

We All Deserve The Right to Speak and Move Freely In The World

Crystal Farmer

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Earlier this year I had the opportunity to go down to the US-Mexico border to interview undocumented people in shelters and detention facilities about their experiences in the US judicial system. It was my first "out in the field interview" kind of project and one of the first times researching immigration work outside of academia.

When I started doing the interviews I had somewhat of an idea of what I should expect to see or hear, but actually speaking with people about what they experienced was heartbreaking. So many people told me about how little they were given to eat during their time in facilities or how they just kept saying yes to everything in court because they were told it would be easier. In a portion of the survey, I asked if they have experienced physical or sexual abuse and one transgender woman I spoke with answered, "physical yes, but not sexual...yet." Hearing that put a pit in my stomach.

Given the violent racialized rhetoric and actions that have increasingly been happening lately, it's horrifying that people coming to this country are coming expecting bad things to happen. It's even more appalling that the US engages in so many practices that condone the unjust treatment of people both in court and out of it.

Growing up, I wasn't always fully aware of how differently people were treated because of their citizenship status. When people in my family were deported I didn't realize it until years later because it wasn't something we talked about. For anyone who grew up not thinking about their citizenship status, unaware of the fact that Streamline courts prosecute about 80 people in an hour and a half, or even what Streamline courts are, this report will be eye-opening and something you should read to start thinking about the privileges you have, being able to speak and move freely in the world, unafraid of being sent back to a place that you left for a reason.

Read our full report on Operation Streamline [here](#). Join our webinar on Operation Streamline by registering [here](#).