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# SOLACE

## Souls Offering Loving And Compassionate Ears

### Interfaith Detention Center Visitation Project



Through SOLACE volunteers provide a caring and compassionate presence and affirm the humanity and

value of people held in detention. SOLACE is an affiliate of **CIVIC**, a national visitation support and immigration reform advocacy organization. SOLACE volunteers meet monthly to discuss issues related to immigration visitation. Regular orientations are held for those who are interested in learning more about the program and potentially becoming visitors.

**Our Mission Statement:** SOLACE is an interfaith visiting program that comforts and supports persons held in immigration detention, tells their stories, and advocates for a more humane immigration policy.

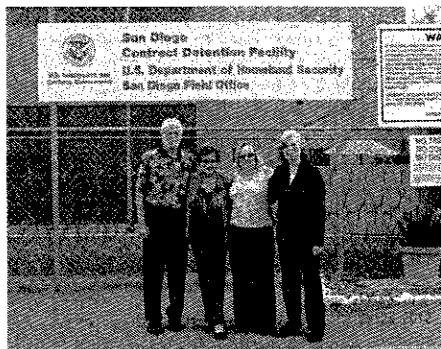
As part of SOLACE we offer a friendly visitor to end the isolation and affirm the dignity and worth of those we visit, not as lawyers, social workers, bankers, therapists, or missionaries. Visits are made at the **Otay Detention Facility** owned by the Corrections



Corporation of America, a for-profit company traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Currently, detainees are not entitled to legal representation or a speedy appearance in court, isolated from families and vulnerable to abuse. They are held indefinitely, in some cases for years, while backlogged immigration judges hear their cases.

A more humane system is possible, and necessary, and SOLACE seeks to bring to light the suffering of immigrants and families in the current system, to hasten its coming. To this end SOLACE also collaborates with other organizations that are working for humane treatment and justice for immigrants.

### Why Visit...



Visiting asylum seekers and immigrants detained in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or private prison is challenging and extremely rewarding. First and foremost is knowing that through our simple presence and friendly listening, we can ease the distress of someone isolated from loved ones, from family, from work and from the shelter they expected when they came to our country seeking asylum from danger and torture in their home country.

It's a transformative experience—we make contact with people and worlds we would never know. Although our visits are conducted via phone and window, we touch each

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[SOLACE Newsletter March 2017](#)  
(733.22 KB)

[SOLACE Clearance Form](#) (172.72 KB)

## Leadership

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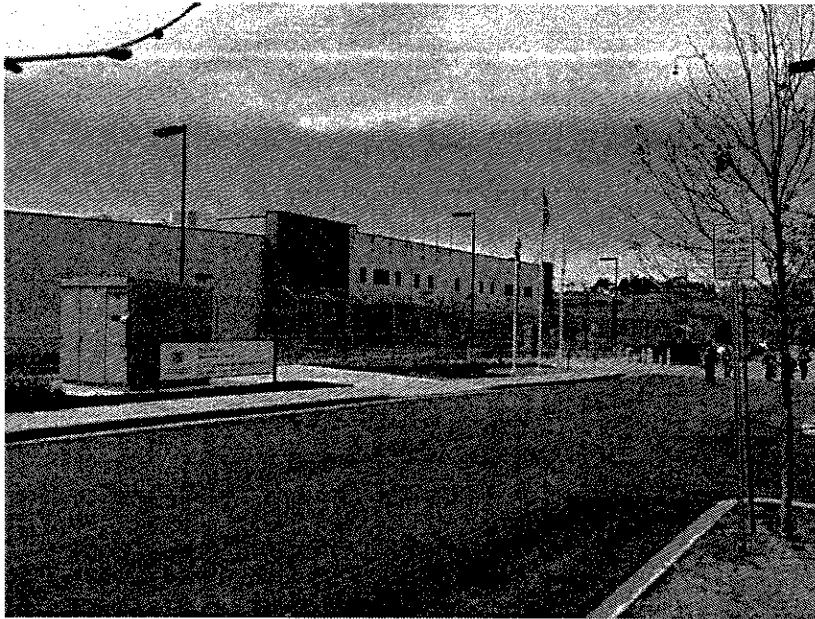
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



*"There are moments when you stand on the brink of a new experience and understand that you have no choice about it. Either you walk into the experience or you turn away from it, but you know that no matter what you choose, you will have altered your life in a permanent way. Either way, there will be consequences." ~ Dennis Covington*

other's souls and both grow beyond the telling of it. SOLACE is a great way to act on your UU principles and "let service be your prayer". We heartily invite you to join us! Volunteer orientations are held every month at First Church in Hillcrest.

## Become a SOLACE Volunteer

Each month we manage to visit only a small fraction of detainees. The demand is great and we need more volunteers. The main skill required is simply listening, this is a great opportunity to act on your UU principles and truly "let service be your prayer". SOLACE meetings are held month at First UU Church of San Diego South Bay - our Chula Vista campus ([get directions](#)). For meeting dates see our [Calendar](#) or [SOLACE web page](#) or for questions call a SOLACE Coordinator at **(619) 398-4445**.



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South Bay campus:

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For parking & bus info, campus map, staff contacts and more see our [Contact page](#).

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