

## A Campaign to Free G

G is a transgender woman from Mexico who has resided in the United States for more than 15 years. G fled her native Mexico, after suffering abuse by her family, discrimination by her community and two severe attacks by the Mexican police on account of being a transgender woman.

At school, G was severely bullied by her classmates. Instead of protecting her, G's teachers routinely humiliated and harassed G because she was transgender. Throughout G's childhood, she was repeatedly and severely beaten by her father because she was effeminate. This violence escalated when G was 18 years old and she was gang-raped by the local police in her town.

Eventually, G moved to Tijuana, hoping to avoid more violence and prejudice. However, soon after G's arrival in Tijuana, the local authorities attempted to extort her, beat her until she lost consciousness, and then left her for dead in the road.

G sought refuge in the United States from this constant barrage of abuse. In the United States, G has been able to live openly as a transgender woman without harassment or abuse. She has held down long-term employment as a farm worker—a job she is both good at and enjoys. Before being detained, G rented a room from a coworker and became an integral part of a loving family.

However, ICE eventually arrested her and put her into immigration detention. Being in detention at the Santa Ana City Jail was a traumatic experience for G and she remained in immigration detention for more than six months before she was able ever to see a judge about the merits of her asylum case. Her family missed her, and she missed them. The youngest boy from her adopted family in the United States was eight years old at the time G was taken into immigration custody. In an effort to help G win a bond hearing, the young boy wrote a letter to G's immigration judge.



*"He is a very good person that I love as if he were my dad because he buy me things and takes me to eat and I love him very much and I want him to come home to us and I miss him very much."*

G won her bond hearing, and her bond was set at \$3,000. Unfortunately, G's asylum case had been assigned to a judge who had proven to be very hostile to transgender claims in the past. Everyone feared that if she could not raise \$3,000 to bond out of immigration detention, she would lose her case and be deported to Mexico.

Through an on-line campaign CIVIC launched in collaboration with First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles' Bond Fund, the community was able to raise \$3,000 and bonded G out of detention before her first hearing.

G's pro bono attorney at the Public Counsel is now representing her before a different immigration judge, and we hope G will be granted asylum soon!