MISSION

No Detention Centers in Michigan (NDCM) is a coalition of groups and individuals organizing to stop immigrant detention centers in Michigan.

MEETINGS

The next meeting is Saturday, Sept. 14, 2 PM, Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 2nd Floor meeting room, 215 N. Capitol Ave.

Usual location: Saturdays, 2 PM, Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing.

CONTACT US

FB Messenger: m.me/NoDetentionMI
Email: nodetentioncentersmi@gmail.com – to request to join the ListServ or get the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER

Email Laura Sager: lmsager1@icloud.com

Prudential Financial Divestment Campaign

September 23-30, 2019

Join NCDM’s week of action!

GEO Group is reopening its private prison in Baldwin, Michigan, as a detention center funded by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. NDCM is campaigning to stop the new detention center by targeting investors in GEO Group. Prudential Financial Inc. increased its position in shares of The GEO Group by 15.1 percent in the second quarter of 2019.

Join NDCM to protest Prudential Financial investments in GEO Group 10:30 AM, Tuesday, September 24, 2172 Common Parkway, Suite A, Okemos.

See Pages 3-4 for information about the NDCM campaign and actions YOU and YOUR organizations can take in September! To get the latest info about NCDM actions go to the NCDM Facebook page.
As the Bahamas’ death toll rises and more than 70,000 residents are left homeless by Hurricane Dorian, the Trump administration is sowing confusion with its chaotic response to people seeking refuge in the U.S.

At first it appeared that citizens of the Bahamas, an archipelago nation just 110 miles from Florida, would be free to enter the United States, as has been the case in the past. Then an apparent decision by a private maritime operator to avoid trouble with U.S. Customs and Border Protection over the weekend was compounded by President Trump’s pronouncement that hurricane survivors included “some very bad people” who should be left stranded. Trump’s comments on Monday made clear that a policy change, initially sold as a miscommunication by his administration, was actually another capricious act of cruelty, a needlessly inhumane move to block natural disaster refugees.

“We have to be very careful. Everyone needs totally proper documentation,” Trump said in front of the White House after he returned from a weekend of golf on Monday. “I don’t want to allow people who weren’t supposed to be in the Bahamas to come into the United States, including some very bad people and some very bad gang members and some very, very bad drug dealers.”

– Excerpted from Truthout.org article by Sophia Tesfaye, Salon, published 9/10/2019

Note: The mainstream media barely mentioned climate change as a driver of the deadly hurricane and the plight of thousands of Bahamian climate refugees trying to reach safety.
Prudential Financial Divestment Campaign

NDCM is bringing the fight to Michigan: Call to action for individuals/organizations!

Prudential Financial is one of the largest investors in GEO Group, a private prison company that operates various immigrant detention centers and prisons around the country. Over 60 percent of people in ICE detention are held in private facilities and GEO Group is the single largest ICE contractor. Additionally, GEO has been subject to many lawsuits regarding inhuman conditions, improper medical care, torture, forced labor, sexual abuse, and deaths at their facilities.

GEO Group is trying to open an immigrant prison in Baldwin, Michigan on October 1. When it opens, it will be the only Criminal Alien Requirement facility in the entire Midwest. On August 13, 2019, No Detention Centers in Michigan demonstrated outside of Prudentials Regional Office in Troy, demanding that they divest from GEO Group. To escalate the campaign against Prudential, which is designed to pressure them to cut ties with GEO Group, we are calling for a nationwide week of action from September 23-30. This divestment campaign is just one part of the larger struggle against the deportation machine and mass incarceration. We are acting in solidarity with all other groups and individuals engaged in this struggle in different ways.

TAKE ACTION IN SEPTEMBER!
At any time between September 23 and September 30, find the Prudential Financial location nearest to you and SHOW UP with others from your organization (if you are part of one), your friends, your voice, a sign, a letter, and demand that Prudential divest from GEO Group and all other private prison companies.

If you or a friend/family member have money invested through Prudential Financial, encourage them to divest, or call and tell your financial advisor that your money will not be used to fund GEO Group torture and imprisonment.

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Prudential Financial Divestment Campaign

NDCM is bringing the fight to Michigan: Call to action for individuals/organizations!

