



national network for immigrant and refugee rights

310 Eighth Street, Suite 303 | Oakland, California 94607 | 510.465.1984 | 510.465.1885 fax | nnirr@nnirr.org | www.nnirr.org

National Statement to Support Human and Civil Rights for All Immigrants And to Oppose Compromise Immigration Reform Proposals April 2006

Fair and Just Immigration Reform for All

We stand together as immigrant, faith, social justice, labor, peace, human and civil rights organizations and other concerned communities to support human and civil rights for all immigrants and to oppose the immigration "reform" proposals presently in the U.S. Senate. We oppose H.R. 4437, the immigration bill passed in the House of Representatives in December, as well as all of the compromise bills presented in the Senate.

We call upon members of Congress and the Administration to stop masquerading these proposals as immigration reform. We demand nothing less than immigration policies that are fair and just, and that respect the rights and dignity of all immigrants and other members of our society.

The rush to reach a bipartisan accord on immigration legislation has led to a compromise that would create deep divisions within the immigrant community and leave millions of undocumented immigrants in the shadows of our country. We oppose the behind-the-scenes brokering currently playing out in the legislative process. These trade-offs and deals are based on election-year campaigning and demands by business lobbyists, rather than on the best interests and voices of immigrant communities. We say, "No deal!"

In a re-ignited civil rights movement, millions of immigrants, their families, neighbors and co-workers, along with faith and labor leaders, peace and justice advocates, have marched and rallied in cities across the U.S. The mobilizations have served as a wake-up call for the whole country to acknowledge the vital role of immigrants as co-workers, neighbors and members of our broad society. And, as details of the current legislative compromise have become known, the voices of immigrant communities are rejecting the proposals for a so-called legalization program, and are denouncing the further erosion of human and civil rights through the enforcement and criminalization provisions. The stakes are considerable, and affect all of us.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the 1986 legalization and employer sanctions law, and the 10th anniversary of the restrictive Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. *We cannot allow the current proposals to be enacted as this generation's flawed immigration reform legacy.*

What We Want: Fair and Just Immigration Reform

Fair and just immigration reform means:

- Genuine legalization and opportunities to adjust status for all undocumented immigrants, including youth and farmworkers
- Preservation of due process, including restoration of access to the courts and meaningful judicial review for immigrants
- No indefinite detention or expansion of mandatory detention
- No expansion of guest worker programs
- No more wasted resources allocated to further militarize our borders and to contribute to the crisis of human rights and lives in the border regions
- An end to employer sanctions and electronic worker verification systems
- The strengthening and enforcement of labor law protections for all workers, native and foreign born
- No use of city, state or other local government agencies in the enforcement of immigration law
- No more criminalization of immigrants, or their service providers
- Expansion of legal immigration opportunities, support for family reunification and immediate processing of the backlog of pending visa applications
- Elimination of harsh obstacles to immigrating, including the HIV ban, “3 and 10 year bars,” and high income requirements for immigrant sponsors.

The Current ‘Legalization’ Proposal is Unacceptable

The proposed 3-tiered temporary worker program offers little hope for broad, inclusive legalization of undocumented immigrants. What some are calling a “path to citizenship” in the last Senate bill is merely a massive temporary worker program without worker protections, and contains numerous hurdles that will drastically limit the number of undocumented immigrants who can actually legalize. **Such a program would divide communities, including mixed-status families, erode wage and benefits standards, and place a greater burden on safety-net services.**

The Enforcement Proposals Undermine All of our Rights

Significant provisions in the current Senate proposals would dramatically undermine a broad array of rights, increase the criminalization of all immigrants, result in mass deportations, and unfairly exclude millions from eligibility for any legalization opportunity. The expansion of expedited removal would eliminate the right to a court hearing, while the broadened definition of “aggravated felony” to include many minor offenses would result in mandatory detention and mass deportations. The proposals also seek to reinstate indefinite detention and increase detention facilities, including the use of closed military bases. Encouraging local police to enforce immigration law would not only add an additional burden that detracts from current responsibilities, but would discourage immigrant access to public safety institutions.

Moreover, the increased resources to militarize the border, which has already cost over \$30 billion in the past 12 years, has not deterred unauthorized border crossings and instead has caused a humanitarian crisis with the deaths of some 4,000 people in the desert. Current border enforcement

policies, without provision for safe and legal entry, have resulted in the detention and criminalization of tens of thousands of people at a significant daily cost to taxpayers.

