.
- d. Get access to our clearly laid out NAA [Member Resources](#) to find organizing resources that meet your local needs.

*Note:* NAA Member Resources are password protected and only available to registered members. Anyone who aligns with our values is welcome to [become a member](#). Membership dues are both appreciated and optional.

### **In organizing to protect each other, we find hope.**

In grim November of 2016, two people organized a special session at the American Studies Association. It was weeks after the election and folks in this radically-inclined organization were feeling fairly hopeless. The session, on how to organize sanctuary campuses, was overwhelmingly well-attended; people sat on the floor as we spoke of how to protect our students. Many of us felt, for the first time in weeks, a sense of hope.

It is good to be together with like-minded comrades, it is necessary to have the “solidarity, trust, love” that Edelman describes above. Many of us left that conference resolved to work towards making our campuses safer for our undocumented students and colleagues. This work was not always successful, but it led us into collaborations and new relationships that helped us, collectively, organize against the menace posed by the newly empowered xenophobic white nationalism prevalent in our country.

- Rachel Ida Buff, *Never Again Action-Wisconsin*



### **3. Your guide to building Pods**

**Pods are small groups of people who can support each other and hold each other accountable to taking the action needed to keep all our communities safe and fight for our neighbors.**

Pods can move us out of isolation, letting us take action with the deep trust and love needed to keep each other safe, even in the face of uncertainty. Pods keep us grounded in knowing that fascism is not normal. They can keep us in morally-centered accountability for continuing to fight a rise in anti-immigrant policy and hate.

Your pod is how you connect and prepare with the people who have already got your back. A pod is a group of 4-10 people who are ready to fight for immigrant justice, freedom, and democracy for all. **Ask yourself:** Who do I want to show up and throw down with me as we enter the first days, weeks, and months of the second Trump administration? Who do I know who is committed to the Never Again member beliefs that, no matter the administration: no person is illegal, ICE must be abolished, and the carceral immigration system must be dismantled?

**Pods allow us to meet threats as they arise.** We could see threats of mass deportation and political repression further realized. What would it look like to mobilize against these threats with your pod?

**Pods are independent but mutually supportive.** Every pod will act as an independent unit. At the same time, pods and chapters can be connected to each other and to Never Again's national resources for support and learning. If the moment requires action, pods provide the structure to allow us to support each other in meeting the broader movement's needs.

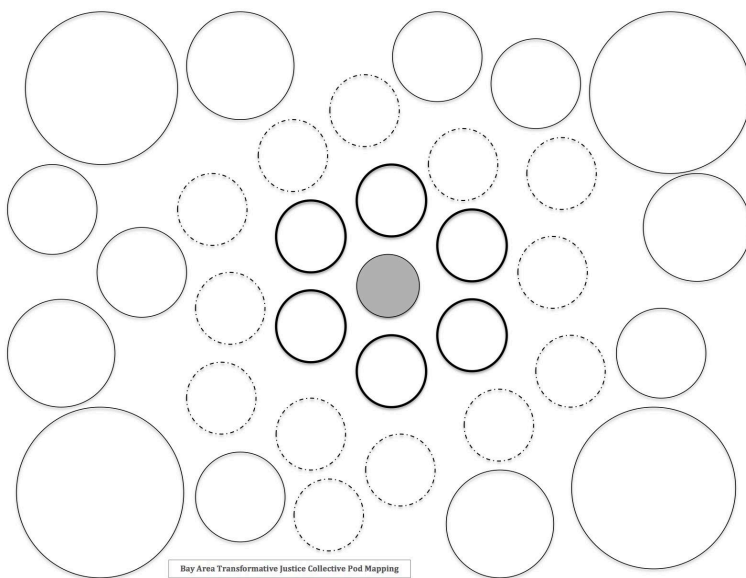


**3a. So.... are you down to build a pod?** Let's lay it out in a few simple steps...

**Step 1: How Do I Build a Pod?**

The first step to building your pod is asking yourself: *Who do you trust to have your back? Who do you want to bring into this fight with you by taking action together?*

