

# ALT TRUMP!

## THE PEOPLE’S ASSEMBLY TOOLKIT

### INTRODUCTION

Our communities are under attack. **The President-elect is an openly racist, nativist demagogue who climbed to victory by stoking fear and hatred of immigrants.** This is not the first time we have confronted forces like this. We have faced down Minutemen and vigilantes; dismantled state laws designed to make our lives so miserable we would “self-deport”; defeated racist sheriffs; and disarmed ICE’s deportation dragnet. But the scale and power of the challenges we now face cannot be underestimated. We can meet them only if we match the fear that confronts us with the courage we have learned from our struggles, only if we meet the hate that would destroy us with the love that ties us to our families and communities, and—most importantly—**only if we stand together, and organize.**

#### **About this toolkit:**

In an effort to facilitate more groups across the nation to host their own people’s assembly, as a way to help community members voice their feelings and opinions, to plug in new activists, and strengthen local resistance, we have created this toolkit. Out of this process of popular assemblies, we hope that people will be more engaged in organizing in their local communities, starting at the neighborhood level. We also hope that this process facilitates the creation of demands crafted locality by locality to pressure local elected officials to stand with immigrant communities against hate and xenophobia once the president elect takes office.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Sample Agenda ..... 2-3
- Messaging Guide ..... 4
- Know Your Rights ..... 4
- Neighborhood Defense Committees ..... 5
- Other Resources ..... 6

## **SAMPLE AGENDA**

*This is a sample agenda that was used at the Los Angeles' first Popular Assembly. This is only a recommendation, feel free to change it depending on how many people you're expecting to have at your assembly, the local political context, your organization's own vision, etc. Feel free to edit the objectives, guiding principles, community agreements, and working groups accordingly.*

### **ALTO TRUMP:**

#### **First Popular Assembly of Los Angeles**

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 6 pm – 9 pm

#### **Agenda**

- 6:00pm – Registration
- 6:30pm – Welcome!
- 6:35pm – Goals and Objectives of the Asamblea (see below)
- 6:45pm – Guiding Principles and Community Agreements (see below)
- 6:50pm – Real-Life Examples of what's at Stake
- 7:00pm – Break out into Groups (choose a Working Group)
- 7:15pm – Analysis of the Current Moment (by Working Group)
- 7:45pm – Planning Next Steps (by Working Group)
- 8:30pm – Return to Large Group
- 8:45pm – Moments of Convergence
- 8:55pm – Closing

#### **Objectives**

- Capture how people are feeling about the moment
- Brainstorm the way forward
- Create a local plan from today until inauguration day

#### **Guiding Principles**

- People directly affected by policy should be involved and central to organizing efforts
- Resistance must be from the bottom up.
- Our work starts at the grassroots in the neighborhoods.
- Do not allow the idea that some deserve more rights than others, all immigrants must be treated with respect.
- Everyone deserves a second chance (We do not throw people with felony convictions under the bus)
- Do not demonize folks who decide to take high-risk/unconventional efforts.
- Everyone has a role to play in the defense and struggle for migrant rights.
- We must resist the normalization of Trump's racism, misogyny, xenophobia and strategy of division.
- We must be there for other communities also affected by Trump's hateful agenda, such as the LGBTQ community, Muslims, African Americans, womxn, the disabled, etc.

#### **Community Agreements**

- Be patient and Flexible
- Step up Step Back
- Don't hog the mic
- I-Statements
- Respectful Listening
- Try on the process
- Acknowledge the need for translation (be patient)

## WORKING GROUPS

<b>Romero Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Group/Committee</b>	<b>Room/Space</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Know Your Rights (pop ed) how to take into to the people	Citizenship Cl	How do we take Know Your Rights info to as many people as possible instead of having them come to us for it?
2	Creating bridges with other impacted communities and allies	Stage	How do we create alliances with other groups also impacted by Trumps hateful agenda: such as the LGBTQ community, Muslims, black folks, womxn, the disabled, etc.?
3	Worker rights group	Center	I-9 audits/raids and other worker rights issues under an anti-worker/anti-labor administration
4	Hate Crime Defense	Back Corner	Under this political climate, hate groups have been emboldened, we have begun to hear of incidents of hate, what can we do to protect ourselves and each other
5	Artists	Conf. Room	The role of artists in this moment of resistance
<b>Parent &amp; Youth Center (Basement)</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Group/Committee</b>	<b>Room/Space</b>	<b>Description</b>
6	Student outreach + migrant youth	Mirror Space	How do we ensure the youth is involved and that their ideas and voices are heard? Create outreach plan
7	Defending DACA, TPS, & Refugee Children	Back Space	How do we defend existing programs without throwing others under the bus?
8	Deportation Defense	Front Space	How do we fight deportations understanding our current tactics might no longer work?
9	Faith Group	Library	The role of the faith based community in this moment of resistance
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Open Space</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Group/Committee</b>	<b>Room/Space</b>	<b>Description</b>
10	Organizing Your Neighborhood	Open Space	We cannot rely on existing institutions to protect us, we can only protect ourselves if we organize, we need to start without own neighborhood
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Group/Committee</b>	<b>Room/Space</b>	<b>Description</b>
11	Representation in the immigrant rights movement: LGBTQ + women + black immigrants	Open Space	How do we ensure the voices of those usually ignored (LGBTQ+ women + black immigrants) are heard, that their struggles are placed in the center and forefront of the fight. How do we outreach specifically to these communities?