The Proposals Fail to Protect Workers

The current proposals would further erode already weak labor protections and rights for immigrants and other workers. Immigrant workers have historically been used as “cheap labor” by employers and industries unwilling to pay decent wages or to maintain reasonable working conditions. These proposals continue in that same shameful vein, and are designed to force and keep wages down to compete with cheap labor suppliers globally.

Workers need more, not less, rights. A real legalization proposal needs to be coupled with the repeal of employer sanctions, the provision of the landmark 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act that has led to the criminalization of immigrant workers, and which would be deepened through an expansion of an employment verification system. This program has done nothing in the last twenty years but increase discrimination and abuse of immigrant workers. Employers have had greater leverage to threaten and intimidate immigrant workers, break organizing efforts, carry out unjust firings, and lower wages and work conditions for all working people. These abuses impact the entire American workforce, particularly the most vulnerable toiling in low-wage jobs such as farmworkers, day laborers and domestic workers.

No Expansion of Guest Worker Programs

A key concern is the significant expansion of guest worker programs found in almost all Senate proposals and supported by the Administration. We oppose these programs both when they are tied to legalization for undocumented immigrants already living and working here, and as a means for managing future flows of immigrants into the United States. The U.S. does not have a shortage of workers; what we have is a shortage of employers willing to pay a living wage and maintain decent working conditions.

Guest worker programs have been condemned by labor and immigrant communities for their long record of violations of labor rights and standards, including blacklists and deportations of workers who protest. In 1964, Ernesto Galarza, Cesar Chavez and other defenders of workplace rights won the abolition of the old Bracero guest worker program. The purpose of that program, they said, was the creation a vulnerable workforce in order to drive down wages and break union organizing efforts among immigrants and non-immigrants alike. The purpose of current proposals is the same. Temporary, contract workers are prevented the option of putting down roots and becoming full and equal members of our communities.

Future migrants should not be forced to accept a second-class status, violating our country's most basic commitments to equality. They should be given permanent residence status, allowing them to work and travel freely, to exercise their labor rights, and to live as any other member of our society.

No Compromise, No Deal on Fair and Just Immigration Reform

In recent years, immigrant community members, including youth and students, farmworkers and others, have effectively organized and rallied in support of legislative proposals to strengthen their rights and opportunities to be equal members of this society. Despite the loud and determined voice of immigrant communities, advocates and supporters for fair and just immigration reform this year, we have yet to see an acceptable proposal from Congress. And with H.R. 4437 already passed by the House, we are very aware that any proposal from the Senate would be subject to further compromise in a Senate-House reconciliation process, and would likely produce laws that would detrimentally affect current and future immigrants for years to come.

Increased enforcement does not address the complex issue of global migration. Employer sanctions and beefed up border security have been in place for decades as deterrents to migration, and yet the number of undocumented continues to grow. The sources of migration rest in the problems of economic and political instability, poverty and war in migrant-sending countries. Despite the urgency of the immigration issue in this country, it is clearly not just a “domestic” issue and our policies need to consider support for economic stability, fair trade agreements and peace as vital to addressing the migration of people in search of work, survival, and safety.

We will continue to raise our voices for genuine immigration reform that respects the rights and dignity of all immigrants, and is fair and just. Immigrant workers, students and families are making incredible sacrifices to raise their voices for themselves and future generations, in the face of recriminations and disciplinary actions from employers and schools. As immigrant communities continue to mobilize for their rights, on May 1 and beyond, we will support their right and choice to express themselves.

We pledge to increase public education efforts and the building and mobilization of meaningful alliances, and we will encourage and support immigrant community leadership to advance real immigration reform. *We call upon Congress and the Administration to heed the voices of immigrant communities demanding genuine immigration reforms: real legalization, equitable inclusion in our society, justice, and respect for human rights.*

Organizational Endorsers (As of June 30, 2006)

Access California Services (Anaheim, CA)
Adhikaar (Staten Island, NY)
AFL-CIO (Washington, DC)
Alameda County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
(Oakland, CA)
Alliance for Global Justice (Washington, DC)
Alliance of South Asians Taking Action (ASATA)
(Oakland, CA)
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee --
Massachusetts Chapter (Boston, MA)
American Friends Service Committee-Austin
(Austin, TX)

