

Thank you!

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your generosity of spirit and your willingness to help. Following is a very brief overview of the volunteer orientation we did, which will give you information regarding many aspects of hosting and supporting the women released from Cibola during their brief stays in Santa Fe. Our expectation is that you will read it through carefully, and will ask us any questions that arise for you. We are so grateful for your help.

In solidarity,

Rev. Tiffany Curtis
Lead Organizer of the Santa Fe Faith Network for Immigrant Justice

Sarah Grace
Santa Fe Faith Network for Immigrant Justice coordinator for Cibola release

Initial and Ongoing Contact

We will be hosting all the women released from Cibola the 1st-7th of each month (**exact dates are still being confirmed**). This means that a woman might arrive on the last day of those dates, and she would stay here until her ticket is purchased, even if it extends beyond the end date. This also means that it is quite possible that we will get more than one woman during that time, so we could very likely need more than one host, and several drivers, translators, etc.

We will be referring to the women we host as “guests” for the remainder of this document.

Initial notification: You will be notified by email. Sarah will be your major contact. Please respond as soon as you know if you are able to help (no need to be in touch if you will not be available). You would then be contacted by Sarah, either by email or phone.

Ongoing: Once you have been assigned a person to host, pick up, or take to the airport, translate for, or any other help, please call Sarah anytime you feel it is relevant --- including middle of the night. Sarah will be checking in with you periodically during your time with the guest.

Transportation

Initial pickup in ABQ: Sarah is your major contact.

The drive takes about 1 hour to 1 hour 15/30 minutes. The address for Department of Homeland Security is 5441 Watson Dr. SE. Here are general directions: Take I-25 to ABQ. You will pass the airport exits, take NM 500/Rio Bravo exit (Exit 220). Keep left to take ramp toward General

Aviation Area, then turn left on Rio Bravo Blvd/NM-500. Turn right on University Blvd. Turn left on Crick Ave. Turn left on Watson Dr.

The entrance to the building is easy, and folks will be helpful to you. Tell the person who greets you who you are there to pick up.

What to expect : Our guests have not committed any crime, but they have been treated as criminals ever since crossing into USA, so they will be brought out shackled and handcuffed. These will be removed after they are brought to you. They might also have an ankle bracelet, and will possibly not have much idea of what is going on.

Here is what we would like you to tell them: "I am very glad to meet you, and I'm so happy to be able to help you. My name is -----. I am your driver who will be driving you to your host's house until you leave New Mexico. The drive is about an hour and a half, just north of Albuquerque, in Santa Fe. I'm going to take you to get something to eat before we drive where you will stay. Once you get to your host's home, you will be given some things you might need and will get a phone. Please feel free to ask me any questions you have."

In Spanish: "Estoy muy contenta de conocerle a Ud., y estoy muy feliz de poder ayudar. Me llamo -----. Soy su conductora que lo llevará a la casa de su anfitrión hasta que salga de Nuevo México. El viaje dura aproximadamente una hora y media, justo al norte de Albuquerque, en Santa Fe. Le llevaré a comer algo antes de que manejemos donde le quedará Ud. Una vez que llegue a la casa de su anfitrión, se le darán algunas cosas que podría necesitar y recibirá un teléfono. Por favor, siéntase libre de hacerme cualquier pregunta que tenga. "

*If you can, please bring a bottle of water and snacks for our guest for the drive. Others have suggested maybe bringing a bouquet of flowers, too. A small thoughtful gesture can mean a lot.

**If you do not speak Spanish and will be driving on your own, feel free to print out this paragraph and bring it with you, to hand to the guest when she gets in your car. Remember, a kind smile and calm demeanor goes a long way even without the ability to speak the same language.

Transportation to airport and assistance there:

You will be taking our guest through Customs & Border Patrol. The ticket for her will be with them, and you will find them to be exceedingly helpful. You can expect your trip to take up to 6 hours, including the drive to and from Santa Fe. Because the expectation is that you will accompany our guest through this whole process, including waiting with her until she gets on the plane, only drivers who are bilingual can do this piece.

* Sarah is your contract, and the full instructions for airport assistance are found in the appendix of this document.

Hosting

Expectations: below are guidelines which we hope will help, and which will also clarify what is expected, and where we can provide extra help for you. Sarah is your major contact.

Respect for your guest's need for privacy is a major concern; remember that she has likely had little or no privacy for all the time she was at Cibola. Let her know that she can close her bedroom door and bathroom door and you will never go in there, and consider other ways you can respect her privacy.