We answer these questions by pod-mapping. To map your pod:



Pod mapping tool by:  
The Bay Area Transformative  
Justice Collective

- Put your own name in the middle gray circle.
- In the bold-outlined circles, put the names of people who you definitely want in your pod. This could be friends or comrades you've already thrown down with, organizing buddies, etc.
- In the dotted circles, put the names of family or friends who are newer to activism or movable into action. These are people who you want in your pod but might first want to have a conversation with to build shared analysis, risk, trust, etc.
- In the largest circles around the edge, put the names of people who could support you or are part of your broader network or community.





You can find more detailed information on pod-mapping from [BATJC](#) and [this mutual aid guide](#). Once you've mapped on your pod, it's time to recruit!

\*\*\* If you aren't sure who you add to your map, ask for support in finding people in your area from the Never Again Action team [by filling out this form](#). \*\*\*

### **Step 2: Talk to your people**

- **Reach out** to each potential member of your pod and ask if they'd be interested in having a conversation about supporting each other to take action in the coming months and years.
- **Make a clear ask!** Explain what a pod is and that you are doing this as part of a nationwide movement of people committed to a fighting for a just and safe future for people of all immigration statuses.

*This could look like:*

- "Hi [Name]. I know this moment is terrifying, especially for immigrants. Alongside Never Again Action, I'm building a 'pod' to bring together people in our city/town to see how we can fight for a just and safe future for all people of all immigration statuses in collaboration with local partners. Would you be open to having a convo with me about joining my pod?"

**Step 3: Bring the pod together!** Set up a Signal group, plan a meeting time, and get ready to assess how your crew can strengthen local protections against fascism, whether that's by...

- defending against attacks on democracy and against state repression of activism or...
- by organizing for deportation defense
  - ◆ This means being in relationship with directly impacted people in your area.
  - ◆ Review the deportation defense materials in [your NAA Member Resources](#).

**Now, check out the spaces and resources needed to make your pod successful below. ▼**



### 3b. I've got my Pod!.... Now what?

Once you have your pod, you have a mission: find the ways your pod can keep your community safe. Set up two types of spaces to identify next steps and join a third national Never Again Action space.

#### **Space 1:** Set up a Signal chat.

Signal is an encrypted messaging app that is more secure than regular texting or emailing. [Learn more about using Signal here.](#) This is one example of ways to minimize risk and keep each other safe.

Use your chapter Signal group to:

- Stay in touch with each other and plan meetings
- Share opportunities to plug in to support your local movement ecosystem
- Offer and ask for support

#### **Space 2:** Plan a meeting!

Meetings are critical to really think through and evaluate the needs in your local community and the ways that you can meet those needs. A sample pod agenda can be found at the bottom of this document.

As you brainstorm what your pod can do, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **There are roles for everyone!** Learn about each other's skills, resources, and relationships. Who could facilitate convos? Make action art? Offer emotional support?
- **Look around:** Whatever happens, we need to defend our communities locally. What are the needs in your community? What are the threats? Who is already doing work that needs support in terms of people power, money, communications, or care? Where are the gaps?
- **Stand with people most directly impacted:** Processing our emotions is important. At the same time, for those of us who have documentation, we face less risk than our




neighbors with less settled immigration statuses who, in moments of political violence and amid threats of mass deportation, face intense harassment, instability, and fear. How can you move your pod to both support each other and also move beyond talking toward taking meaningful action for your neighbors?

- [Learn more about how to stand with directly impacted people with self-awareness as allies](#) and support the guide's author [here](#).

**Space 3:** Register your pod with Never Again Action to connect with other pods and chapters around the country

- [Fill out this form](#) to officially register your pod
- If enough pods register and you consent in the form to joining a Signal group, you will be added to a national Signal chat where pod and chapter representatives and leaders support each other.

