Traditional Organizing Model

The traditional organizing model in labor and community organizing has focused on activating anger around a problem, identifying a potential solution and designing winnable campaign around a narrowly defined demand. The example below shows how the traditional model would approach the situation where children are being separated from their families at the border.

Values-Centered Organizing Model

The values-center organizing model builds on the strengths of the traditional model by supplementing anger with hope. Instead of focusing exclusively on the problem, the values center frames the problem as a violation of widely shared values. This model not only enables organizers to craft winnable campaigns, it also enables organizers to sequence campaigns within a longer arc that leads to deeper and deeper realization of shared values. The example below shows how the values-centered model might approach the situation where children are being separated from their families at the border.

Values

- Inherent human dignity of every person
- Importance of love and care between parents and children

Violation

- Immigration policies and practices are separating families robbing them of their dignity and love.

Aspiration

- A country/state where we prioritize the ability of all families to thrive, no exceptions.

Solution/Campaigns

- Reunite children with their families.
- Stop separating immigrant families
- Shame government and use courts to reunite families.
- Reunite the families
- Stop all separation of families
- Abolish ICE
Worksheet

Use the worksheet below to think about how the values centered organizing model might be applied to an issue you are currently working on.