



JOY IS AN ACT OF RESISTANCE



ACLU FOUNDATION San Diego and Imperial Counties

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**As we come to the end of the year,
we find ourselves reflecting on the moments that stood out to us.**

For many of us, these can be moments of great heartache—watching the Supreme Court repeal abortion rights for our nation; or they can be moments of great joy—coming together as a movement in solidarity, in resistance, in protest of these attacks. These moments of unity and joy will see us through the most challenging times.

Our joy will renew and fortify us as we persist in our movement for social justice.

It will energize us to work strategically and proactively as we fight to see our vision for a more just and equitable future become a reality at home in California and across the nation.

Our joy is limitless.

Thank you for your continued partnership in our efforts to help advance immigrants' rights and build stronger communities by protecting and advancing civil rights and civil liberties for all.

TOGETHER IN JOY

We recently spoke to members of the ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties community to learn about what joy means to them and how it powers and drives their activism. We hope their stories inspire you to continue fighting alongside us as we build a nation in which “We the People” truly means all of us.



Sophia Corona

She, Her, Hers • Precinct Captain

Hello everyone! My name is Sophia Corona. I am a precinct captain, and I have been putting most of my energy into our recent criminal justice and prison reform efforts this year! Precinct captains serve as dedicated, volunteer leaders throughout the region, strengthening the reach of our community organizing efforts and increasing the organization's capacity to achieve our vision. I believe our role as precinct captains is to be that bridge and that voice that connects all of the ACLU's inner workings to move toward change.

I think allowing yourself to be outwardly joyful whether that be with yourself, your friends, with your community, is definitely a form of transformative justice. I think having a good balance of joy and anger in our advocacy will continue to give us the fuel to fight for change. Audre Lorde's emphasis on joy as energy for change is still extremely relevant to activism today and it should remind us to still take time to center joy not only in our activism but also just within our communities. I think the easiest way for me to center joy in my work is creating and maintaining meaningful relationships, not only with those who are doing the work alongside me but, also with the communities we do the work for. I think it just maintains the humanity of it all.



Esmeralda Flores

She, Her, Ella • Senior Policy Advocate

Hello, I am Esmeralda Flores, and I serve as the senior policy advocate and the advancing immigrants' rights issue team lead. My work for the ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties focuses on establishing and protecting just and fair immigration policy at the local and federal level with an emphasis on issues facing the San Diego-Tijuana border region.

I find great joy in spending time with my family, friends and my dog. I love coming together with people I care about to share good food and coffee and experience live music. I prioritize joy because it helps sustain me while our fights for equity continue.

People power is the lifeblood of our local ACLU and we are grateful for the opportunity to invest in and empower community leaders and staff members. To see our full interviews with Esmeralda, Crystal and Sophia, view our latest episode of ¡Adelante! here:



Crystal Quezada

She, Her, Ella • Imperial Valley Regional Director

Hi everyone, I am Crystal Quezada. I am the Imperial Valley regional director and I'm located in our ACLU office in El Centro, California, 120 miles east of San Diego. Our presence in Imperial Valley is an investment in our priority to build power and support organizing efforts that empower and engage community members to change systemic inequities in the region. My hope is to share information about the work we are doing in Imperial County and inspire those across our region to join in our fight. I see my role as being community connected with the valley. I want to continue to be a good community member and partner, working to bring about the transformational change this region has been fighting for every day.

I love and find joy in my community, and I want to help create better opportunities for generations to come. I joined the ACLU because it is the best organization that fights to challenge and hold the people in power accountable. I want to be part of making sure we are moving this community forward.

Josué Baltézar (he/him) is an artist and designer who stands in solidarity with all marginalized communities.

www.josuebaltazar.com

The imagery in this piece has hummingbirds in the top corners, symbolizing healing. The ocotillo, onions, watermelons, corn, carrots, and lettuce represent both native plants and the agriculture of the Imperial Valley region. The waves and the sun represent the hope and strength of both counties.

