



CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

The La Palma Detention Center in Eloy, AZ, has reported 385 cases of COVID 19, more than any other of the 95 detention centers for immigrants in the nation. The Eloy Detention Center now has 252 cases. The Florence Detention Center has 67 cases. This totals 704 cases of COVID 19 in Arizona Detention Centers. <https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus#>

Several letters signed by 100 inmates cite negligence, lack of medical care, sexual abuse, and 9 suicide attempts. Transgender and gay migrants have suffered particularly. In response to a hunger strike protesting these conditions, guards used rubber bullets and teargas in retaliation.

To read these mass letters, go to <https://www.tqpueblo.org/lettersforliberation-from-la-palma>. The organizers of Trans Queer Pueblo ask that we all support the detained migrants by spreading the word in media outlets and to public officials.

Our own bishop Reddall and the Episcopal Church have called for the release of detainees and the use of alternatives to detention. A coalition of national and local organizations is calling for the closure of all detention centers. Please join us in prayer, in calls and letters to state and national representatives, and to the mayor of Eloy, demanding "[alternatives to immigrant detention](#) that maintain family unity and provide immigrants with access to the physical and mental health supports they need." <https://episcopalchurch.org/posts/ogr/dangers-detention-during-covid-19>