

TARJETA VERDE DE DERECHOS: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN MEXICO

FROM THE US  TO MEXICO : YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

In collaboration with Comunidad en Retorno, Otros Dreams en Acción, and the Coalición de Migrantes Mexicanos, through the example of the [Red Card created by ILRC](#) we are designing tools to “Know Your Rights in Mexico”.

In the face of the rising cruelty & persecution towards undocumented immigrants, many of whom are our families and friends, from this side of the border, we respond in community to accompany those who may find themselves in Mexico, like we once did.

We have been organizing and navigating life in the aftermath of deportation and forced return. After many years of accompanying as organizations, we know that information can bring essential orientation, preparedness, and, as we've witnessed, comfort in times of uncertainty.

Tools

Card: Informational wallet-size card. One side with basic information/recommendations and the other side with immediate rights & services that should be provided from the Mexican government to deportees & forced returnees.

In the U.S., it is a bridging tool for organizations & individuals to provide resources to those facing a possible forced return or deportation.

In Mexico, this card will be “activated”. It provides essential information for the first moments upon arriving in Mexico and contacts. A moment we know can be filled with fear and helplessness.

Website: This site will provide a listing of contact information of partners throughout Mexico. It will continue to grow and generate diverse guides and tools in the time to come. (<https://www.odamexico.org/tarjeta-verde>)

Translocal Corridor of Accompaniment: The experience of forced return is intergenerational and diverse. The path ahead is long and the needs are many. Let's partner, share knowledge, build across borders to accompany, organize, and resist.

Know Your Rights Workshops: Book a session for your community/organization to get to know the community in Mexico and the rights of returnees & deportees in Mexico.

MAY

5TH

A website will be launched on May 6th with cards to print & distribute in Spanish, English, and will be growing to include various Indigenous languages.



Join efforts from both sides of the border!

More info:
retornodigno@odamexico.org

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CALL TO ACTION



Join efforts from both sides of the border!

- Are you an organization, network, lawyer or community organizer? Join the Directory & Translocal Corridor of Accompaniment. Let's talk.
- Spread the word! Share on social media, in your networks and localities.
- Print and share in the United States & Mexico.
- Are you an expert in a topic that benefits our community? Build guides and toolkits with us.
- Interested in learning more? Lets hold spaces for your community/organization to get to know who is the community in Mexico and the rights of returnees & deportees in Mexico.
- Donate to the campaign.

Lets:

- Provide and share information on the rights of returning migrants in Mexico, equipping for autonomous advocacy, towards a more informed and dignified return, that leads to a reduction in human rights violations of deportees, returnees, and their families.
- Create bridging tools and partnerships towards translocal accompaniment, leading to the reduction of deportees & returnees that fall into the cracks once in Mexico.
- Build collaboration and resistance as a community of undocumented, forcibly returned, and deported migrants across borders.

JOIN THE CALL TO ACTION, DIRECTORY, SCHEDULE A SPACE



[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/3JJQN3VZMTBH4WNI8](https://forms.gle/3JJQN3VZMTBH4WNI8)

PRINT IN SPANISH



[SPANISH VERSION](#)

PRINT IN ENGLISH



[ENGLISH VERSION](#)

WEBSITE



[HTTPS://WWW.ODAMEXICO.ORG/TARJETA-VERDE](https://www.odamexico.org/tarjeta-verde)

*AVAILABLE ON MAY 6TH

More info:
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Context:

Before we even begin, we want to share who we are:

We are **returned migrants**. Our families were **forced to migrate** from our homes in Mexico due to violence and poverty, and we grew up undocumented in the United States, the place we call home, only to experience forced migration again due to deportation, the deportation of a family member, or the threat of deportation. Return migration is an intergenerational and familial experience that has lifelong consequences. Currently, thousands of families of mixed status (undocumented parents and family members, children with DACA or **born in the US**) live in exile due to the racist, classist, and violent US immigration system. On our return to Mexico, we hope to return with a minimum of rights, only to discover that the identity documents issued by Mexican Consulates are not accepted, and rights like education are denied. All reinforcing the feeling of living “undocumented” and being once again in the shadows in our country of origin, too. Our community of returning migrants across Mexico is diverse. Living these experiences as racialized people of color, indigenous and afro-descendant people. Living with our neurodivergences and disabilities. Our experiences of illegalization, incarceration, family separation, and exile from both sides of the border cause political, social, cultural, economic, and educational alienation, in the face of a system that makes us invisible, criminalizes us, violates us, and denies us our rights.

Otros Dreams en Acción (ODA) is an organization led by forcibly returned and deported migrants. We seek alliances with other social sectors to overcome challenges and transform policies affecting return migration and deportation in Mexico from a human rights perspective. We navigate through two pillars: Dignified Return and Advocacy, focusing on accompaniment and defense, and Radical Creativity, focusing on activism, the transformation of narratives, and the flourishing of our translocal communities here and there.

Comunidad en Retorno is a collective group formed by people from the returned, deported community and Mexican people related to the return migration process.

Together with other organizations, we work towards accompanying and pushing for public policies that eliminate some of the bureaucratic obstacles our community has faced for the last decades in Mexico, such as rights to identity, education, health, and more.

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How do we understand our experiences?

We know that migration and mobility are complex and diverse experiences. We work with other organizations and allies to fight the systems that oppress us all. However, to understand who the Tarjeta Verde is for, we must discuss the academic terminology built by our community on this side of the border.

ODA and Comunidad en Retorno work on the topic of return migration. There is much information shared about migrants in transit or migrants who are undocumented in a country they were not born in, but return migration is still very much unknown and misunderstood in its many layers and implications for immigrants who are back in their country of origin after having called another country their home.

