

Earlier this month, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested 680 people in a series of worksite raids in Mississippi. The raids—which targeted food processing plants in small towns in our state—represent the largest single-site immigration enforcement action in decades.

The Mississippi PTA is dedicated to making every child’s potential a reality—no matter their immigration status or that of their families. School should be a safe place where our scholars are free to learn, grow, and engage without fear of outside interruptions.

We are deeply concerned about the lasting impact that these raids—carried out on the first day of school for many districts—have had on our school communities. Worksite raids tear families apart, with long-term consequences for children’s mental and physical health and academic potential. We don’t know how many of our scholars were directly impacted by the raids, but we can be sure that families all over our state remain fearful for their safety.

Parent leaders have an important role in ensuring schools are safe and welcoming for all families. Learn more about how PTAs can connect immigrant families to community and school resources from the National PTA: <https://www.pta.org/home/events/About-Every-Child-in-Focus/Every-Child-in-Focus-Leadership-Series/Immigrant-Families>.

If you want to help your neighbors and community members affected by the raids, you can:

- **Donate** to help rapid response efforts (joint fundraising effort between ACLU MS, El Pueblo MS, MacArthur Justice Center, MS Center for Justice, MS Immigrant Rights Alliance (MIRA), and Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN)):
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ms-raids>
- **Volunteer** to support families impacted by the raid:
 - [Form for Organizations](#) interested in providing support to local groups in Mississippi (prepared by the SE Immigrant Rights Network)
 - [Form for Volunteer Lawyers](#) interested in providing legal assistance to Mississippi immigrants impacted by the August 7th ICE raids in Morton, Carthage, Pelahatchie, Bay Springs, Walnut Grove, and Canton (prepared by the Mississippi Center for Justice)