

BRIDGE:

Building a Race and Immigration Dialogue in the Global Economy

A Popular Education Resource for Immigrant and Refugee Community Organizers

What's In the Book?

BRIDGE: Building A Race and Immigration Dialogue in the Global Economy is composed of three sections, each highlighting different tools for popular education around issues of immigration.

Section One highlights what we call “framing tools,” a collection of articles, tips, and activities to help provide effective facilitation. This section includes articles on the importance of translation and interpretation on creating multilingual spaces—an issue of critical importance in the immigrant rights movement; popular education methodology, tips for facilitation, energizers and activities for facilitators, evaluation forms, and more.

Section Two consists of eight BRIDGE workshop modules, the core of this workbook. Each module includes a series of activities, exercises, and discussion questions grouped thematically around a particular subject area. Each module also includes a short background article on the theme of the workshop, as well as fact sheets and resource lists for more information on the topic.

Module 1: Immigration History 101 is one of the cornerstones of the BRIDGE Project, and one of the most flexible modules in the whole curriculum. This module is excellent to use as an introductory level orientation to immigrant rights and racial justice, and we recommend that it be one of the first modules that you conduct when using the BRIDGE Project. Participants will become familiar with the history of immigration to the United States, and discuss some of the key issues that intersect with immigration, such as labor, institutionalized racism and the formation of race, liberation struggles and social movements. This module features the BRIDGE Immigration History Timeline in Pictures, with historical photos to illustrate key dates in U.S. immigration history.

Module 2: Globalization, Migration, and Workers Rights highlights NNIRR’s award-winning video, *Uprooted: Refugees of the Global Economy*, which examines globalization as a force that impoverishes and displaces communities, while erecting borders to migration and allowing corporations free economic access to economies in the Global South. Participants will examine corporate globalization and its impact on migration and communities throughout the world.

Module 3: Introduction to Our Multiple Oppressions, Multiple Privileges underscores one of the key themes of BRIDGE: the complexity of privileges and oppressions that every individual experiences in society. Participants will explore how all parts of their identities—which include race, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, class, and others—shape their experiences with different forms of oppression. This module is a useful starting point for facilitators who plan to use the BRIDGE curriculum in a long-term process, as it builds a framework for all the other exercises in the curriculum.

Module 4: Migrant Rights are Human Rights links immigrant and refugee rights organizing to the human rights framework. Participants will gain a basic introduction to human rights in this module, as they explore the role of human rights in their lives, assess the condition of human rights in their communities, and discuss how different community organizations have organized and strengthened their communities by using human rights tools. This module also includes fact sheets and supplementary materials on key human rights documents that relate to migration.

Module 5: Immigrant Rights and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Rights provides a tool to address homophobia and heterosexism within the immigrant rights movement and other social justice movements. Participants will explore the connections between immigrant rights and the rights of LGBT people, examine how homophobic messages about gender and sexual orientation are shaped very early on from our cultures, families, and communities, and discuss some of the ways immigration policies affect LGBT people. This module works best with groups that are largely unfamiliar with LGBT issues, but who may have more familiarity with immigrant rights issues.

Module 6: Immigrant Women's Leadership celebrates the leadership of migrant and refugee women. Participants will honor important women in their lives, examine the impact of migration on women's lives and families, discuss the specific impact of immigration policy on women, and explore ways that social justice organizations can better support the leadership of immigrant women. This module is designed for mixed-gender audiences, although it is also effective with single-gender groups. It is primarily intended for groups whose primary focus is immigrant and refugee rights, and have less experience addressing gender or women's leadership.

Module 7: Finding Common Ground I: The Changing Demographics of Race and Migration explores the intersection between immigrant rights and a movement for racial justice. Participants will examine the racial and ethnic makeup of their communities, place demographic changes and tensions within a broader political context, and examine ways that different communities have interpreted these changes as opportunities for new learning, organizing, and alliance-building. This module works best with groups where participants have a shared context and are engaged in a process of building a relationship, such as a workplace, neighborhood, campaign, organizing drive. Because this module addresses divisions and conflicts within communities, we strongly advise facilitators and participants to first use some of the earlier modules before this one.

Module 8: Finding Common Ground II: Transforming Conflict in Community Organizing opens a discussion of participants' conceptions and styles of handling conflict. Together, participants will examine different conceptions and styles of conflict, and identify how different approaches to conflict can be put in a wider context. The module also includes background material that further explores different approaches to conflict resolution in communities for facilitators.

Section Three includes additional resources, including a glossary of terms, a list of resources on immigration and popular education, and organizational contacts.