SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) and IMMIGRATION

- White people organizing white people
- Base-building: how to get more people involved, outreach, to people impacted by/care about issue
- Wanted to engage white people who are already in motion, have analysis but not sure where to go
- Leadership development: how build people’s political analysis, skill-building capacity and confidence
  - With white people, challenge to make space and step back with socialization of “having all the answers”
- Campaigns
  - Work on something together and win, transform the world
- Building political community that takes action together
- Timeline:
  - Where do we come from as white people?
  - Short conversations about what we each know about our family’s immigration history, what were aids, blocks, benefits?
  - We all put post-its on 1700-2000, themes of poverty, indentured servitude, access to land (Homestead Act), Federal Housing Act and low interest first time home buyers – consolidation of wealth, intergenerational trauma, alcoholism, community, quotas, creation of race and whiteness as dividing class bonds and shared interests/power, assimilation, who seen as more intelligent, erased histories, class mobility, belonging/not belonging
  - Contextualizes appropriation of other cultures, hunger for lost culture
  - What are the parts that get invisibilized? Don’t get talked about?
  - Mythologies of wealth, where it comes from in families
- White people have a stake in immigration – write two or three reasons why?
  - Militarization – people caged out and in, don’t want to live with militarized borders
  - Invisibilizing economic effects on other countries
  - Personal family effects, historical memory
  - How forgetting and invisibilizing work together
  - Traumatizing and breaking families
  - Don’t want to value money over people
  - Undocumented labor depressed wages in certain historically working class jobs/industries sectors – valuing everyone’s work leads to greater value
  - We need health care workers, wages and standards are so low
  - Out standard of living dependent on constant flow of immigration
  - More people paying into Social Security system
  - Demographics of elected officials changing, more progressive policies
  - Our family belongs here, we believe all families belong here
  - Relationships forced apart because of immigration policies
• “family values”, American values – appeal to right, shattering families
• Christian values, love neighbor as thyself
• Stolen land, stolen bodies, stolen souls – histories of white supremacy
• Controlling and policing bodies – carry over into white communities
• People in your life
• National wins around climate requires involvement
  with/mobilization undocumented Latino communities, who are in
  favor of more radical climate change policies, many clearer analysis,
  climate refugees

- Think of someone – which of these statements would resonate with them?
- Practice conversations – build like a muscle
  - Is there a way to humanize this, someone they know/care about?
  - Way to connect to family history? Great website “Entry Denied”
  - Listening is a big part of organizing
  - What do they care about?
  - Ask questions
  - The goal is not to win, but to engage a conversation around this issue
  - Curiosity
  - Trust that next step can arise
  - How do we work on our own defenses, return to a question
  - Don’t have to figure out how to do it right in one conversation –
    ongoing
  - Have a different interaction, change environment
- Ella Baker: “each one, teach one”
  - Three people you could have a conversation with, who are already in
    motion about racial justice
- Fedoras for Fairness tumblr, “women wear many hats”