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
(Philadelphia, PA)
Applied Research Center (Oakland, CA)
Arab American Family Support Center (Brooklyn,
NY)
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social
Services (ACCESS) (Dearborn, MI)
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
(AALDEF) (New York, NY)
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
(San Francisco, CA)
Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (Oakland, CA)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, San Francisco Chapter (San Francisco, CA)

Asian Pacific Environmental Network (Oakland, CA)

Asociacion Latina (Clarksville, TN)

Aztlán Media Kollektive (East Los Angeles & San Francisco, CA)

Audre Lorde Project (New York, NY)

Bay Area Coalition to Fight the Minutemen (San Francisco, CA)

Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition (Oakland, CA)

Bay Area Labor Committee for Peace & Justice (Oakland, CA)

Black Alliance for Just Immigration (Berkeley, CA)

Bonilla Community Services (Durham, NC)

Border Agricultural Workers Project (El Paso, TX)

Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (Berkeley, CA)

Black Workers for Justice (North Carolina)

Breakthrough: Building Human Rights Culture (New York, NY)

CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities (New York, NY)

California Partnership (Los Angeles, CA)

Casa de Esperanza (Bound Brook, NY)

CASA Latina (Seattle, WA)

Center for Constitutional Rights (New York, NY)

Center for Immigrant Families (New York, NY)

Central Valley Progressive PAC (Fresno, CA)

CENTRO HISPANO "Cuzcatlán" (Jamaica, NY)

CAA: Chinese for Affirmative Action/Center for Asian American Advocacy (San Francisco, CA)

Chicano Consortium (Sacramento, CA)

Chinese Progressive Association (San Francisco, CA)

Coalición de Derechos Humanos (Tucson, AZ)

Coalición de Trabajadores de Immokalee (Immokalee, FL)

Comite NO NOS VAMOS (Fresno, CA)

Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (San Francisco, CA)

Committees of Correspondence for Democracy & Socialism (New York, NY)

Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP) (Providence, RI)

Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM) (New York, NY)

East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (Oakland, CA)

Eastern Massachusetts Jobs with Justice Enlace (Portland, OR)

Environmental Justice Action (Portland, OR)

Esperanza Peace and Justice Center (San Antonio, TX)

Ethnic Studies Department, University of Hawaii (Honolulu, HI)

Families for Freedom (Brooklyn, NY)

Farmworker Association of Florida (Apopka, FL)

Farmworker Legal Services of NY, Inc. (Rochester, NY)

Farmworkers Self-Help (Dade City, FL)

Filipinos for Affirmative Action (Oakland, CA)

Filipino Civil Rights Advocates (FilCRA) (Oakland, CA)

Four Lakes Green Party of Dane County (Madison, WI)

Frente Continental (Los Angeles, CA)

Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB) (Fresno, CA)

Fuerza Unida (San Antonio, TX)

Gay Men's Health Crisis (New York, NY)

Gente Unida/San Diego Border Coalition for Human Rights (Chula Vista, CA)

Green Party of Alameda County (Berkeley, CA)

Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights (Boston, MA)

Hate Free Zone (Seattle, WA)

Health Initiatives for Youth (San Francisco, CA)

Hermandad Mexicana Latinoamericana (Federal Way, WA)

Highlander Research and Education Center (New Market, TN)

Hispanic American Association (West Babylon, NY)

Hispanic Organizations Leadership Alliance (Washington, DC)

Homies Unidos (Los Angeles, CA)

Iglesia San Romero de Las Americas-UCC (New York, NY)

Iglesia Metodista Unida Summerfield (New York, NY)

Immigrant Communities in Action (New York, NY)

Immigrant Justice Solidarity Project (Brooklyn, NY)

Immigrant Rights Vermont

Immigration Equality (New York, NY)

Inmigrantes Latinos en Accion (Austin, TX)

International Institute of the East Bay (Oakland, CA)

Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (New York, NY)

JILPA (Phoenix, AZ)

Junta Centro Mujer Dominicana (New York, NY)

Korean Americans United For Peace (Bay Area, CA)

Korean Community Center of the East Bay (Oakland, CA)

Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA), (Los Angeles, CA)

Korean Youth Cultural Center (Oakland, CA)

La Raza Centro Legal, SF Day Labor Program (San Francisco, CA)

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement--Massachusetts Chapter

Latino Union of Chicago (Chicago, IL)

Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness (Los Angeles, CA)

Massachusetts Jobs with Justice (Boston, MA)

Maternal and Child Health Access (Los Angeles, CA)