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Here are some ways to engage/get involved in this week of action against Prudential:

• Picket line
• Flash mob
• Letter delivery
• Call-in / phone zaps
• Pass out flyers/literature outside of Prudential offices
• Other demonstrations

This year, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, SunTrust, BNP Paribas, FifthThird Bank, and PNC Bank have all made firm commitments to stop financing the private prison industry in response to public pressure. While the nature of Prudential’s ties to the industry is different (holding stock vs providing credit), the moral imperative for them to sever ties is the same, and they should also give in after sustained public pressure.

Here is a map of the largest Prudential offices around the country:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=16nh09sdhhf7NYhDRJtR4JYk24enREVUj&usp=sharing

And here is a map of all Prudential-affiliated offices in Michigan:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1j59BR1rGSq367FyWP6S0qV4-jTGCJnFd&usp=sharing

The NDCM Face Book page hopes to share or co-host any divestment events that groups/individuals across the state are organizing. Please let us know about them by messaging the Facebook page.

Here is the Facebook event for the Okemos demo to share with people /
https://www.facebook.com/events/467700627150457/
The criminalization of immigration

By Judy Greene, Executive Director, Justice Strategies, August 25, 2019

Unauthorized border crossing and re-crossing after deportation were first criminalized in 1929, sponsored by fiercely racist federal officials during a period of intense xenophobia and nativism. Their goal was to control the flow of Mexicans who migrated to work in U.S. farms and factories. Yet over the decades, these laws were rarely used. Until 2005, the vast majority of apprehended migrants had been processed through the civil removal system.

Last year 109,000 migrants – including many who may have valid asylum claims – were prosecuted for crossing or re-crossing the border. Their cases accounted for 55 percent of all federal prosecutions, diverting resources from prosecution of serious federal offenses such as corporate crime and public corruption.

Unauthorized entry (8 USC 1325) is punishable by up to 180 days in federal jail, while improper re-entry (8 USC 1326) is punishable by up to two years in federal prison. More years may be added if the migrant has previous criminal convictions. These prosecutions are contributing to overcrowding as well as disparity in federal prisons. Currently, non-citizens make up 19 percent of the total federal prison population, yet they are only seven percent of the total U.S. population.

The high number of migrant prosecutions currently reflects the Trump administration’s fanatical zero tolerance prosecution policy, but a return to “normal” under a new administration would still be an outrage. The Obama administration prosecuted as many as 90,000 migrants in just one year.

Prosecuting migrants is not a substitute for civil removal, but instead postpones that process, adding additional costs associated with the criminalization. The incarceration costs alone for improper entry and re-entry total more than $9 billion since 2005. Most of those taxpayer costs benefit politically powerful private prison corporations that profit from the incarceration of migrants.

There is no evidence that threats of prosecution or incarceration are a deterrent to migration. Data analysis finds no apparent correlation between apprehensions of migrants, which began falling in 2000, and criminal prosecutions, which began rising in 2004. Those driven to enter the U.S. for the first time come for the same reasons migrants have always come – extreme poverty or violence in their home countries.

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The criminalization of immigration

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There is also no evidence that prosecution or imprisonment is a deterrent to re-entry. Many people return after deportation – some do so repeatedly – because of family ties. They have deep roots in the U.S., spouses and children who are dependent upon their love and support. More than half of those who return have family members who are U.S. citizens.

Criminal prosecution of migrants was the trigger used to effect last year’s cruel family separation campaign.

The racist historical roots of migrant criminalization in the 1920s, coupled with today’s hysteria over migration at the border we share with Mexico, indicate that so long as these laws remain on the books, demagogic politicians will cynically weaponize them to increase their political capital.

These companies and institutions are cashing in millions from the detention of refugees and migrants.

Solidarity opportunities:

**Friday, September 20:** Global Climate Strike Rally, Noon, Capitol Building, led by the Youth Climate Strike, multiple sponsors including Sunrise Movement, Extinction Rebellion East Lansing. (See Facebook pages).

**Monday, September 23:** Extinction Rebellion Rally in support of the Global Climate Strike, at the “rock” on MSU campus, 3:30 PM, followed by a rally at the intersection of Grand River and Abbott Rd. 4-6 PM. Signs linking climate change, climate refugees, and immigration encouraged.