

MOVE:

POWERING MOVEMENTS & LEADERSHIP FOR MIGRANT-LED CHANGE

Each year, millions of people migrate in search of safety, livelihoods, basic protections, and family reunification.

Resourcing Migrant
Leadership and Movements for
a Just and Sustainable Future

We have a responsibility to trust and resource the leadership and movements of people who have direct, lived experience with migration. They know best how to create a just and sustainable future where human dignity flourishes for people on the move—and therefore, for all of us.

Far from Refuge,
Migrants Face Exclusion
and Discrimination

As conflict and climate-related crises worsen, economic inequality deepens, and democracy and human rights come under growing threat, more and more people will be compelled or choose to move across borders. Far from a place of refuge, however, people on the move encounter routine violence and discrimination upon their journeys or when they arrive at their destination. Pushed into systems designed to exclude them from basic services and protections, including laws that implicitly or explicitly deny them their rights, **people on the move are routinely denied the possibility of accessing quality jobs, health care, and housing.** Ethnic minorities, women and girls, LGBTQ+ migrants, undocumented migrants, informal workers, and migrants with disabilities are even more vulnerable to violations.



Systemic racism and xenophobia perpetuate this reality, fuelling harmful narratives and policies that cast migrants as a threat to national security. Meanwhile, migrant perspectives are routinely excluded from policy tables. **When people in government and other powerful institutions attempt to promote migrant rights, they do so without the meaningful participation of—or accountability to—migrant communities,** offering top-down, short-term solutions that fail to meaningfully transform the experiences of, or shift power towards, people on the move.

The Power and Potential of Migrant Leadership and Movements

Whether they are Syrians seeking safety in Lebanon, Somalis migrating to South Africa, or migrant women who labour as domestic workers in every region, **people on the move know best the problems they face and the solutions they require.**



Across and within regions, however, migrants encounter significant barriers to transforming their reality: advocacy and organising efforts led by migrants are still largely disconnected and underfunded, and in some situations, the political systems within which they operate actively prevent them from uniting. Deeply entrenched racist, discriminatory narratives about migrants are difficult to surmount and fear of retribution or reprisals by governments and members of the general public for speaking out can create a chilling effect.

Amidst these challenging circumstances, people on the move and their allies are coming together to transform the policies, public attitudes, and systems that govern migrants' lives. From organising migrant workers across care, tech, and agriculture, to building migrant artists' power to advocate for social justice, people on the move are leading visionary initiatives that demonstrate their power and potential to spark change.

With more robust, flexible funding and trusted, holistic support, migrants and their allies will be able to forge greater connections with one another across sectors and geographies; invest in the health and well-being of their organisations, networks, and members; and build the kind of collective power necessary to strengthen and sustain movements for migrant rights around the world.

The Porticus MOVE Programme

In 2022, Porticus began to explore how we might direct our resources to address the systemic discrimination migrants experience on their journeys and upon arrival in a new home. Drawing on our existing relationships with social justice organisations, we listened to and built trust with migrant leaders and their allies. **Together, we surfaced learnings that underscored the importance—and the indispensability—of migrant leadership and movements in shaping policies and public opinion on behalf of migrants** and bringing about lasting change for people on the move.

Today, with a focus on destinations or points of transit in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa, **our MOVE programme aims to:**



Shift MINDSETS and narratives to build broader support for new and sustained positive change for people on the move.



Ensure movements led by and for people with **lived experience of migration have the capacity, resources, skills, and OPPORTUNITIES** to hold the line against negative pushback and advance positive change.



Amplify the diverse VOICES, experiences, and expertise of people on the move to lead the change they want to see in the world.



Connect movements by and for people on the move to **EXCHANGE learning and ideas for greater collaboration**, collective power, and results.



Shift power structures within migration systems to **ensure the EQUITABLE, meaningful participation of people with lived experience** of migration and forced displacement.

We realise these goals by:

- 1 Delivering flexible grants** to migrant leaders and their allies that enable organising, reflection, and planning towards long-term systems change.
- 2 Conducting rigorous, collaborative learning** to share with the larger field.
- 3 Seeking to understand and address the ways in which gender, race, disability, and other identities** for which people are marginalised compound systemic discrimination and barriers to leadership among people on the move.
- 4 Reflecting on our own funding practices and explore opportunities for co-funding** and coordination among other funders for greater impact.
- 5 Weaving meaningful connections** among and across Porticus partners and programmes.

