



Sayaka Suzuki
Drifting Dreamers

3x3 Summer Sessions
June 2 - August 5, 2017

1708GALLERY
A NONPROFIT SPACE FOR NEW ART

Sayaka Suzuki's *Drifting Dreamers* invited diverse audiences to consider the word "immigration." These responses were written on upcycled fabric of various shades of blue (to reference the traditional Indigo used in Sashiko, a traditional embroidery technique of rural Japan). These thoughts, fears, dreams, and hopes of the people were stitched together to create a life-sized fiber boat bonded together by the thickness of fabric and structural integrity only attained by its layering effects. This sculpture functions as both a metaphor for this moment in history and the strength of diverse ideas.

These responses have also been transcribed in this zine exactly as they were written. Suzuki hopes that through this idea of sharing personal histories and ideas, people will begin to see the current situation of the world's immigrants with more of an empathetic mindset.

We are all
immigrants and we
are all precious.

MY PARENTS
ARE GREEK.
I AM
AMERICAN

NAIVA + GRAMPA
We're illegal immigrants.
Now I teach your children.
I teach a great fear for many...
LOVE + COMPASSION + EMPATHY

I am scared for my friends – their homes and lives being
taken

IMMIGRATION = INNOVATION

My Armenian ancestor had a dream that foretold dark
times ahead. So, they left in the middle of the night for
Cyprus and eventually America. Because of this dream
they escaped the Armenian genocide and I am here
today.

Always be proud of who you are
and never forget or be ashamed
of where you came from... <3

Immigration makes our country diverse.

I have been lonely since I came to the United States to study. Repeated misunderstandings made me sad. The appearance of my ignorance made me frustrated. One day, a knife was fallen from a building. It was fallen just in front of me. I looked up. A guy was smiling. I felt like I was not accepted to this country.

“You say goodbye to your country, your people, your home, your friends, your family. Everything you know. You cry the entire flight.” – Arnesa Buljusic-Kustura

- CONFLICT DUALITY
 - GLOBALISM? POPULIST?
 - SECULAR HUMANISM
 - SPECTRUM & UNDERSTANDING
 - GROWING UP POOR & IGNORANT
 - LOVE!!
- DON'T LET THE BEST BE THE ENEMY OF THE GOOD
-

My great grandparents & grandmother came over from Germany 65 years ago. Without immigration where would I be?

My Grandparents and my Father.

AS A BIRD-WATCHER, I SEE THE WORD “MIGRATION”
WITHIN “IMMIGRATION” – A NATURAL, NECESSARY
VOYAGE OF SURVIVAL!!

IMMIGRANTS MAKE AMERICA!



2 homes
2 families

In WWII the US denied entrance to Jewish refugees and many perished as a result. Our government is doing the same thing to Muslims now. When will we learn?

Food keeps us united.
The Pesce Family
Nonna + Popop
- San Donato, Italy

“In America, you don't get to decide what race you are. It is decided for you.” – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie,
Americanah
Corruption never ceases to benefit the wicked.

Tens of thousands dying to escape communist Cuba.

#Acceptance

We all are immigrants. Just where did you come from

UNITY

MELTING POT

IMMIGRATION – THE CONTINUING FORCE MOVING US
TOWARD A WORLD WHERE RACE AND SKIN COLOR
BECOMES HOMOGENIZED AND THE DIVISIONS THAT
HAVE HARMED THE HUMAN SPECIES ARE
DIMINISHED

I wouldn't be near my mom if she couldn't immigrate.

We all got here somehow.

Immigration built this country. Immigration built this state.
Immigration built this city. Immigration built me.

WHEN I WAS ONLY FIVE, MY FAMILY MOVED TO THE
US FROM TAIWAN. MY PARENTS CALLED IT THE
LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES. THIS YEAR I WILL BE A
PART OF VCU'S MEDICAL CLASS OF 2021!

As an immigrant, I feel like it is hard to get a citizenship.

Calm down.

The whole world is not out to get you, immigrants,
refugees are not the devil. They just want a better
situation.

It's time to help out.

