

Letters to Detainees

Opportunity to Help....

During these challenging and changing times for all of us, please help us remember the men and women currently being held in immigration detention.

FOCD, formerly Friends of Orange County Detainees, members have been doing one on one, face to face visits with detained immigrants for seven years. Due to the corona virus, all visitation at all detention centers around the country has been stopped. We all are being asked to stay home and this is like a tiny taste of having some of our own freedom to go about our daily lives curtailed. Imagine being detained for months or years isolated from family and friends while awaiting a chance to tell your story and ask for asylum. Most of us can't.

If you would like to use some of your home time to reach out to folks currently in immigration detention, it would be a welcome and compassionate way to remind them that they are not alone.

We hope you consider reaching out to these men and women. A short letter, introducing yourself, **first** name only please, a little bit about yourself and some questions that might serve as conversation starters should they choose to reply is all that is required.

A card can't have glitter, embossing, cutouts or stickers. Letters should be on plain stationary or paper and written in blue or black ink. All correspondence must be unscented. Please print or type. If you have second language skills, please consider writing the letter in that language. We have people from all around the world so a letter in their native language would be great. Many also speak English so please don't let language be a deterrent.

Please simply use Dear friend or Hello friend as your greeting. Once we receive the letter we will select someone from the list of people detained at Adelanto Detention Center who have asked their pro bono attorneys to pass on their names to us. We will send your letter in a new envelope, using your first name and our FOCD P.O. Box as the return address. Your privacy and confidentiality will be strictly maintained. If a reply is received, we will forward it to you.

If this seems like something you can do please write your card or letter and send it to:

FOCD c/o Peggy Thompson
18 Elderwood
Irvine, CA 92614

Do be sure to include your full name and address for us, so that we will know where to forward any reply.