➤ LOOKING AHEAD : Resourcing the Power of Migrant-Led Change

We look forward to connecting with and learning from others who share our commitment to partnering with and resourcing migrant-led movements and migrant leadership to transform systems, policies, and practices on behalf of migrants' dignity and human rights. **Please contact us at move@porticus.com for more information and to join us in conversation.**

IGNITE:

STANDING WITH MIGRANT WORKERS TO BUILD POWER FOR MIGRANT RIGHTS

A World Where Migrants Live and Work Safely with Dignity and Human Rights

We believe in a world where migrant workers have the collective power to advocate for their human rights, a world where migrants can live and work safely with dignity, and a world where all migrants, their families, and communities have what they need to flourish and thrive.

Migrant Workers Experience Routine Exploitation and Abuse

Each year, millions of people migrate across borders in search of safety, security, family, and opportunity. But along their journeys, and once they arrive at their destination, **people on the move are routinely targeted with exploitation and abuse when they attempt to earn a living.** Pushed into a system in which government authorities, recruitment agencies, businesses, and private employers exploit migrant workers for their benefit, many are forced into unsafe, poorly paid jobs where they are isolated from one another and larger society, disconnected from formal, regulated industries, and denied protections from commonplace violations like wage theft and violence. Labouring in rural areas and inside private homes, agricultural and domestic workers are among the most likely to be targeted with abuse.

A System Designed to Prevent Progress on Migrant Workers' Rights

Today, labour laws intentionally or unintentionally control, exclude, or neglect migrant workers. As a result, governments, recruitment agencies, private sector employers, and others act with widespread impunity and are rarely held accountable to international labour standards and human rights. Together, this perpetuates **a system designed to keep migrant workers in a position of insecurity and isolation whereby their rights are easily and routinely violated.**

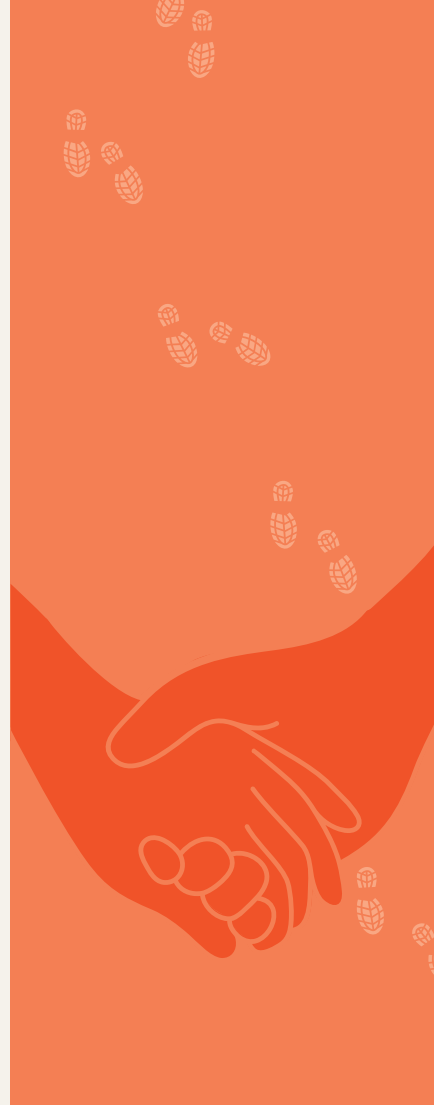
Government actors and private employers currently wield disproportionate power over migration and labour policy, particularly in destination countries where most violations occur. Despite the fact that migrant workers are organising for change worldwide, they face numerous barriers to influencing laws and policies, including being disconnected or excluded from decision-making arenas. **Until migrant workers' power, perspectives and expertise are fully centred across migration and labour policymaking, proposed solutions will fail to meaningfully transform the underlying, structural conditions responsible for migrant worker abuse.**

The Promise and Urgency of Worker-Led Organizing

From Asia and the Middle East to Europe and beyond, organisations and initiatives led by, for, and on behalf of migrant workers are organising for just and equitable working conditions—from the hyper-local in their own places of employment, to broader systemic levels where they hope to bring about widespread respect for their human rights.