We are a nation of immigrants. All immigrants ARE
Americans.

"You have to understand, that no one puts their children
on a boat unless the water is safer than the land." –
Warsan Shire, 'Home'

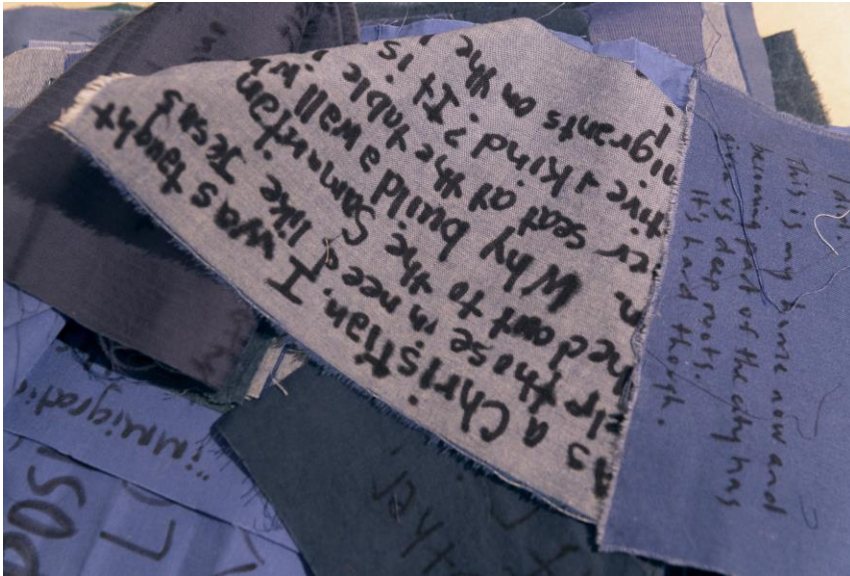
That feeling you get when you go to a St. Patrick's Day
festival and a rowdy group starts "build a wall" but you
gotta be calm and try not to glare at the middle aged
white man named John shouting about illegals bc
clearly this is Ireland and he is positive that his
ancestors traveled here on a beam of light and shook
hands with the President...John your head looks just
like the potatoes you cherish. This one's for you bud,
Happy St. Patrick's Day.

As an Immigrant kid I've always struggled with my
identity. I often feel I am too Eastern for the West and
too Western for the East. As a child, I never
considered myself American, but now I realize being
American can be a choice. That's what makes this
country unique. So denying people access to the
US/enforcing borders is very un-American.

"So here you are too foreign for home, too foreign for
here.

Never enough for both." – Ijeoma Umebinyuo, "diaspora
blues"

MY MOM ISN'T FROM BOSTON, BUT SHE DROPS HER
"r"s BECAUSE HER FAMILY ALL CAME THERE FROM
IRELAND



Immigration built and continues to build America. The
world would be nothing without our brave brothers
and sisters.

My family has roots in Europe, and has made an amazing
life here. I want that for my non-white friends. I want
them to feel safe + loved. I worry about them. I'm
scared for them. White people in America need to
protect non-White immigrants, or they should go back
to Europe.

I came here when I was 5. My Mom came to America 1st
and after cleaning houses for almost a year she had
enough \$ to send for my Dad and my Big Sis & I. My
parents worked for years to achieve the "American
Dream." My parents are both citizens now. My Mom is
a Nutritional Doctor. My Dad is like a tier 9 employee
@ the VA health. But my Sis & I who had no choice
when moving feel like there were so many other places
to choose from.

Our neighbor asked us to call her if we see an ICE truck.
She didn't know her rights if they came to arrest her.

NO ONE IS AN IMMIGRANT.
EARTH IS FOR ALL EVERYWHERE!

Immigration to me means hope. It means the possibility of
a new & better life. It means diversity & community. It
is a word I feel is a part of my identity.

Courage

The Earth does not belong to me.

I HOPE MY STUDENTS ARE HERE TOMORROW.

WE ARE ALL IMMIGRANTS

Tear down the wall!

I am so grateful for immigration and human rights. I am a woman who married an immigrant woman in 2014!