### 3c. Resources for response

1. Learn about how to organize actions, events and people at [Never Again Action's Member Resources](#)
2. Get in formation by:
  - a. [Becoming an NAA member](#)
  - b. [Connect with your chapter, form your own pod, or connect with others in your area also interested in a pod](#)
3. Keep an eye out for upcoming Never Again Action and partner events on somatic self-care, understanding the impact of local sheriffs, and more!
4. Check out the sample pod agenda below 

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## Sample pod agenda: First meet up

### **Grounding:**

- How are you arriving to this meeting?
- If everyone doesn't already know each other, share: Who are you? What are your pronouns, if you use them? What do you want your squad to know about you?

### **Group Norms:**

- [Review NAA membership principles](#)
  - a. Which of these principles are most important to remember in this moment?
  - b. What other norms or principles does this pod need to work well together?
- How can we meet our group's accessibility needs?
- If your pod has non-directly impacted members, what does it mean to be responsible allies?  
[Option to reference this guidance](#) and/or make a plan to [go through this 4-part curriculum](#)

### **Scenario assessment:**

- What do we know about what is happening nationally and locally?
  - a. Are there emerging/growing threats to immigrant communities?
  - b. Are there ways that the fascists are building infrastructure in your community to further threaten your neighbors? (i.e. building new jails, expanding police-ICE collaboration, or other dangerous partnerships?)
- Where can you find more information about what's going on locally? Who else might hold that information?

**Ecology assessment:** The movement is like an ecosystem where everyone has different and vital roles. Let's find our place in that ecology.

- Who else is working to protect our local community against fascism and against election threats? (hint: consider checking in with the local ACLU, immigrant-led orgs, and anti-fascist groups!)

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## What can we do?

- What **resources** do we collectively have to offer? (This could be money, time, space, skills, connections, communities, etc. *For example: Could you get your synagogue to participate in a sanctuary program?*)
- How can we **leverage these resources**? (Activate other people to take action? Start mutual aid and fundraising projects? Plan for deportation defense? etc.)
- Are there ways we can **physically protect** the people who are most likely to be targets, especially people without documentation?
- What **risks** can we take on together? **Assess the risk** that you're ready to take personally. Risks may include:
  - a. *Legal:* There can be legal risks to direct action. If you have questions about specific laws and risks around protest and direct action where you live, you can reach out to your local [National Lawyers Guild chapter](#).
  - b. *Physical:* What level of risk are we willing to take on when it comes to police brutality, COVID-19, and other physical threats? What are ways we can mitigate these risks by working to keep ourselves and each other safe?
  - c. *Emotional:* We are living through an extremely tumultuous political moment. Again, how will you as a pod support each other, communicate, and care for one another?
- **Reassess your risk:** How can we honor our ancestors' experiences with fascism to embolden us into disruptive and sacrificial action?

**Register your pod with Never Again Action to get on our listserv, national email list, and to get connected with other pods and chapters.**

- [Register your pod here](#).

## Close out

- What are our **next steps**? Who is bottom-lining moving them forward?
- If not already in place, make a [Signal](#) thread to communicate (Signal is an encrypted messaging app that's safer than texting). How often should we be checking/responding to it?
- When is the **next time we are meeting**?
- **Check out** question: What is giving you hope? What feels possible now that you've got people who have got your back?



**If the logic of fascism is isolation and fear, we have to act on a logic of collective genius and power to hold our role and take on this moment. We've got each other's backs, so we aren't backing down.**

### **Trainings and partner resources**

Check out these NAA and partner-led events that might be powerful for you and your pod

Type of event	Date/time	Title and link	Hosts	Also, know...
Movement call	March 4 and April 1, 2025	<a href="#">Defending Immigrants Movement Call</a>	Detention Watch Network, Make the Road, Action Lab, United We Dream, America's Voice	

*This guide is an update of one created in advance of the 2020 election by the Never Again Action National Political Education Team. Thank you to Rachel Ida Buff and Geoff Adelsberg for contributing to the update of this guide and adding wisdom to meet the current moment. The pod structure was adapted from materials from the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective, [see the original and associated license here](#).*