

Awakening Our Intergenerational Wisdom to Confront Harm and Reclaim Hope

[en español](#)



Dear PON Members and Partners,

I've been thinking long and hard on what's happening in this country, and have many questions and fewer answers on where we're heading in the near and distant future. Over the past few weeks, we've witnessed ongoing ICE raids carried out with disturbing brutality, as well as a militarized response to protests. **These actions have stirred a deep mix of emotions in our communities—anger, indignation, and a profound fear for our safety and the future health and well-being of all our children and families**, regardless of immigration status. When it comes to law enforcement priorities, it doesn't seem to matter whether you were born and raised here or recently arrived but the damage to our communities is immeasurable.

In the midst of this, I've been turning inward. My higher self reminds me that this pain was inflicted by forces outside our communities and is designed to provoke and destabilize us. **While it is stirring intergenerational trauma, it also has the power to awaken our intergenerational wisdom. We must apply our knowledge, experience and good judgment to address the uncertainty that currently surrounds our neighborhoods and return hope and security to those who are most at risk.**

As I continue to process these events and connect to a higher level of consciousness, I am reminded of our shared humanity and interdependence. Spiritually, we are all connected.

Seen through the lens of capitalism, it's clear that immigrants form the backbone of many industries that keep this country functioning, but we contribute much more than that. **We are part of who you are. Our futures are intertwined—and the harm done to one part of the system will eventually affect the whole.**

Despite the pain and the sense that something good is being lost, I am encouraged by the solidarity rising within and across communities to defend immigrant rights and uphold our shared civil and human rights.

Now is the time to draw upon our collective wisdom and spiritual fortitude—not only to survive this moment, but to reimagine and transform our systems into ones that honor our shared humanity, to acknowledge but move beyond just the economic value we bring. Let us move forward with vision, courage, and deep-rooted solidarity to build a future where dignity and justice are the foundation for all.

Araceli Simeón
Executive Director



Message from PON's Advisory Board Co-Chair

Dear Community Members, Participants, Staff, and Valued Stakeholders:

There is no minimizing the present harms we are witnessing. We know of the intimidating presence of **ICE at a graduation ceremony for 3-year-olds**. And how shocking for our children to watch the U.S. Senator elected to represent them dragged away, thrown to the ground and handcuffed **for asking a question** – even while their textbooks emphasize the Constitutional right to free speech. Such contradictions seriously undermine trust in our institutions. We are at an inflection point, a pivotal moment in history.

As we engage our children and families, let's **build resilience** by drawing inspiration from our ancestors who faced far worse circumstances. Had they not stayed focused on their vision, locked arms and **persevered in defending their rights**, our plight today would be far worse. One way to **reassure our children and youth** is to form family dialogue circles where we **listen to their concerns and fears**. Previous generations of young people had similar feelings and stood strong alongside adults in **upholding their values and their rights**. And let's remember people from diverse backgrounds who were and are allies. Some of these stories can be found in literature for children and young adults – ask your local librarian and search online for information about these **uplifting themes**. Also, consider organizing a meeting on Zoom to **broaden the family circle**. Host a house meeting for your **neighbors** and/or **faith-based friends** to **promote mutual care, support, wellness, advocacy**.

Our families can **extend the foundation we've inherited to future generations**. In fact, our children might keep a special journal with messages and illustrations they could bring to the family circle. They could preserve the journal and look back on these days in **guiding their own sons and daughters** through difficult times. They might recall how the family sat together regularly, **feeling the collective support** when faced with extreme threats to safety, dignity, justice and peace. We can invite young people to open our community meetings by displaying their drawings and readings from their journals or sharing an excerpt from a library book. Maybe we could support them in **posting, podcasting or publishing their stories to further amplify their voices!**

So, as we extended deep gratitude to those who came before us, let's also demonstrate that their courage and sacrifices continue as a source of affirmation that will **keep their spirits vibrant** now and for the coming generations. Let's also remember that **mental health professionals are an essential resource** in times like these that can be traumatic. We could learn a lot by **inviting them to speak** at meetings and events.

PON salutes the **Los Angeles Unified School District** and others who created safe zones around graduations and campuses so students, families and staff could **celebrate in a calm atmosphere**. We congratulate all members of the PON extended family as the 2024-25 school year comes to a close and we wish everyone a **safe and happy summer vacation**. We know you'll return with **renewed hope** as we **strengthen our collaboration** toward building a society and world where **justice, equity and peace prevail for all people!**

Joyce Germaine Watts
Advisory Board Co-Chair



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*PON is a project of **Community Partners***

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