Please give your guest a full orientation to your house, including her bedroom, her bathroom (be sure to let her know that all towels in the bathroom are for her use). Tell her any house rules (i.e., smoking only outside). If you have a computer and are comfortable sharing access to it, consider asking her if she would like to use it, and, if so, give her instructions.

Please ask your guest how she feels about you leaving her alone. It is possible she will be afraid of being alone. If so, and you need to go out for a time, let us know and we can find someone to come over for the time you are gone.

You will get a backpack for your guest before she arrives or shortly afterwards. It contains many things needed for her, including things like toothbrush and toothpaste, hairbrush, makeup, etc. This is hers, as are all the things in there, and she will take it with her when she leaves.

A phone is going to be critical for her --- that is her lifeline to her family and friends. We are still a bit in process of figuring that piece out, but she will be getting a phone within the first day or two after she arrives.

Shopping: She will likely need to go shopping – many women will arrive with only what clothes they have on their back. We will give you a gift card for Walmart or for Target for your guest to use when she goes shopping. If you are unable to take her, we have volunteers who would love to do that, please let us know in advance if you can.

Meals: Please ask your guest what her dietary preferences and needs are. Meals can be eaten in, or you can take her out. We have many volunteers who would love to bring you a meal, please let me know as soon as you can if you'd like that so I can get the word out.

Translators

Translators may be needed for those who are monolingual or do not speak Spanish and are helping with this process. This could mean helping a monolingual host to communicate, driving to pick up our guest in Albuquerque along with a monolingual driver, and, in other ways, helping out where translation is needed.

Medical Concerns

If a medical issue arises, please call Sarah Grace. We will help arrange for medical care for your guest. We have some healthcare providers who have agreed to help our guests if anything comes up during their time in Santa Fe. Your guest may be on a medication that she needs to refill when she gets out of Cibola. Once again, give us a call and we will help take care of that. Obviously in an emergency, proceed as usual for an emergency (calling 911 or driving to the ER) and then call us.

Reimbursements

We encourage you to discern your own giving and generosity based on your needs and life circumstances. We have raised a small amount of money for reimbursement of volunteers working on the Cibola release project. Almost anything reasonable will be reimbursed if you submit a reimbursement request. The reimbursement request should be sent via email to Rev. Tiffany (rev.tiffany.disciples.santafe@gmail.com) with a description (i.e. cell phone for Angela) and a scanned or photographed copy of the receipt or receipts. Once your request is approved by email, (you will receive an email reply saying whether or not the request has been approved) please send an original or copy of the receipt plus description by mail to the Interfaith Leadership Alliance at 564 Valle Chamiso Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87505, with a note that says Cibola/FNIJ, and make sure you include your return address and the name to which the check should be written. Or, if you prefer not to mail the request, let Rev. Tiffany know, and she will forward your request for reimbursement. The actual reimbursement check will come from the ILA, who is our fiscal sponsor.

Expected documentation/feedback

All hosts, drivers and translators will be asked to please submit a very brief written report via email to Sarah, cc to Tiffany, within a week of each guest leaving.

We are asking that it include the following:

- what went well
- what could have been better/any issues that arose
- any request for face-to-face conversation/debrief with coordinators, if needed

Respectful Interaction Across Difference

Be mindful of your own identities (gender, class, race, nationality, etc.) and how they may differ from your guest's, particularly in ways that allow you more access and privilege in our society.

A few things to think about in this context of hosting include: language, race/ethnicity, gender identity, and class. Additionally, there is a dynamic of situational power - host/guest, U.S. resident/asylum-seeker - which could interact with any of these other differentials in privilege & further the disparity in power between you and your guest.

Given all this, remember that respecting the autonomy and privacy of your guest is important. Your guest has just been released from prison, where she was under constant observation and may have been mistreated in various ways. We have heard stories of bullying by the guards, medical malpractice, malnutrition, and just the overall trauma of being unjustly incarcerated and unable to leave the prison environment.

Consider how you might make it clear that your guest can experience freedom and autonomy in the context of your home or of your interactions with her in other settings. Ask her what she wants, give her choices, be gentle and kind.