To ensure migrants' own and future generations' safety, dignity, and well-being, we must build on and resource existing migrant worker organising and pursue both innovative and proven pathways to change. This includes viewing workers as whole people affected by a range of social justice issues who can organise within and on behalf of their communities for labour and other basic human rights.

Together, we can strengthen solidarity across migrant-worker and allied organisations, countries, and regions, and shift the balance of power such that migrant workers are leading movements to shape policies that centre, protect, and hold employers, states, and others accountable to their rights and enhance the well-being of the diverse communities to which they belong.



IGNITE: Standing with Migrant Workers to Build Power for Migrant Rights

After a period of listening to migrant worker leaders and other people with lived experience and learned expertise in migrant labour exploitation, Porticus launched the IGNITE programme. With an initial five-year commitment, **we are delivering flexible, multi-year support to agricultural and domestic migrant workers and their allies in Thailand, Malaysia, Jordan, Lebanon, France, Portugal, and Spain—each of which are destination countries for domestic and agricultural migrant workers.** We are also funding a small number of global and regional grantees to activate connections and change on migrant workers' rights at multiple levels.



IGNITE aims to protect and promote migrant workers' rights through:



SERVICE DELIVERY to meet **workers' immediate needs** and connect them to training and opportunities that offer pathways to organising and advocacy.



NETWORKING and COLLABORATION to build **solidarity** among migrant organisations and their allies to advocate for systems change across sectors and geographies.



ORGANISING that supports workers in overcoming isolation and identifying strategies **to build collective power** for collective wins.



RESEARCH to **continually learn** from, adapt, and strengthen our approach.



Migrant worker-led ADVOCACY to create and uphold labour protections; hold governments, employers, and others accountable to their rights; improve access to quality services; and transform public attitudes and beliefs.

Throughout our programme, we centre values of collaboration, shared learning, and reflection. We realise our goals by:

- 1 **Prioritising the active participation of people with lived experience of migration** in our programme design, implementation, and learning.
- 2 **Being flexible, adaptive, and responsive** to the emerging needs, regional nuances, and shifting contexts of migrant workers.
- 3 Seeking to understand and **address the ways in which harmful gender norms** play a significant role in exacerbating the risks that migrant workers face.
- 4 **Inspiring and igniting greater philanthropic support** for migrant solidarity and migrant-led solutions for workers' rights.
- 5 **Weaving meaningful connections** among and across Porticus partners and programmes.

➤ **LOOKING AHEAD : Igniting Collective Change for Migrant Workers' Rights**

We look forward to connecting with and learning from others who share our commitment to partnering with migrant workers and their allies to realise a world where all people on the move can live and work safely, with dignity, for generations to come. **Please contact us at ignite@porticus.com for more information and to join us in conversation.**

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP:

EXPANDING WELCOMING, SAFE & DIGNIFIED PATHWAYS FOR REFUGEES

Expanding Welcoming, Dignified Pathways for Refugees

Around the world, far too many refugees who cannot return home for fear of violence and prosecution **await the chance to lead safe, dignified lives in new places.** To begin to address the need for more safe pathways to resettlement, a growing number of individuals and communities are mobilizing support for refugees so that they can resettle and thrive.

At Porticus, we believe we can expand refugees' access to safe, effective resettlement pathways by working together to maximise the potential of community sponsorship—an approach that offers refugees the best chance to resettle successfully and host communities a chance to break through divisive rhetoric around migration, align with their values, and make a meaningful difference in their own and others' lives.



Community Sponsorship Creates Benefits for All

Through community sponsorship, people come together to welcome refugees as they seek safety and stability in a new country. Drawing on their own skills, relationships, and understanding of their community, sponsors work individually and collectively, often with the guidance of and in partnership with local civil society organisations and government, to **connect newcomers to a range services, supports, and community life—from safe and stable housing and health care to employment opportunities, language classes, and education.**

In addition to being of significant benefit to refugees who resettle, who for instance, find jobs and achieve language fluency more quickly, community sponsors report a greater sense of agency in the face of increasing political polarisation that seems out of their hands. Time and again, participants share that as they collaborate with others to support newcomers, even across political divides, and as they connect with refugees across language, culture, and experience, their communities emerge stronger and more vibrant.

The collaborative, community-led approach of community sponsorship has also drawn accolades from public and private stakeholders. Increasingly, they are witnessing **what is possible when communities assume greater ownership over resettlement and navigate local realities and resources to mobilise the meaningful support** necessary for refugees, and their new communities, to flourish.