Immigration is important.
It creates diversity and gives different people new experiences, sometimes better ones! But there are a lot of people! I don't think we will suffer from some crazy overpopulation at all but a lot of different people could cause violence all together. But if were all decent human beings then

POSSIBILITY

I am American. I am immigration. USA is home to all. ONE LOVE.

My grandmother came from Cuba for a better life for her family. I hope that immigrants today can feel safe and supported.

Immigration: Everyone here

I think of the courage of my Irish Grandparents to cross the pond in the 1880s. It means opportunity with no guaranteed results but the freedom today.

There is always a better way of solving a problem than hurting anyone. Believe in peace.

"Do you know what a foreign accent is? It's a sign of BRAVERY."
- Amy Chua, Battle hymn of the Tiger Mother

Immigration is adventure and exploration of life. I am so grateful immigrating unfamiliar country so that I can learn new culture and redefine my own culture.

Love transcends all - labels, borders; love is our universal identity.

I immigrated from Germany when I was 7 years old. I now teach 2nd grade at a school w/ a high immigrant/refugee population. The world is a better place because of them.

No human is illegal! - WE ARE ALL WELCOME
There is no place to be in a country founded & fueled by your absence.

People are people no matter where they are from. No one should be treated poorly or disrespected based on where they are from.

“GREEN CARD MARRIAGE – DONE...”

This is a land of opportunity, of finding, creating & making yourself. Immigrants are all of us & make us all.

Immigration is spreading of culture, art, intelligence into one community to unite us, create peace and diversity for humanity

Please be fair and just. Treating immigrants kindly like my mother was. Let liberty's light still stand for hope.
– son of a Korean immigrant

My mother's family sailed here from Ireland to escape the potato famine. My maternal grandfather reunited with his family in World War II

HOPE

Relocating / Re-existing

I emigrated therefore I am an immigrant

The United States is a nation with an identity made up of international identities

My great grandmother Zoe Lunddeni took the first boat out of Italy with her parents. Before they boarded, they didn't know where they'd be going – North America or Australia. I wouldn't be here today if they boarded another ship

Friendships
It makes the world go peaceful

Ellis Island was where my ancestors came into. They changed their name

WELCOME ALL ☺ <3

I think it's important to know what I stand for and stay as myself under any kind of pressure or in any kind of environment

Weaving and adding and strengthening the threads to a diverse tapestry of our country

I am an immigrant
and
I feel uncertain about my future in the U.S.

IMMIGRATION
MADE
THE
U.S.A.



NO BORDERS
NO NATIONS

LOVE

New Life. Start over. Hope?
Perhaps escaping the dark.
... and delicious food.

Immigration is where you came from. It does not dictate
who you are or your culture.

Immigration has never impacted me personally. But these
are human lives. Humans need to treat other humans
as humans because we are all stupid and scared. Be
good to each other.

Immigration...a ban restricting. It is damaging to me
because as someone who is bi-racial I know citizenship
isn't as straightforward, as well as knowing attributing
terrorists as "people from a specific country" is unfairly
biased as well.

Why can't we just accept everyone for who they are?

Where would I be if they didn't come?

1880- great year

My grandparents survived the pogroms!! Came to NYC-
Fanny & Harry Reiss, Minevera & Phillip Weiner

I think everyone should have the opportunity to freedom
& a better future. Some people don't get to have the
same opportunities as others. But there is a lot of
stigma behind the term immigration/emigration.
Immigrants make American a better, richer place for
EVERYONE.

My dentist asked me if I felt more like an American or
Japanese.
Why can't I be & feel both?

My mother met my father while stationed in Germany as a soldier in the US military. My father was living in Germany as an immigrant from Algeria. Their romance was brief & when my mother became pregnant she left Germany & the military. I've never met my father & I've never been to Europe or Africa but I'm the result of Imperialism & immigration.

We are all immigrants.
We are all one people.
Allow us all to be one family.

They have no idea what it is like to lose a home at the risk of never finding home again, have your entire life split between two lands and become the bridge between two countries.

-Rupe Kaur
Milk & Honey

We share one Earth!
Don't break it into PIECES!