A few practices/principles for interacting respectfully, especially in contexts where you may experience more privilege/comfort/access:

- don't make assumptions
- really listen (& pay attention to non-verbal communication, too)
- be mindful of power dynamics
- ask open-ended questions that allow your guest to steer the conversation so she doesn't feel "cross-examined" or potentially triggered
- practice humility
- be aware of intent & impact (sometimes we have a hurtful or negative impact, even when our intentions are good - how do we take responsibility for our impact without defensiveness about our intentions?)
- be aware of your own body language & try to practice relaxed presence (not fidgeting, staring, squirming, arms crossed, or other body language that may imply you are not comfortable with or accepting of the other person)

A few things about gender identity

If you are a cisgender man (cisgender is a term used to describe the experience of feeling that you identify with the gender you were assigned at birth, whereas transgender is an experience of not identifying the gender assigned at birth in some way), be particularly mindful of boundaries and power, as there could be a trauma history with cisgender men.

If for some reason you have to talk about your guest's gender transition to someone (for example, someone asks you what the term "transgender woman" means), it is appropriate to refer to your guest as being "assigned male at birth" - rather than inappropriate/disrespectful descriptions you might hear from others such as "a man who became a woman" or a "biological man." Being more careful to reference the sex/gender someone was assigned at birth honors the identities of intersex individuals, genderqueer folks, and others with nonbinary experiences and honors the complexity of gender identity more generally.

Feel free to refer to your guest as a woman, a trans woman, or a transgender woman. Please note that transgender is never used as a noun, or verb, only as an adjective.

Do your best to educate yourself about gender identity issues - but remember it's not about knowing everything - it's about being welcoming and humble and not making assumptions.

Gender Pronouns

All the women we have met identify as women, or feminine, or transfeminine, or trans women, so they use feminine pronouns to refer to themselves and their trans asylum-seeker sisters. This is the appropriate default - if you are able to speak Spanish well enough to ask what pronouns your guest prefers, that may also be appropriate.

Gender Expression

Remember that your concept of gender identity and expression is not central. Give your guest space to express her gender identity in whatever ways she wants. Whatever she looks like is her business, not yours. It doesn't matter how you perceive your guest's gender identity when you see her, and it's not appropriate to discuss.

*For further definitions of terms and some good do's and don'ts for interactions with trans folks, see the appendix to this document.

Trauma-Informed Interaction

We continue to learn more and more about trauma as a society. How would our world be different if we treated everyone as though they might have a trauma history? In the case of our guests, we know they do have trauma histories, either back home or in their immigration experience, or both.

Tiffany Wynn shared about how to interact with someone who may have a trauma history, when we don't know what people's triggers are. She suggested that a calm, steady presence is the most important thing, and that also offering grounding through offering food, water, a safe place to be, etc. are really important. She also suggested that if someone seems triggered, slowing down the pace of the interaction can help, as well as offering information in a calm and compassionate way.

Tiffany Wynn also shared the following acronyms for trauma-informed care:

Respect
Information
Safety
Compassion

Respect
Information
Compassion
Hope

If you want to understand more about trauma-informed interactions, Tiffany Wynn kindly offered her email address and is open to helping in any way. Her contact information is below, along with some other important contacts for trauma resources.

Important Contacts

Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico 505-200-9086
TransLatin@ Coalition/Alma Rosa #
Trans Lifeline 877-565-8860
NM Warmline 1-855-NMCRISIS (662-7474)
Tiffany Wynn (trauma specialist) twynn@prescott.edu

In Closing

Remember that this act of hospitality is a spiritual act, and may not be comfortable or fun. It will be meaningful, though. If you find yourself feeling annoyed or uncomfortable, try to use it as an opportunity cultivate empathy for how uncomfortable this all must for your guest - her journey, her unjust imprisonment, and then relying on others for hospitality.

And finally: If you have any discomfort, questions, concerns no matter how small they seem, please be in touch with Sarah (zecilg@aol.com, 207-227-5811) or Tiffany (rev.tiffany.disciples.santafe@gmail.com) This is new territory, no questions are inappropriate.

Appendix

Trans 101 Resources

*the information below is excerpted from an article by Melinda Harris

What every person can do

When interacting with transgender people in any setting, the most important thing to remember is to respect each person and their identity and experience. The important thing is *how they feel inside* - not how they look outside - just as we all hope that people will treat us according to who we are and *not how we appear*.

Asking questions

Transgender people understand that gender can be complicated and confusing and that most people do not know very much about these issues. The important thing is that people be respectful, and it is generally appreciated when people want to learn. There are ways to ask questions that are respectful and other ways that are not.

The first question to ask yourself about someone else's gender is: *"Do I really need to know?"*

In most situations it is really not important (or appropriate to ask) what a person's gender status or situation is. For example, if someone walks into your workplace and their gender is unclear, there is almost certainly no reason to ask or comment in any way. The person is there to work, and to be among community. They can be welcomed without knowing what their gender identity is.

