

What is mass deportation? What might it look like?

- President Trump has pledged “the largest deportation operation in the history of our country,” removing large numbers of undocumented immigrants from the country and placing them in detention camps while being processed for expulsion. This would include swift expulsion of people who recently crossed the US-Mexico border and an aggressive rounding up of people in the interior of the country, many who have lived in their communities for decades, including those with U.S. born children who would be separated from them.
- The administration plans to deputize local law enforcement and to declare a “national emergency” to enable the military to work with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in helping to carry out arrests, including workplace raids, and the detention of immigrants while they are being processed.
- The president is preparing to issue Executive Orders, facilitating mass deportation. It will, however, take time for a mass deportation infrastructure to be set up. The hiring of new border patrol agents and ICE staff, as well as contracting with private prison companies to expand detention facilities and open new detention camps will take time. Receiving countries may put caps on how many people they will accept, even as the administration will likely threaten them with economic measures. There will also be legal challenges to these plans from the ACLU and other legal organizations, which could delay plans in the courts.
- While the administration says it will focus on those with criminal records, the interpretation of the label “criminal” could include anyone in the U.S. without documentation. There are approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.
- The administration could also pursue measures to strip legal protections from deeply rooted immigrants who hold various forms of legal status and deportation protections. These include an additional 1.5 million currently with status: Dreamers/DACA recipients and Temporary Protected Status (TPS).
- People already in ICE supervision and in detention would be most at risk. When immigrants report for their regular check ins with ICE, they would be easiest to deport.
- Immigrants in states and localities that have cooperation agreements with federal immigration authorities will be at highest risk. The ACLU issued a [report](#) on ICE’s 287(g) jurisdictions and how it empowers racist sheriffs. Sanctuary policies in red states may not be enough to protect immigrants.

Examples of Mercy’s work with immigrants

- [Immigration - Sisters of Mercy](#)
- [Mercy Walks with Migrants](#)