## MESSAGING GUIDE

- The pace of normalization of Trump’s agenda is alarming: we have to assume that enforcement-only legislation (criminalizing unlawful status, cutting funding of sanctuary localities, massive expansion of 287g etc.) will move very quickly.
- Community groups must be at the center of broad-based coalitions to stop the Trump agenda on immigration, workers rights, criminal justice, women’s rights, etc.. We have until January 20th (Presidential Inauguration) to build locally.
- Across the country, local groups are hosting Popular Assemblies with community members and allied organizations to discuss local plans for resistance, advocacy, to create working-groups, and to create a space for new people to get involved.
- It is crucial to affirm, update and defend policies designed to protect immigrant rights. Now is the time to galvanize support for sanctuary policies.
- Keep in touch via [AltoTrump.com](http://AltoTrump.com). #AltoTrump

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- Do not open the door for immigration agents.
- Do not answer the questions of immigration agents. You have the right to remain silent—even if you are detained. You do not need to give your name or identity documents. You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- Do not lie or show any false documents.
- If you are at work or on the street or in a public place, ask the immigration agent if you are free to go. If the agent says yes, walk away slowly and calmly.
- If you are at home, ask the officer if they have a warrant. A warrant is a paper signed by a judge giving the officer permission to enter your home. The warrant will specify what areas of your home they are allowed to search. If the officer has a warrant, ask them to slip it under the door. Only then should you let them in.

**If you or someone you know has been the victim of an immigration raid or hate crime, report it! Call 1-844-878-7801.**

*For more information and more Know Your Rights materials, please go to [AltoTrump.com](http://AltoTrump.com) and click on “Resources.”*

## NEIGHBORHOOD DEFENSE COMMITTEES

A key goal of the Popular Assembly is to provide a space for community members to plug into local committees to defend the community. The Neighborhood Defense Committees (NDC), or Grassroot Committees (GC), is one of the oldest organizing models adopted by our ancestors and Popular Movements in Latin America. Our black brothers and sisters adopted similar strategies during the civil rights movement in the fight against apartheid and racism, which continue to perpetuate violence against communities of color today.

An effective local committee responds to the specific needs of the community, while providing an avenue for more individuals to participate, take on responsibilities, and develop skills. Whatever you decide to call it, the name and focus of the local committee responds to the political circumstances of the moment and the locality. This type of grassroots organizing is rooted directly in the communities, and neighborhoods in which it exists. Each neighborhood or community should be directly involved in the creation of the NDC and must play a central role in the decision-making process.

The current political climate requires us to directly engage people on a local level, neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block. The moment demands that people's commitment grows and that directly impacted folks are empowered to take active leadership roles.

For more information about CDBs, please click on either one of these links:

[Organización y Funcionamiento de los CDBs \(How to Organize and Operate NDCs\)](#)

[Principios y Valores de los Comités de Base \(Values and Principles of Grassroots Committees\)](#)

Many of these materials were developed during the SB1070 fight in Arizona, and while some of the information needs to be updated, we believe that these documents can be a useful starting point for many places across the country where there might not be a big movement or organizing infrastructure but where there is willingness and the need to fight. In Los Angeles we are interested in experimenting with the *popular assembly-neighborhood defense* model because our current circumstances call on us to organize on a deeper and wider level. We must be cautious about relying on federal, state and local institutions for safety. We must instead rely on each other, as a community, to keep each other safe from violence and to create a sustainable infrastructure for self defense.

As a first step, each neighborhood must establish effective safety measures, including dissemination of “know your rights” materials, developing rapid response, and creating avenues for effective communication. While the future is unknown, one thing is clear, that when the community is organized, we can better fight back in conditions of hostility, bigotry and hate.

For more resources and materials, please go to [AltoTrump.com](http://AltoTrump.com) and click on “Resources.”

## OTHER RESOURCES

While in some places, there exists an organizing infrastructure where CBOs, non-profit organizations, service providers, grassroots groups, etc. coexist to tackle different issues from different angles, other places might need more resources or guidance.

The following are different resources that might be helpful for grassroots organizations, and people who are not necessarily involved with any organization but want to help, to begin organizing in their own community.

To look at these resources, please click on any of the following links:

[Como Facilitar Una Reunion \(How to Facilitate a Meeting\)](#)

[Como Organizar Una Agenda \(How to plan an agenda\)](#)

[Tocando Puertas \(Door Knocking\)](#)

[La Vigilancia del Pueblo \(Filming Law Enforcement\)](#)

*Unfortunately, we only created the popular education materials included in this toolkit in spanish, if anyone is interested in volunteering to translate to English or other languages, please let us know!*

*If you're interested in volunteering, please go to: <http://altotrump.com/get-involved/volunteer/>.*

THANK YOU!