I ♥ IMMIGRATION

Immigration is America.

We belong together.



My mom is from the Philippines. I was also born in the Philippines and spent some of my early years there. I didn't really think about it until recently but one day I asked my dad (who is white) if I am an immigrant as I was born in a different country then moved to the US. But my dad had said because I was his child, I was born an American citizen and I was in a sense "coming home" when we moved to the U.S.

Kinfolk

America was founded by immigration.

One is all,
All is one.

Ni de aqui
Ni de alla
Daughter of Mexican immigrants...
This land is your land. This land is my land

Acceptance ☺

Immigration is...
Feeling Ashamed of the language you grew up hearing.
Feeling afraid that you're wrong just for being who you are and living where you live.
Feeling innocent as a child, following your parents to a place called SAFETY and BETTER EDUCATION, and JOBS. MY FAMILY IS THE PLACE I CALL HOME. ♥

Though I am not personally affected by immigrations, I know many people who are.
I feel like the most American people are often immigrants.
It is inhuman to judge people based on skin color, country of origin, or clothing.
They are not terrorists, terrorism is killing civilians.
Without immigration, America wouldn't be America.
-ELD

Immigration- the continuing force moving us toward a world where race and skin color becomes HOMOGENIZED and the divisions that have harmed the human species are diminished.

Love knows no stranger.

My Armenian ancestor had a dream that foretold dark times ahead. So they left in the middle of the night for Cyprus and eventually America. Because of this dream they escaped the Armenian genocide and I am her today.

Always be proud of who you are and never forget or be ashamed of where you come from... ♥

We are the sum of our movements.

Hope/Freedom/Adventure!

Wouldn't be the successful woman I am if my parents didn't immigrate to the U.S. Thank You!

Without immigration our FOOD would be terrible.

Love had no borders!!!

I'm from Brazil and my husband is American.

My blood might be South African but I am AMERICAN!!

I'm a first generation kid, my parents are immigrants.
My family isn't even allowed to visit.

Everyone coming together to learn from one another.
Don't be afraid to explore something different. ♥

Immigrants come with hope and bring new ideas and
experiences that enrich our lives.
Almost all our ancestors were immigrants at some point.

We are citizens of this one earth.
Many languages. Many dreams. One LOVE.

As a Christian, I was taught to help those in need like
Jesus reached out to the Samaritan woman. Why build
a wall when another seat at the table is more
productive & kind? It is wrong to ban immigrants on
the basis of the religion!

We moved six years ago.
Now we have green cards.
Richmond is home.
But I miss the UK.

It is shameful how they are being treated and broken up
their families. Immigration reform for papers for all
once and for all.

I hope tension will die down and no one will feel afraid.

Immigrating here changed my life.
The opportunity to move here can change more lives.
Freedom. Hope. Possibility. Life. Positive. Future. Love.



My parents are first generation immigrants from El
Salvador. They immigrated here for their future family for
a better future.

FREE
HUMANS
NO BORDERS

I feel more like my own daughters family in Dakka,
Bangladesh than my own siblings family in Georgia & in
Virginia.
Maybe humans are more like a species of bird that cross
the globe in migrating fleets than like native trees who
don't travel much.

Wouldn't it be nice if people could live wherever they want without being ostracized?

Immigrants are a vital part of the country. They work really hard to make our lives better.

FREEDOM!

Todos somos America.

I'm a 1st gen. Korean & also half white.
Nowhere has ever felt like home.
You're not American enough.
You're not Korean enough.

Freedom doesn't exist for immigrants in the US.
My patients speak twice as many languages as you, they vaccinate their children to protect them and to protect your children. They have graduate degrees and left their home to save their children's lives. They don't need your hate. You don't know my patients.

Immigrants built America & bring food.

Everyone Immigrated- only Native Americans are from America.

You are no longer an immigrant when you are not going back.

We are all strangers just trying to walk each other home.

We are immigrants



We are family.

Both of my parents were immigrants- my mom escaped a war, me & my siblings are first generation & know what my parents gave up so that we could live better lives. Immigration is important.