Momentum Builds to Welcome and Host Refugees

Today, low- and middle-income countries whose resources and infrastructure are already stretched extremely thin find themselves overwhelmingly responsible for providing the majority of the world's refugees with support and protection. Fortunately, this is starting to shift. **In less than a decade, community sponsorship programmes in high-income countries have expanded significantly, first in Canada, and more recently, extending across Europe and the United States.** As governments, individuals, and civil society organisations in these places increasingly embrace the value and viability of community sponsorship within the context of global resettlement and protection systems, high-income countries can alleviate more of the burden placed on lower-income countries and assume a more equitable, appropriate share of their own.

Two recent refugee crises have brought renewed attention to the effectiveness of community sponsorship programmes. **Following the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, many people in Europe and the US enthusiastically welcomed refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine, helping them find places to live, work, and send their children to school.** The ways in which communities in Europe mobilised creatively and quickly on behalf of Ukrainian refugees has become an example of what is possible when barriers to resettlement are removed, new tools are created, and communities can help on their own terms. These two higher-profile refugee crises also raised awareness about the needs of refugees in other countries and inspired innovative programmes like the [Sponsor Circle Program](#), initially created to welcome Afghans and expanded to include Ukrainians, and [United4Ukraine](#), both of which are in the US, as well as [Homes for Ukraine](#) in the United Kingdom. These programmes then further inspired [Welcome Corps](#), the biggest innovation in refugee resettlement through community sponsorship in the US. Indeed, in the last few years, **there has been exponential growth in the number of communities and countries engaged in sponsorship and the number of sponsored refugees in the US and Europe.**

The Porticus COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP Programme:

Today, Porticus is working to expand support for and strengthen community sponsorship programmes at local, national, regional, and global levels in the US and Europe. In Europe, Porticus funds a region-wide network with specific projects in countries such as Poland.

Through Porticus' many partnerships across the community sponsorship ecosystem, Porticus aims to bring refugees to safety by working to ensure that:



Communities around the world directly engage in **organised and planned resettlement** beyond individual volunteerism.



Governments, the private sector, and civil society share their overall responsibility of implementing community sponsorship initiatives.



Civil society, UN agencies, foundations, and the academic world form a **global movement for community sponsorship**.

Porticus realises these goals by:

- 1 Delivering grants to **build the skills and capacity** of local community sponsorship groups, civil society organisations, and governments to **establish, expand or strengthen** their community sponsorship programmes.
- 2 **Partnering with a dynamic and expanding ecosystem** that includes host communities, civil society organisations, multi-stakeholder networks such as the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative, faith-based organisations, and a growing network of donors.
- 3 **Investing in strategic communications** and storytelling to build buy-in among stakeholders and a more welcoming culture for community sponsorship.
- 4 Resourcing **quantitative and qualitative research** of community sponsorship to strengthen the evidence-based nature of existing and future programmes.
- 5 Seeking to understand and address the needs of, and challenges faced by, **refugees who are especially marginalised** and at risk of exploitation such as LGBTIQ+ refugees, women, and girls who have experienced torture and abuse.
- 6 **Weaving meaningful connections** among and across Porticus partners and programmes.

➤ LOOKING AHEAD: Growing the Power & Potential of Community Sponsorship

We look forward to connecting with and learning from others who share our commitment to extending the power and potential of community sponsorship to ensure safe, dignified resettlement for more refugees—and to ensure more welcoming, vibrant communities for us all. **Please contact us at communitysponsorship@porticus.com for more information and to join us in conversation.**

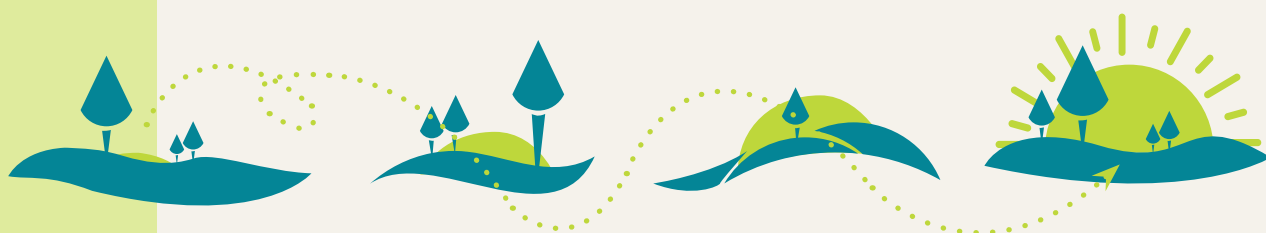
BEYOND IMMIGRATION DETENTION:

ENSURING MIGRANTS' DIGNITY, SAFETY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

At Porticus, we believe that the dignity and human rights of all people, regardless of their immigration status, must be respected and upheld. We also believe that people who are directly affected by rights violations must be at the centre of decision-making for just and equitable change.