Under this return migration, we recognize the following terms to describe our communities' experiences:

Returnees/ Forced Returnees: Under the theory of immigration, many have named our experience as voluntary. But how can we freely choose when living in a country that illegalizes and actively persecutes us? The active fear campaign stemmed from both the republican and democratic parties, having built a [deportation machine](#) that is fueled by the criminalization and dehumanization of immigrant communities. This leads to a forced return, or as we hear today, to “self-deport”. Forcing immigrants and their families to leave the United States for countries such as, but not limited to, Mexico. However, we stick to the terminology of returnee or forcibly returned to amplify the truth; there are other violences outside the deportation machine that force our communities to live in exile, such as a lack of housing, education, food, and an overall dignified life.

Deportees: Here we have two types of deportees, those who were strictly deported and those who, through coercion, may not recognize that they have lived a deportation. It is important to remember that, in its origin, immigration law is just administrative; it does not intrinsically imply any conflict with criminal systems, like the deportation machine has led us to believe. In essence, an administrative breach, like running a red light and undocumented presence, would be on the same level.

Whenever a person is strictly deported, this means they have been subjected to an administrative process, where they have been in custody of an administrative immigration authority and have undergone a process to be deported. In an image, these are our community members who are pictured shackled by ICE as they are handed over to the Mexican government.

As far as being deported in a broad sense, this includes any person who has undergone an administrative process to be removed or to be forced out of the country, even if they were not escorted out. An example of this is voluntary departure, which entails coercing a person into signing a document saying that they will leave the country on their own means.

Once again, in origin, being a returned migrant is not intrinsically connected to having faced criminal charges. And even though some of our community members may have had trouble with criminal law, we encourage everyone to be critical of a criminal system born from slavery, and that continues to disproportionately target brown and black bodies.

It is necessary to name and differentiate both of these experiences because naming forced return forces us to acknowledge violence that is not intrinsic to the immigration law, while naming deportation, we continue to amplify state-sanctioned racist violence, which the deportation machine was built on. As well as to better understand the paths of accompaniment.

Furthermore, our community also includes family members of returning migrants, and it is essential to note that U.S. Citizenship has not protected the children and spouses within mixed-status families. Many U.S. citizens find themselves forcibly living in the aftermath of the deportation and forced return of a family member in Mexico, and millions in the United States are separated from their parents, spouses, and siblings.

Within the different experiences of forced migration, **we demand the end of family separation and a pathway to reunification. The right to migrate or not stemmed from an understanding that mobility is a human right. Migration should not be forced, we demand the end of the illegalization of our bodies.** While borders fall and the deportation machine is destroyed, as a community in Mexico, **we demand a dignified return of our community members.**

Community Statement:

To the immigrant, forcibly returned community, and their families on both sides of the border: If you find yourself already in Mexico after a deportation or forced return, or whether in the U.S. facing a deportation or forced return, you are not alone. There is a community that has been organizing for over a decade, learning to do life in the aftermath of deportation and forced return. Let's accompany each other.

To organizations, lawyers, and allies on both sides of the border: We are only a handful of organizations in Mexico with limited capacity to accompany returned migrants, many of whom, upon arrival, fall into the cracks. Let's build together a translocal corridor of accompaniment, resistance, advocacy, and support for the immigrant community across borders.

To society in Mexico, the United States, and EVERYONE: Forced migration has been normalized by governments, BUT IT IS NOT NORMAL! FAMILY SEPARATION IS NOT NORMAL! ILLEGALIZATION OF HUMAN BEINGS IS NOT NORMAL!

This is also your fight. Reach out to our community to learn how these violations to human rights affect you. Let's organize and spread the word!

To the Mexican Government: As we start to hear and read about the intentions of a "warm and humane" welcome, as mentioned in the strategy Mexico Te Abraza, various organizations have documented a lack of accompaniment and transparency in the recent process of deportations in Mexico. In particular, we are worried about the further vulnerability of even more deportees by leaving them stranded in territories like Chiapas, near the southern Guatemalan border, a territory that had not even been considered in the original government plan for returning migrants. A territory where the few organizations that have been accompanying deportees for over a decade are not located.

We question why we were not part of the consultancy for the plan. In the section of civil society we read the name of institutions consulted in this plan. Organizations that do not work with our community, much less understand our needs. We want to sit at the table, to collaborate and truly create public policies that understand who we are and what are the needs of this intergenerational and diverse community are. We want to be at the airports, welcoming our community and providing them with company and information for the journey ahead. Lastly, we say: We do not want to "reintegrate" into a country where almost 50% of the population lives in poverty, where 11 women and many other populations are killed by patriarchal violence. We want a dignified return for our community.

For this to exist, Mexico has to be a dignified space for those who already live in it.

To the United States Government: Despite the false narrative, community organizing is not a threat to society, fascism is. It has been the destabilization of the Global South for the benefit of a few that have torn our lands and communities apart. Our communities will outlive the empire.

To the media & investigators: Deportations have not stopped a single day, not just in Trump's presidency but in the predecessors before him that have built and strengthened the deportation machine we are all witnessing today. A Deportation machine that we see today is being oiled by a growing cruelty, dehumanization and criminalization of immigrant communities.

It is important to state now: We will not feed into the sensationalization of these stories, as organizations we will not be passing you contacts of recently arrived returnees or deportees. We understand the importance and strength in sharing our stories, we are open to sharing in a dignified manner that offer spaces to uplift narratives constructed in the community.