Immigrants-
We are the back bone of this country.
We are this country.
Let us in.

La Migra!

Immigration only becomes a 'problem' when affluent white men feel insecure & paranoid.

No one is illegal!
We all deserve to create our lives, our futures. That is what America is about!

This land was built on Immigration. The world is just as free as when the Europeans took it.

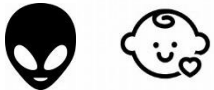
Togetherness

Almost everyone in America is a product of immigration so why is it an issue?

I would not exist if my grandparents had not immigrated from the Philippines!

Let us strive to keep our families together.
Immigration is important and beautiful.

... But we got here first



But they were already there.
-Immigration-
To come

봄이 다가옵니다.
따뜻하고 싱거운 기운이 무래요.
풍기는 이때 사람들 에게 더.
행복 ♪ 나 일이 가룩했으면 합니다.
니를 힘내주세요.

40,000 unaccompanied minors every day cross out borders. Take care of their children!

Mom American Indian
Dad German

Immigration to me means sacrifice and the pursuit of a better future. It means learning all you know for your hopes a dreams

EARTHLING

Immigrants have something to teach us.

2nd generation

Lithuanian American

And proud! America always has and always will be a melting pot and that is why we will always be great!

Immigrants are what made America, America
Having that diversity is beautiful.

It was an adventure.
I didn't think I'd want to stay.
I did.

This is my home now and becoming a part of the city has given us deep roots.
It's hard though.

My Grandparents both immigrated from Ireland. On his deathbed my grandpa argued with my grandma on who to vote for. He wanted Trump. She didn't. He just wanted to...

Grandparents	China
Dad	London
Mom	Rio C
Me	Home USA

Polish one hunda %

More hardworking people in the hard working country.

In July I'll be living in the US for 2 years. America gave me the love of my life and a reason to keep following my dreams.

I am 1st generation. My father came through Ellis Island and was laughed at and felt humiliated as an Italian teenager. He never would speak Italian.

Be who you are, say what you feel.
Those that mind don't matter.
Those that matter don't mind.

Proud granddaughter of immigrants. ♥

Immigration

We are all (immigrants ?) it does not matter from where you came. The dream is to be the best you can be and live in the land of the free. Wherever it be.

-Charlotte Rodenberg

Immigration = unites us

Immigration shaped our nation. My mother is an immigrant and she made a better life in America. I'm proud to be the son of an immigrant.

Immigration is my mother,
A beautiful & courageous woman.
Immigration is my family.

We should all be able to go and wander wherever our heart chooses.

Kultural Diversity

Send these. The homeless, the tempest- tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

I'm an immigrant from England and I'm proud of it.

I'm scared for immigrants living in America and the hate they face. I admire their courage and the sacrifices they make to create a better life for their families. I want to do more to protect them and I know I should, but I don't...

Self Identification & how we perceive identity is part of the American Experience.
ALL BODIES ARE VALID NO MATTER THEIR ORIGIN.

USA needs immigration!

WWII can fascism stole my father's childhood- passage to the US & military service gave him & by extension me, LIFE.

A search for something better.

My great grandmother who came here by herself when she was only 5 years old.

America: a country of opportunity and mixed cultures and welcomed immigrants.

4 generation Italian Amer. I don't speak the language and I make pasta from the BOX. I'm both confident and confused about who I am.

JUTICALPA
DIANCHO
HONDURAS

Families Divided

Ellis Island, was where my ancestors came into. They changed their name.

♥WELCOME ALL♥♥

Weaving and adding and strengthening threads to a diverse tapestry of our country.

I think it's important to know what I stand for and stay as myself under any kind of pressure or in any kind of environment.

Lost & Found

A chance to learn another culture! ♥

I come from Honduras C.A. My Country is nice for anybody only is area/poor country.

Immigration
MADE
the
U.S.A.

I am an immigrant and I feel uncertain about my future in
the U.S.

Diversity ♥

Immigrating is hard.

Immigration is a catalyst for empathy & connection.