Partnering with People on the Move for Dignity, Safety, and Human Rights

Today, Porticus is investing in the leadership, solutions, and advocacy of people on the move who are affected by the rising threat of inhumane, arbitrary immigration detention. **Together, we promote just alternatives to detention and respect for migrants' dignity, safety, and human rights.**



Detention Poses Grave, Growing Threat to Migrant Rights and Well-Being

Each year, millions of people move across borders in search of safety, economic livelihoods, basic protections, educational opportunities, and to reunite with family. Meanwhile, states are increasingly turning to detention as a blunt tool to manage many aspects of migration—from detaining people during identity checks to holding people for years while their asylum claims are considered—with grave implications for migrants' dignity and human rights.

Around the world, people with a wide range of experience with migration are being detained, whether it is someone who has lived in a country for decades without legal status, a student whose visa has expired and is now seeking asylum, or a person who routinely crosses a border for seasonal work.

**“I couldn’t even
communicate
with my family.
They were
anxious. They
thought I was
dead.”**

*Ali, Detained
in Greece*

PICUM,
Locked Up, 2022



“It was so stressful, so inhumane, to be kept there without knowing how long I would have to stay...I pray every day that people looking for protection are treated fairly.”

Hélène, Detained in Belgium

PICUM,
Locked Up, 2022



As states' reliance on detention expands, migrants are increasingly subjected to arbitrary, inhumane, indefinite, and unlawful detention, in clear violation of international human rights standards. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and others have characterised immigration detention as a growing human rights challenge.

People in immigration detention are deprived of their most basic agency and freedoms, subjected to human rights violations and abuse that include torture, inadequate medical care, and neglect. They are also commonly denied access to legal representation, services, and advocacy required to challenge their detention, resolve their immigration status, or establish their right to refugee protection. Detention centres, often in locations hidden from public view, are known for their extreme lack of transparency.

Children, detained throughout the world, face considerably greater risks of violations and abuse. Children are also frequently separated—at times intentionally—from their family members in detention, compounding the trauma and suffering that they face.

Indeed, the **consequences of detention are wide-ranging and severe, affecting the mental, emotional, physical, and economic well-being of individuals, families, and communities**, within and beyond detention centres. Meanwhile, the health and well-being of entire communities suffer when the threat of detention causes people to avoid work, school, or medical treatment—not to mention the psychological distress caused by a pervasive climate of fear and being cut off from informal and formal support networks.

Without change, governments' reliance on inhumane, arbitrary detention will have a lasting negative impact on societies worldwide.



Beyond Immigration Detention: The Porticus Approach

In 2023, Porticus launched a programme to address the immediate needs of people affected by immigration detention, and to build the collective power of migrants and their allies to **promote just alternatives to detention—understood to be any legislation, policy, or practice, formal or informal, that ensures people are not detained for reasons related to their migration status.** Examples of just alternatives to detention, from policies that prohibit child detention to proactive approaches that identify and support migrants in resolving issues that make them vulnerable to detention, are already being piloted in the regions where we work.

Employing a cross-regional approach, Porticus is focusing our support on South Africa; Malaysia and Thailand; and Europe, where we support regional- and national-level activities in countries with promising practices or opportunities.



In meaningful partnership with people on the move, we are working to ensure:



People on the move affected by detention—including individuals and their communities—can **exercise their basic rights**.



Detention facilities and institutions operate with transparency, end human rights violations, and **ensure migrants' access to justice**.



States implement **rights- and community-based solutions** that begin to reduce immigration detention.