Migrant Worker Solidarity of Douglas County (Eudora, KS)

Migration Policy & Resource Center/Occidental College (Los Angeles, CA)

Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance (Jackson, MS)

National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) (Silver Spring, MD)

National Immigrant Solidarity Network (South Pasadena, CA)

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (Boston, MA)

National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (Oakland, CA)

Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) (Washington, DC)

Network in Solidarity with the People of the Philippines (Jackson Heights, NY)

Nicaragua Network (Washington, DC)

North American Alliance for Fair Employment (Boston, MA)

North Carolina Justice Center (Durham, NC)

Northern California Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride Coalition (Oakland, CA)

Nuestra Casa (East Palo Alto, CA)

Orange County Peace & Freedom Party (Anaheim, CA)

The Oakland Institute (Oakland, CA)

Padres/Jovenes Unidos (Denver, CO)

Peace and Freedom Party

Peace and Freedom Party of Fresno County (Clovis, CA)

Philippine U.S. Solidarity Organization (Seattle, WA)

Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA)

Project Voice New England -- American Friends Service Committee (Boston, MA)

Rural Organizing Project (Scappoose, OR)

San Francisco Central Labor Council, ALF-CIO (San Francisco, CA)

San Francisco Day Labor Program Women's Collective of La Raza Centro Legal (San Francisco, CA)

Section of Christian Social Responsibility, Women's Division, United Methodist Church (New York, NY)

Southeast Regional Economic Justice Network (Durham, NC)

Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (Albuquerque, NM)

Southwest Organizing Project (Albuquerque, NM)

Southwest Workers' Union (San Antonio, TX)

South Asian Network (Artesia, CA)

Speak Out - The Institute for Democratic Education and Culture (Emeryville, CA)

Stanislaus & Tuolumne Counties Central Labor Council (Modesto, CA)

Student/Farmworker Alliance (Immokalee, FL)

The Applied Research Center (Oakland, CA)

ThinkingPeople (Mount Pleasant, SC)

Third World Majority (Oakland, CA)

United for a Fair Economy (Boston, MA)

Urban Justice Center (New York, NY)

UP (United Progressives) for Democracy, Hip Hop Caucus, Cities for Progress, Gulf Coast Renewal Campaign (Washington, DC)

US-Mexico Border Program / American Friends Service Committee (San Diego, CA)

Voluntarios de la Comunidad (Sacramento, CA)

War Times/Tiempo de Guerras (Emeryville, CA)

WILD for Human Rights (San Francisco, CA)

Women's International League for Peace &
Freedom -- Fresno Branch (Fresno, CA)

International Endorsers

Asian Migrant Centre (Hong Kong)
Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) (Hong
Kong)
December18.net (Belgium)
Indignacion: Promocion y Defensa de los Derechos
Humanos A.C. (Merida, Yucatan, Mexico)
Instituto Nacional de APOYO A Victimas y
Estudios en Criminalidad, A.C. (Mexico
City, Mexico)
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development
Centre (Lagos, Nigeria)
Migrant Forum Asia (Manila, Philippines)
Migrant Rights International (Geneva, Switzerland)

**Individual Endorsers (*Organizations listed for
identification purposes*)**

Jose Luis Aguilar (Justice and Peace Commission,
Mexico, D.F.)
Norma Alarcon (San Antonio, TX)
Dean Alegado (Chair, Ethnic Studies Dept,
University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI)
Raul Anorve (Los Angeles, CA)
David Bacon (Berkeley, CA)
Rebecca Barker (Riverside, CA)
Padre Luis Barrios (John Jay College of Criminal
Justice, New York)
Lyndsey Beutin (Raleigh, NC)
Peter Bohmer (Olympia Movement for Justice and
Peace)
Stacey Bonilla-Padilla (Charlotte, NC)
Allison Budschalow (Roslyn, PA)
Dr. Duane E. Campbell (College of Education, Calif.
State U-Sacramento)
Cecilia Chang (Justice for New Americans,
Fremont, CA)
Fei Chi (Durham, NC)
Ben Jesse Clarke (Editor, Race, Poverty and the
Environment, Urban Habitat)
Tom Condit (Peace and Freedom Party, Berkeley,
CA)
Chris Crass, Catalyst Project
John Crockford (Clovis, CA)
Loan Dao (University of California, Berkeley)

