

Reform Enforcement Caucus

Let's Reform Immigration; Fix Unaccountable Enforcement

We, the undersigned organizations, believe it is time to reform the immigration enforcement system in a way that is consistent with our American values and human and civil rights standards.

As advocates who have observed or participated in the debates of the last two attempts at immigration reform, we are ready to propose a new paradigm for the next round of legislation. To this end, our organizations have formed a **Reform Enforcement Caucus** to work together to reframe the debate emphasizing core American principles, such as equality and dignity, civil and human rights for all, and accountability and transparency. We will also work to ensure that the voices of those most affected by the punitive and unaccountable enforcement and border policies of the last several years will be heard in the political debate.

We are deeply concerned that current U.S. immigration enforcement policies are undermining family unity and workers' rights and devastating communities of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds across the country. These policies and practices at the border and in the interior have proven not only to cause intense suffering in our communities, but they also stifle economic development, burden the judicial system, and waste taxpayer money. Current immigration policies have negative effects on everyone living in this country, causing divisions among community members and creating a less free, fair and vibrant community for us all. We do not agree that "immigration reform" should spend even more of our nation's resources on these same divisive programs.

In the coming weeks, we will be drafting a set of principles that are aligned with our shared vision and that outline a new approach to reform which is grounded in a human rights framework.

OUR SHARED VISION:

We believe immigration laws should be grounded in fundamental civil and human rights and the human dignity of each individual. True reform means establishing a system that values migration, supports family unity, protects the rights of workers, promotes racial justice, ensures the health of our communities, and addresses the root causes of migration while preserving our basic American values. True reform must be oriented to address the injustices created by the broken immigration and criminal justice systems. This includes making these systems accountable to communities and subject to rigorous independent oversight and judicial review.

True reform must include a pathway to full citizenship for those currently living under threat of deportation as well as for those seeking to reunite with their families. Full citizenship means equal rights that include being a full participant in a free and vibrant society that works to promote and protect the rights and well-being of all.

Proposals for reform that increase harsh penalties for immigration violations, separate families, discriminate against women, or criminalize communities are unacceptable and violate American core values of justice and equality. Legalization should aim to keep families together—including those family members who have had past contact with law enforcement. The pathway to citizenship should not become an excuse to further divide and criminalize immigrant communities.

OUR PRINCIPLES

The Reform Enforcement Caucus will approach the renewed efforts to achieve immigration reform with a set of principles and values that will keep our communities united and that will make enforcement accountable:

- We will not sacrifice one community for another.
- Security of individuals and communities must come first.
- Families must remain united and not be torn apart.
- Every enforcement institution, personnel, program, and project at the borders and in the interior must be transparent and accountable.
- We reject attempts to criminalize immigrant communities and will work to extricate the immigration system from the prison-industrial complex.
- We will promote the American values of equality and due process of law.
- Local communities should be directly involved in any decision-making about immigration enforcement and border policies and in any review of enforcement systems.

ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

National Organizations

The Advocates for Human Rights

AFL-CIO

Alliance for a Just Society

American Civil Liberties Union

American Immigration Lawyers Association

Americans for Immigrant Justice, formerly Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center

Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

Asian Law Caucus

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Border Network for Human Rights

Breakthrough

Center for Community Change

Center for Constitutional Rights

Church World Service

Council on American-Islamic Relations

Detention Watch Network

Fair Immigration Reform Movement

Families for Freedom
Franciscan Action Network
Grassroots Leadership
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Justice Strategies Institute
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Media Action Grassroots Network
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Network for Arab American Communities
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Poverty Initiative
Public Counsel
Rights Working Group
South Asian Americans Leading Together
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
The Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition
W. Haywood Burns Institute
Women's Refugee Commission
Youth and Young Adult Network of the National Farm Worker Ministry

Regional and State Organizations

1Love Movement (Michigan)
A Better Way Foundation (Connecticut)
Arab American Association of New York
Arkansas Interfaith Alliance
Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice
Arkansas United Community Coalition
Association of Mexicans in North Carolina
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
CASA de Maryland
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (California)
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
Community to Community Development (Washington)
Connecticut Immigrant Rights Alliance
ENC Latino Network (North Carolina)
Florida Immigrant Coalition

Georgia Detention Watch
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights
Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama
Idaho Community Action Network
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Jewish Community Action (Minnesota)
Maine People's Alliance
Media Mobilizing Project (Pennsylvania)
Migrant Justice (Vermont)
Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ
Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance
Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates
National Council of Jewish Women, Texas
Nebraska Appleseed
New York Immigration Coalition
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (Washington)
OneAmerica (Washington)
Put People First (Pennsylvania)
Red de Guanajuatenses en Carolina del Norte (North Carolina)
Red de Veracruzanos en NC (North Carolina)
Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (Colorado)
Rural Organizing Project (Oregon)
SEIU Local 26 (Minnesota)
Sisters of Mercy, West Midwest Community
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
Texas Organizing Project
Vermont Worker's Center

Local Organizations

African Services Committee (New York)
Arlington Proyecto Unido (Arlington, Texas)
A Resource In Serving Equality (Alamo, Texas)
Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition (Austin, Texas)
Casa de Proyecto Libertad (Harlingen, Texas)
Casa Esperanza (New Jersey)
Coalición de Líderes Latinos-CLILA (Dalton, Georgia)
Dallas Peace Center (Dallas, Texas)
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving (New York, NY)
El Zócalo Immigrant Resource Center (Little Rock, Arkansas)
Embrey Human Rights Program, Southern Methodist University (Dallas, Texas)
East Austin Voter Mobilization Initiative (Austin, Texas)
Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami (Haitian Women of Miami, Florida)
Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (Florida)
Green Valley / Sahuarita Samaritans (Arizona)
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (Minnesota)
Justice Commission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (St. Paul, Minnesota)

La Union del Pueblo Entero (San Juan, Texas)
Maria Baldini-Potermin & Associates, PC (Chicago, Illinois)
Monmouth County Coalition for Immigrant Rights (New Jersey)
Mothers Against Discrimination and Racism in Education & Society (Taylor, Texas)
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights (New York)
Palm Beach County Coalition for Immigrant Rights (Florida)
Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project (El Paso, Texas)
Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project (Boston, Massachusetts)
Proyecto Inmigrante ICS (Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas)
St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (Missouri)
South Asian Network (Los Angeles, CA)
Streetwise and Safe (New York, New York)
Texas LULAC District VII and LULAC Council # 85 (Austin, Texas)
Una Voz Unida (Odessa, Texas)
University of Miami School of Law Immigration Clinic (Florida)
Valley Movement for Human Rights (Brownsville, Texas)
Waco DREAM Act Alliance (Waco, Texas)
Welcoming Immigrants Network (Northern Texas)