We realise these goals by:

- 1 Meeting the immediate needs** and supporting the well-being of people affected by immigration detention through essential services, advocacy, and legal support.
- 2 Improving human rights conditions** in detention through trainings and related advocacy for reforms.
- 3 Building and strengthening coalitions** among civil society organisations, activists, and advocates who are powering a growing movement for just alternatives to detention.
- 4 Raising awareness** about detention practices and expanding public, civil society, and government support for just alternatives.
- 5 Strengthening the capacity of local organisations and communities** affected by detention to advocate for their rights and just alternatives to detention by improving their access to skills, resources, and opportunities for collaboration.

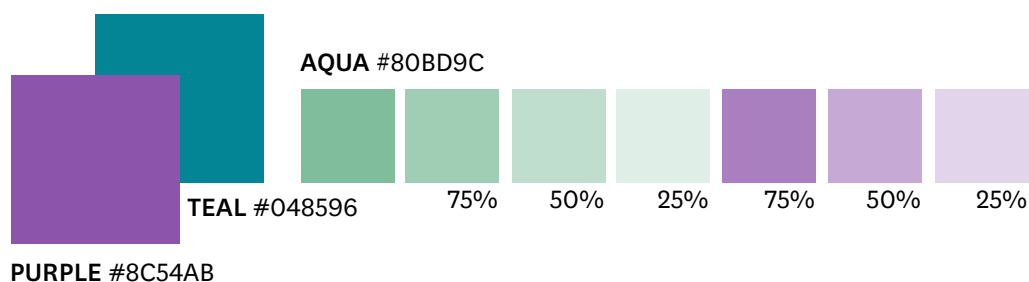
LOOKING AHEAD: Dignity, Safety, and Human Rights for All People on the Move

We look forward to connecting with and learning from others who share our commitment to working towards just alternatives to immigration detention and dignity, safety, and human rights for all people on the move. **Please contact us at ID@porticus.com for more information and to join us in conversation.**

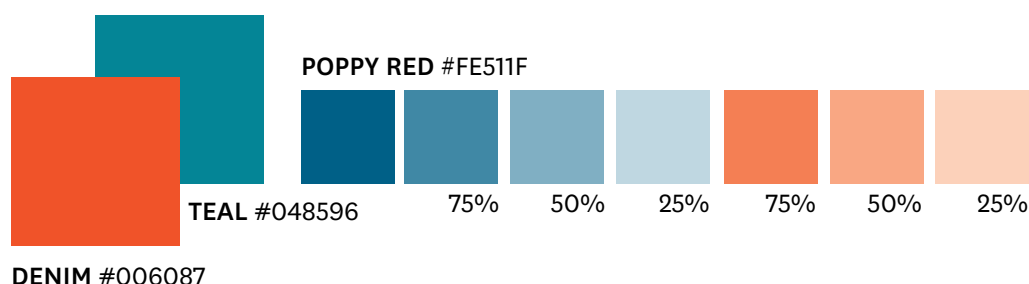
SUBBRANDS

Subbrands maintain the preferred brand primary colour, teal, for continuity. Each program area pulls from a primary or secondary brand colour as the *primary subbrand color*, to be used in complement to the teal. Each then offers a *complementary secondary color*, pulling from Porticus brand palette and offering tints at 75%, 50%, and 25% in alignment with brand guidelines. The result is programs that appear distinct amongst each other but maintain continuity with the Porticus brand.

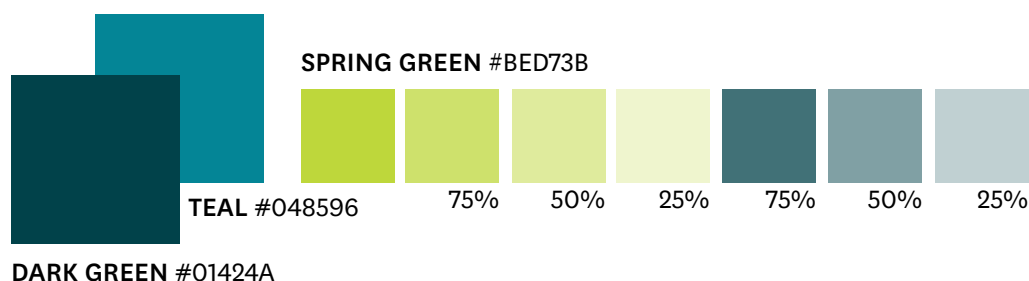
MOVE



IGNITE



IMMIGRATION DETENTION



COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