There may be times in which you decide that you do need to know or understand something about someone else's gender. Most people are welcoming of respectful and appropriate questions. This is often better than making assumptions that may not be true. If the person doesn't want to answer, then they will choose not to.

What is a respectful question? The most important guideline is this: If you yourself would not wish to be asked a given question, it is probably not respectful to ask it of someone else.

Instead of asking, *"What are you?"* or *"Are you a man or a woman?"* try: *"What is the respectful pronoun to use for you?"* or *"I'm interested in hearing about your gender identity if you are comfortable telling me"* or *"Is there anything I/we/the community can do to make this a more comfortable place?"*

Other dos and don'ts

DON'T:

- Ask about anyone's body, genitals, medical procedures, or medical history. If they want to share that information, they will. If you are concerned about someone's health, it is fine to ask, "How is your health?" as you would for any other community member.
- Unnecessarily refer to a person's previous gender status or a previous name. If this information is not known publicly, revealing it could put the person at risk of harm. Regardless of how open a person is about being transgender, referring to

their previous status usually makes that person uncomfortable. Some may choose to refer to their previous gender identity, but others do not wish to bring it up.

- Insist that someone must be either a man or a woman. Some people identify themselves as neither gender, as both genders, or as a third gender. This may seem confusing, but this is a legitimate choice. Some people are in a process of discovering their identity or deciding how they wish to live. People may be in various stages of a gender transition. If you need clarification on which pronoun to use, ask.
- Say things like: "But you look like a woman!" or "But I've always known you as a man" or "But you made such a good/attractive woman." Comments like these are disrespectful and make people feel badly.
- Be afraid to say, "I don't understand, but I want to be respectful of you." Being a good ally to transgender people does not mean that you never get confused or make mistakes. It means that you are doing everything in your power to learn and act in a respectful way, always -- even when you don't understand.

DO:

- Take other people's identities seriously, even though it may not conform to your own ideas about gender or sex.
- Remember to treat other people's identities and choices with the respect that you would want for yourself.
- Respect a person's choice of name/gender/pronoun. If a person expresses that they prefer a certain name or pronoun, take care to use only the name/gender/pronoun that they prefer, and strongly encourage others in the community to do the same. This can take time to get used to, and most people do make mistakes -- don't worry. The person is almost certainly used to mistakes. The important thing is that the person knows that you respect their preference, and are trying.
- Remember that not all transgender people are the same. Like everyone else, different transgender people have different identities, experiences, needs, and interests.
- Act as an ally with others in the community. If you notice non-inclusive language, suggest to the appropriate person that it be corrected. If you know that someone prefers a certain pronoun, it is appropriate to gently inform or remind someone else who is not using that correct pronoun.

- Remember that you may be interacting with a transgender person and not know it.
- Seek out information on your own. Transgender community members will be very appreciative of your efforts to learn about the experience of transgender people.

Language

Language is very important. People pick up on small cues. The following changes may seem minor, but they are among the most important ways to indicate that a community is making an effort to be trans-friendly. It often makes the difference in whether a transgender person will approach a community and whether they will choose to stay.

- On flyers, in newsletters, event announcements, etc.: Instead of writing "men and women welcome" or "for both men and women," try "all genders welcome" or "for all genders."
- In articles, e-mails, essays, etc.: Rather than "both genders" or "men and women," refer to "all genders" or "people of any gender."
- If events, groups or programs (event, social group, etc.) are advertised or indicated as "gay and lesbian," consider whether it really is only for gay and lesbian people or whether a transgender (or bisexual person, for that matter) would be welcomed. If the latter is true, change the language.

Facilities

If possible, it is very important to have a non-gender-specific restroom. Again, this may seem like a minor matter, but for many people who have a "non-traditional" gender presentation, using public restrooms can be a particularly frightening and unpleasant experience. They are often much more inclined to go to places that have a non-gender-specific facility. (Often these are single-person restrooms.)

Consider whether all of your facility's restrooms must be gender-specific or whether one could be made available to everyone. This need not be complicated; covering the "men" or "women" sign with "all-gender restroom" is sufficient. Remember to do this for temporary, shared, or rental facilities also.

Political and social action

Include transgender and gender diversity issues as part of your workplace and community's social action network. There are many transgender community services and advocacy organizations that are in great need of our support!

Basic Definitions About Gender Identity

*the following definitions are excerpted from the Unitarian Universalist Association website

Biological Sex

The biological attributes such as anatomy, chromosomes, and hormones that inform whether a person is male, female, or intersex. Where *sex* refers to biology, *gender* refers to the cultural and social understandings that are layered on top of biology.

