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### **New Report: ICE Unhinged**

*'Prosecutorial Discretion Denied' documents cases of ICE immigration field agent overreach*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, United We Dream and the National Immigration Project of National Lawyers Guild released the report, [Prosecutorial Discretion Denied](#), highlighting instances in which local ICE field offices ignored the Department of Homeland Security's *Enforcement memo* released in November, 2014. The Memo explicitly created 3 priority categories for deportation, and provides detailed guidance on how DHS agencies and its employees should exercise discretion for individuals facing deportation or detention.

[Prosecutorial Discretion Denied](#) paints a harrowing picture of the ways in which local ICE field offices over the past 4 months have routinely ignored, denied, overlooked, or mishandled legitimate requests and evidence from immigrants seeking a favorable review of prosecutorial discretion in their cases. The result has been the continued shredding of the social fabric of immigrant and mixed-status communities and families throughout the United States. The report features cases illustrating:

- 1) individuals apprehended and detained but who were not priorities under the new memo;
- 2) individuals who may appear to be priorities but may qualify for an exception; and
- 3) individuals who are detained, even though their detention raised humanitarian concerns

**Carolina Canizales**, United We Dream's Education Not Deportation coordinator issued the following the statement:

"What our community is seeing is long-time residents, veterans, business owners, grandparents, parents, people with severe health problems who submitted evidence of their equities experiencing little or no review of their requests for a favorable exercise of prosecutorial discretion.

"We believe DHS must promptly change its practices when assessing evidence in support of a request for a favorable exercise of discretion. DHS must also commit to a new screening process that systematically elevates family and community ties. If the Administration believes in a humane approach, they must implement a new calculus that looks at the totality of the individual's circumstances."

**Paromita Shah**, Associate Director of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild released this statement:

"The harsh truth is that the behavior of the ICE field offices toward immigrants seeking prosecutorial discretion the past 4 months directly conflicts with our national ideals of fairness, transparency, and family unity. The United States is continuing to separate families - parents and children - despite the fact that DHS's publicity would have it appear otherwise. We call upon DHS to change course immediately to correct its overreach."

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*United We Dream is the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the nation, a powerful nonpartisan network made up of 53 local groups and more than 120,000 members. UWD organizes and advocates for the dignity and fair treatment of immigrant youth and families, regardless of immigration status, sexual orientation or gender identity. We seek to address the inequities and obstacles faced by immigrant youth and believe that by empowering immigrant youth, we can advance the cause of the entire community—justice for all immigrants.*

*You can find more about UWD online at [www.unitedwedream.org](http://www.unitedwedream.org)*

*The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild is a national nonprofit that provides legal assistance and technical support to immigrant communities, legal practitioners, and advocates working to advance the rights of non-citizens. For over forty years, the National Immigration Project has served as a progressive source of advocacy-oriented legal support on issues critical to immigrant rights. We develop cutting-edge strategies to respond to unlawful enforcement against immigrants.*

*You can find more about NIPNLG online at [www.nipnlg.org](http://www.nipnlg.org)*