

Writing a letter to an immigrant detainee is a great way to be in solidarity with our migrant brothers and sisters, especially now when social distancing makes in-person activities more difficult. Below are some instructions and helpful hints for teachers looking to engage their students in a letter-writing activity.

Instructions

1. Letters should be addressed to Casa Mariposa, P.O. Box 40884 Tucson, AZ 85717. They are our partner and will facilitate delivering letters.
2. Please include a blank stamped envelope with each letter to make it easier for Casa Mariposa to deliver the letters to detainees at the immigrant detention center.
3. Letters can be written in Spanish or English. See below for sample letters and helpful phrases provided by the Lutheran Refugee Service Campaign, ["Hope Can't be Quarantined."](#)
4. Do not include any personal information or photos with people's faces with your letter. Drawings are acceptable. Students should only use their first names when signing the letters.
5. Do not include paperclips, staples, or sticky notes. Make sure the blank envelope you include doesn't have any metal clasps.
6. Casa Mariposa is expecting the letters, but it is recommended to include a small note explaining the letters are part of the Solidarity Across Borders campaign run by Kino Border Initiative, Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology, Jesuit Refugee Service, Ignatian Solidarity Network, and Magis America.

Sample letters

Dear Friend,

I wanted to write to tell you how sorry I am for what you are going through right now. I am disturbed by the number of immigrants the U.S. government detains during a normal year, never mind during a pandemic. Please know that there are people in schools, parishes, and communities across this country that are thinking of you and praying for you. You are not alone or forgotten. I hope this letter gives you the strength to continue fighting your immigration case and that happier times are soon on the horizon for you.

Best,
[Name]

Querido/a amigo/a,

Quería escribirle para decirle cuánto siento lo que está pasando ahora mismo. Me preocupa el número de inmigrantes que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos detiene durante un año normal, no importa durante una pandemia. Por favor, sepa que hay gente en las escuelas, parroquias y comunidades de todo el país que están pensando en usted y rezando por usted. No está solo ni olvidado. Espero que esta carta le dé la fuerza para seguir luchando contra su caso de inmigración y que pronto se le presenten tiempos más felices en el horizonte.

Saludos,
[Nombre]

English	Spanish
Dear friend	Querido/a amigo/a
Greetings from [city/state].	Saludos desde [ciudad/estado].
Please know that you are not alone or forgotten.	Quiero que sepa que usted no está solo ni olvidado.
I am praying for your protection and safety during this challenging time.	Estoy rezando por su protección y seguridad durante estos tiempos difíciles.
I stand in solidarity with you.	Me solidarizo con usted.
Please know that thousands of people are working to keep you and your family safe	Espero que sepa que miles de personas están trabajando para que usted y su familia estén seguros.
May God bless you	Que Dios le bendiga.