El Salvador
Queremos Documento Legalizacion

Lived 1/3 of my life in China not from there... came back to
U.S. Don't feel like I'm from here either... but friends are
good for the soul and God is good.

I think about how unfair it is that people are treated
differently because of where they are from.

I emigrated therefore I am an immigrant.

My Grandpa immigrated from the Philippines and if he
hadn't my parents would've never met then I wouldn't
exist.

New friends welcome.

Do you understand the sadness of geography?
-Micheal Ohdaatje
The English Patient

Love Thy Neighbor

Si se pude.

My family emigrated from Trinidad. I was born in Newark,
NJ. I am Trini-American (as are my children).

I LOVE
ALIENS.
GO NASA!
GO SETI!

We are the sum of our movements.
Bolivia
This is the best country but to discrimination.
I came with student visa

I am very proud of my community of immigrations and grateful to them for making my life better.
STOP Deporting them.

STOP breaking up families.
Shame on the government.

My step mother was an immigrant. IDK where I would be without her.

My mother, brother 12 yrs and I 11 years arrived with 2 suitcases American citizen immigrants from Germany.
She worked so hard for our happy life ♥

Immigration is American's past, present, and future.
Immigration is American's culture.
Immigration is America's Hope.

Immigration is something to be celebrated not obstructed by a wall.

BRAVE.

Like a note in a bottle set adrift. Waiting for someone to rescue us/we are of one place. We are one ♥

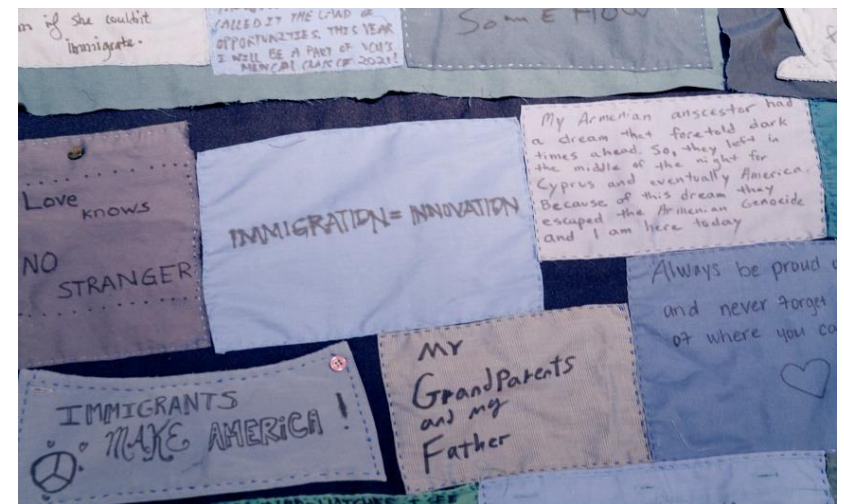
My grandfather survived the Holocaust and immigrated to the US. He was greeted with hatred. He was not lazy or a thief. He cared about his job and raised a beautiful family. He loved the country that saved him and they told him he didn't deserve it.

They sacrificed a lot for me to be here. I'll make sure to give the same. Always know your roots & culture!

WELCOME!

Natives are born locally, Immigrants are born far away.
America is the land of immigrants creating a better life for their kids. Where the fugawee

US



Dear Donald Trump,

My best friend's parents who came here from turkey and do not have permanent visas since they are Muslims from a majority Muslim country I fear for them and their family. I could not imagine not having my friend's amazing parents in my life. They are extremely carrying and kind.

Immigrants are some of the most valuable people in the country. The diversity they bring must stay. They're better people than you.

Something to sink your life into

The Bible says to be kind to your foreigners.

Leaving home and finding a home
somewhere else.

I came from a small village in a warzone. I never, ever expected to get ½ what I have or who I am if I was not an immigrant.

I think about people coming to somewhere. It's what people do. They come and go to other places.

Making a second home because you believe in a future.

Growing up Asian-American, I was afraid to express my culture. Now, I am not afraid. I am proud to be a first-generation daughter from my immigration background. My parents worked hard to get here in a boat across the sea. I will make them proud.

They sacrificed a lot for me to be here. I'll make sure to give the same. Always know your roots & culture!