Gender Identity

An individual's internal sense of being a man, a woman, neither of these, both, and so on—it is one's inner sense of being and one's own understanding of how one relates to the gender binary. With the exception of agender people, who often do not have an internal sense of gender, most people have a gender identity.

Gender Expression

The ways in which a person manifests masculinity, femininity, both, or neither through appearance, behavior, dress, speech patterns, preferences, and more. This term refers to how a person expresses their gender identity or the cues people use to identify gender.

Gender Binary

A system of classifying sex and gender into two distinct and disconnected forms—male/man/masculine and female/woman/feminine—and assigning all bodies, identities, roles, and attributes to one side or the other. The gender binary is dependent on policing people to make sure they don't digress from the system in appearance, anatomy, or behavior.

Sexual Orientation

The gendered pattern of a person's sexual attractions, or the gender of the people a person is attracted to. *Gender identity* refers only to a person's own self. Gender and sexual orientation are often lumped together, despite being different, because of societal expectations around sex, gender, and expression. Transgender individuals can be lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, straight, or any other sexual orientation. Everyone has a sexual orientation.

Transgender

First coined to distinguish gender benders with no desire for surgery or hormones from *transsexuals*, those who desired to legally and medically change their sex, more recently *transgender*, *trans*, and/or *trans** have become umbrella terms popularly used to refer to all people who transgress dominant conceptions of gender, or at least all people who identify themselves as doing so. The definition continues to evolve.

Cisgender

A term that is becoming increasingly popular to describe people who are not trans or gender variant—in other words, those whose gender identities, presentations, and behavior “match” (according to the gender binary) the sex they were assigned at birth. Cis is a prefix with roots that mean “on the same side”; trans and cis are neutral descriptors.

Cross-Dressing and Drag

Cross-dressing refers to occasionally wearing clothing of the “opposite” gender, and someone who considers this an integral part of their identity may identify as a crossdresser. *Drag queens* and *drag kings* are performers who offer exaggerated, performative presentations of gender and often cross-dress performatively. Cross-dressing and drag are not necessarily tied to erotic activity or sexual orientation.

Genderqueer / Third Gender / Gender Fluid / Two Spirit

Terms used by people who identify as being between and/or other than man or woman. They may feel they are neither, a little bit of both, or they may simply feel restricted by gender labels. *Two spirit* is a complex term derived from some Native North American cultures and can sometimes mean a mixture of masculine and feminine spirits in the same body.

Gender Non-Conforming / Gender Variant

General terms for people who bend gender in some way and/or have non-binary gender identities.

Intersex

A general term used for a variety of genetic, hormonal, or anatomical conditions in which a person's reproductive or sexual anatomy doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. When a child is born intersex, many doctors and parents respond with panic and rush to correct the perceived problem with surgery, which often

causes mental and physical difficulties later in life. Some intersex individuals identify as transgender or gender variant; others do not.

Transsexual

Historically this term has been used to refer to individuals who have medically and legally changed their sex, or who wish to do so. Most transsexual people feel a conflict between their gender identity and the sex they were assigned at birth. Other labels used within this group include *MtF* (male-to-female) or *trans woman*, and *FtM* (female-to-male) or *trans man*.

Transition

The complex process of authentically living into one's gender identity, often but not always including leaving behind one's assigned birth sex. A transition may include coming out to one's family, friends, and/or co-workers; changing one's name and/or gender markers on legal documents; hormone therapy; and/or possibly (though not always) some form of surgery. Not all trans people identify with the word *transition* and it should furthermore never be assumed that transition is a process to be "completed." Some people who have transitioned no longer consider themselves to be transsexual or transgender and rather identify only as a man or a woman (occasionally "of transgender experience"). Others identify as a *trans man* or a *trans woman*.

Coming Out vs. Disclosure

Coming out (of the closet) refers to openly stating one's identity (usually sexual orientation). Being *out* means being open about one's identity. Being *outed* means someone else has disclosed one's identity, usually without permission. *Coming out* is often a liberating experience for people who have previously hidden their identity; it can lead them to feel like they can be their authentic selves. However, trans people who have transitioned are not "in the closet" about their identity, so telling people that they are trans is a *disclosure* and is different than *coming out*. Trans people are not "fooling" or "deceiving" anyone about their identity by presenting themselves authentically as men or as women.