Julie Davids (Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization
Project (CHAMP) (Providence, RI)
Devon Davidson (Philadelphia, PA)
Dr. Deb Ditillo (Tucson, AZ)
Lorena Dominguez (Fontana, CA)
Serena Anderlini D'Onofrio (Mayaguez, PR)
Roxanne Lynn Doty (Tempe, AZ)
Dan Elliott (Oct29 Coalition, Sacramento, CA)
Josh Elliott (Olympia, WA)
Ariadna Estevez Lopez (East Sussex, UK)
Raymond L. Eurquhart (Durham, NC)
Isabel Feliciano (Presidenta, Junta Centro Mujer
Dominicana)
Miguel Felix (Long Beach, CA)
Marsha Feinland (Peace and Freedom Party,
Berkeley, CA)
Gessler Fernández (San Francisco, CA)
Eileen Findlay (Washington DC)
Lydia Flores (Fresno, CA)
Professor Phil Gasper (Notre Dame de Namur
University)
Gail Gaston
Norma Gamboa (Mexico D.F.)
Chris Grove (ESCR-Net, Brooklyn, NY)
Jennifer and Pedro Guzman (New York, NY)
Kayla Harris (Chicago, IL)
Rachel Harris (Charlotte, NC)
Norma J F Harrison (Peace and Freedom Party,
Berkeley, CA)
Sandra L. Iyall (Fresno, CA)
Ron Jacobs (Asheville, NC)
Carwil James (New College of California, San
Francisco, CA)
Paul Johnston (UC Berkeley, Department of
Sociology)
Susanne Jonas (University of California, Santa
Cruz)
Rev. Dr. LoraKim Joyner (Unitarian Universalist
Community of El Paso, TX)
Teri Lee (Oakland, CA)
Christina Leano (Oakland, CA)
Linda Lee (Stanford University)
Elisabeth Leonard (Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom)
Patricia S. Mann (New York, NY)
Sharon Martinas (CWS Workshop)
Dani Martinez-Moore (North Carolina Justice
Center, Durham, NC)
Tom McCormack (La Grange Park, IL)

Pam McMichael (Highlander Research and Education Center, New Market, TN)
Jon Melegrito (National Federation of Filipino American Associations, Washington, DC)
Karrie Melendrez (Los Angeles, CA)
Giuliana Milanese (San Francisco, CA)
Raul Molina-Mejia (History Professor at Long Island University)
Dinushika Mohottige (Durham, NC)
Dashal Moore (UC Berkeley)
Dr. Carlos Munoz (UC Berkeley)
Max Obuszewski (Baltimore, MD)
Anne Olson (Decatur, GA)
Mariana Ornelas (San Antonio, TX)
Juan Ortiz (Raleigh, NC)
Miguel Pacheco (Surfside Beach, SC)
Patricia L. Pacheco (Surfside Beach, SC)
Marcie Pachino (Durham, NC)
Camilo Perez Bustillo, Human Rights Program, Universidad Autonoma de la Ciudad de Mexico, UACM
Agustin Ramirez (ILWU, Fairfield, CA)
Paula Ramirez (La Otra Campana en el Otro Lado)
Santiago Ricalde (Paramount, CA)
Sarah Margaret Roberts (Oakland, CA)
Florence Wagman Roisman (Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis, IN)

Rochelle Robinson (California Partnership, Oakland, CA)
William I. Robinson (University of California – Santa Barbara)
Francisco Scarfo (Grupo de Estudios Sobre Educacion en Carceles, La Plata, Argentina)
Sarah Sohn (Immigration Equality, New York, NY)
Kristen Spruill (Corazones Esposados Hispanic Prison Ministry, Cary, NC)
John W. Stanford (San Antonio, TX)
Seung Hye Suh (Los Angeles, CA)
Sean Sullivan (Tucson, AZ)
Tse Ming Tam (The National Economic Development and Law Center, Oakland, CA)
Tuyen Tran (PHD candidate, History, UC Berkeley)
Mark Overmyer-Velázquez (West Hartford, CT)
Rae Voegler (Wisconsin Green Party)
Vivian Weinstein (San Antonio, TX)
Lamoin Werlein-Jaen (UNITE-HERE, Local 2, San Francisco, CA)
Howard Winant (Professor of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara)
Ken and Ann Yabusaki (Albany, CA)
Ranko Yamada (Berkeley, CA)
Susan and Larry Yarger (Raleigh, NC)
Leonard and Ellen Zablow (Bronx, NY)
Sara Zimmerman (San Leandro, CA)