Homo Sapiens – race, ethnicity, nationality – It all should not matter. We are human beings regardless of where we call home – be it permanent or temporary. We are all nomads. Earth is all encompassing. The word immigrants is limiting. People. We are all just HUMAN.

Togetherness, opportunity, new knowledge, vibrant communities, diversity, new cultural expression.

Having to leave this new country to me after a year of new experiences, friends and myself as a person, in search of my old self and old life in my home country because of the American visa laws.

The US was founded through immigration + we should keep it that way.

Why not?
That's how we got here in the first place.

It's only by happen-stance that we've been born where
we are + have had the experiences that we've had. We
are all one and connected.

Paraphrasing: injustice/discrimination to one is injustice.

Immigrants. . .
We get the job done!

I think about my dad. He is an immigrant. –
Maya

I am a first-generation US citizen ♥

My grandfather Abrelo. Across the sea – never met you.
Maybe I never will.

EL SALVADOR

Immigrants are American too. My origins are Indian, I'm
American.

I come from Congo to Rwanda.
My papa is hard work good future.

Gorette Mukankaka

I come from Congo to Rwanda. Strong community for
strong family.

I admire their strength, endurance, determination,
resilience.

Immigration means diversity. It gives you the opportunity
to meet a soul different from yours. It represents a
spiritual connection between human beings.

Santa Ana
El Salvador

Diversity makes us stronger when we cast off
fear.

Immigration created me. Welcome all who want to make
a change.

I come from Congo to Rwanda.
Hard work
Buy car

Immigration: What we all are.

Exiles feed on empty dreams of hope. I know it. I was one.
–Aeschylus Agamemnon

Isolation.

Immigration is what allows us to continue to grow + learn
as a country and as a people. Immigrants are
important.

New friends.

Struggle

Water seeking its own level

Lebanon

America is based on immigrants. That basis is strength +
resilience!

I think about how unfair it is.

Humankind is my family. We share the planet – our home
Blue coup

Make America Immigrate Again!

Aren't we all immigrants? When we accept one another?

El Salvador, San Gisenie

Everyone deserves a fresh start.

Us, we are

My ancestors came to Plymouth Rock on the Mayflower
seeking religious freedom – that's one reason why I
help immigrants today.

One struggle
One fight
Acceptance

Immigration is the base of American
culture

America was built on the same immigrants back that
you're trying to kick out.
Immigrant = New family member!

Where are you from?

Hello!
Hola!
Bonjour
Chia Ban
Welcome Family

You too shall grow roots.

Resilience
Tenacity
Hope

Bring us many new friends

Opportunity + Inclusivity

No human being is illegal.
Mexico is the shit

Santa Ana Sontro. Amerika Roverta

I come from Congo to Kenya
My purpose to study hard for a good future.

I come from Congo to Rwanda.
My purpose
Good thing for children.

My purpose is my whole family here for a better future.

Family
You have to seek the truth

It is what makes our country!

Dreamer
Mother Home

Our Mother Africa

You are in limbo. Neither here nor there

Immigration is...
Feeling ashamed of the language you grew up hearing.
Feeling afraid that you're wrong just for being who you
are and living where you live.
Feeling innocent as a child, following your parents to a
place called SAFETY and BETTER EDUCATION, and
JOBS.

MY FAMILY IS THE PLACE I CALL HOME ♥



Though I am not personally affected by immigration, I know many people are.
I feel like the most American people are often immigrants. It is inhuman to judge people based on skin color, country of origin, or clothing. They are not terrorists, terrorism is killing civilians.
Without immigration, America wouldn't be America.
-ELD

"Whether the bombs fall on you or not, immigration splits
you wide open.
You are still not Free.
No matter where you go, the dead and those left behind
follow you.

Those around you call you everything but the name that you were born with.

But know that you too are everywhere.
You are a winged seed.
So long as there is iron in the earth, your blood... as long
as the wind blows and the river flows...

Immigration is unity, diversity, new found opportunities.
Unite as one & we all win! -Jaliah Muhammad #World
Peace☺