Airport Instructions

Instructions for Assisting Transgender Women/Asylum Applicants through the Albuquerque Airport

Key: Travel is difficult for anyone without official U.S. government identification. Treat all agents with whom you come into contact with respect. These agents want to help. Give yourself at least 3 hours to go through the entire accompaniment process at the airport.

TICKETS ARE ALREADY WITH BORDER CONTROL SERVICES.

1. First go to Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) Services to notify the Supervisor that you are accompanying a transgender woman who has been recently released on parole from Cibola. CBP Services is aware of the releases from Cibola, and should have a list from Santa Fe Dreamers or another organization representing women released on parole from Cibola. The CBP agent may want to see the identification and paperwork that the woman you are assisting has to cross check against the CBP list. The CBP Service airport office is located at the very west end of the airport on the same floor and west of where the Delta and JetBlue Ticketing agents are located. (we've been sending the email to CBP a day or so beforehand so the first step has generally not been needed.)

2. Next, go to the airline ticket kiosk (if available) and print the woman's boarding pass. You may be able to obtain the boarding pass through the confirmation number. You do not check any luggage. Everything should be carry on. Print boarding passes and then go and speak with the ticketing agent.

3. If you cannot print a boarding pass, go and speak directly with the ticketing agent. Explain to the airline ticketing agent:

- a. You are assisting a recently released asylum applicant from Cibola Detention Center who does not speak English;
- b. She is traveling to meet her sponsor;
- c. the asylee seeker would like you to accompany her through the TSA inspection and to the airline gate.

4. The woman you are accompanying needs to request from the ticket agent that you receive "a companion pass," which allows you to accompany her through TSA security and to the gate. You will need to show your U.S. Official government identification such as a U.S. Passport or your New Mexico Driver's License to receive this pass.

5. Ask the Ticketing agent to explain if there are any plane changes or gate changes while in transit. If so, explain in Spanish the transfers to the woman. You may also ask that the airline provide an agent/airline employee to meet the woman at the first arrival gate to assist in these types of transfers. Some airlines (like Southwest) only offer assists to underage and folks who are visually impaired or handicapped, so you may need to request wheelchair assistance, so that the women will get support finding their gates.

6. Prior to going through TSA security, make sure that no one has any filled water bottles, and that the liquid items have been placed in small see through plastic bags. *This may also be a nice time to have a bathroom break, since you will not be able to use it for the next 30 min-2 hours depending on security lines.

7. Show the large computer airline board outside of the TSA station, which shows the notifications for the planes arriving and departing. If time permits, this is a great time to do a little practice on how to read these signs. (you could also wait to do this training after security at the monitors inside).

8. Go through the regular TSA security line. (*though if lines are long and you are worried about timing you can have one companion go to the shorter precheck line to ask them to call a supervisor in order to expedite this process). Give yourself plenty of time and patience with this process. Once you reach the place where you are to present your identification, you will need to ask to speak with a TSA supervisor. Explain that you are accompanying a transgender woman recently released from Cibola Detention on parole, etc. The TSA supervisor will have to go through all of the paperwork to check names on the CPB paperwork. Explain that Customs and Border Patrol has already cleared these women for travel.

9. You and your companion will have to go through the camera security inspection. Then your companion will have to go through a pat down inspection. The women may ask for a female inspector and to do the inspection done in a private room if they would like. (*Again if time is short a non-private inspection is a bit quicker). You should ask TSA and you will be allowed to go with your companion during the private room inspection. The inspection is a body pat down (no undressing). Explain this to your companion. During the inspection process, you may explain to the TSA women agents that your companion has probably suffered a lot of trauma, and this could be a trigger for new trauma. The ABQ TSA agents have been kind and professional.

10. Practice reading the large airline information signs again. Then go to gate. Talk to the agent at the gate and explain that your companion will need to pre-board, and will need extra assistance because she is non English speaking, has never traveled on a plane in the U.S., and has just been released from Cibola so that she may have an asylum hearing. Explain to the airline agent that your companion cannot release her luggage-it has to stay with her on the plane, not gate checked. Also, ask again that the airline provide an agent at the first arrival gate if she is changing planes.

11. After speaking with the airline agents at the gate, if time permits, go and buy a small snack for your companion. She may not have had breakfast or lunch. Also, you may consider making a small donation to her. Chances are, she may not have any U.S. money with her, and this will allow her to buy some snacks if she has flight delays in another airport.

12. Finally, give lots of abrazos to your companion before she boards the plane. This has probably been another traumatic ordeal for her. Wait until your companion is on the plane.