Immigrant community resistance & resilience: organizing for human rights and justice across borders

NNIRR is a network of grassroots organizations and individuals from across the country, brought together by a commitment to human rights, justice and the defense and expansion of rights for immigrants and refugees, regardless of immigration status.

NNIRR builds bridges across borders and issue areas and has drawn membership from diverse immigrant communities while actively building alliances with social, economic and environmental justice partners. As part of a global movement for social and economic justice, NNIRR is committed to a central framework of human rights as essential to securing healthy, safe and peaceful lives for all.

- Education, awareness building and right-based messaging
- Advocacy, defense of rights and resistance to injustice
- Capacity building, leadership development and support for grassroots organizing

We demand human rights, safety and dignity for all immigrants and refugees in transit, crossing borders, and in countries. This is a global crisis and we are moving within a global movement for safe passage, protections, and human rights for all migrants and refugees.

We work to bring together grassroots community organizing across the U.S. in a common agenda for justice that crosses issues, strengthens capacity, and builds multi-sector alliances. We share a commitment to the protection and expansion of rights, social, economic and environmental justice.

We promote campaigns and broad outreach to push policy-makers for fair and humane immigration reforms and to adopt and adhere to international standards for human rights and protections for migrants and refugees.

We are committed to sharing campaigns, initiatives, challenges and wins at local levels and projecting grassroots voices nationally and internationally on issues facing migrants and refugees in their communities.

We are developing tools, community dialogues, engagement and media messaging to take on racist rhetoric and mistruths that spread hate, fear and violence in our communities.

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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS IN THE TRUMP ERA

Lifting up the human rights of immigrants and refugees is more important than ever in this current period. Within the United States and globally, NNIRR is upholding our commitment to a human rights framework and policy guidance towards ensuring safe, healthy and dignified lives for ALL immigrants and refugees.

We have faced many critical immigration policy issues over the years, but under the Trump Administration we are experiencing a non-stop assault on the human rights of immigrants—and most everyone else, and the environment! Candidate Donald Trump built his campaign on the demonization of immigrants, playing to hateful, racist biases and xenophobic fears. And as President, Trump has played out these messages from the White House, unloading repressive and restrictive executive orders and policy proposals.

ON OUR ACTION AGENDA:

Grassroots advocacy and alliance-building
Congressional engagement is critically important to challenge anti-immigrant policy and funding proposals from the White House and conservative legislators, and we need to be watchful of the impact of mid-term election campaigning. NNIRR is especially concerned with:

- The rescinding of the DACA program
- An end to Temporary Protected Status for many country nationals
- Increased interior and border enforcement, including raids, arrests, detention and deportations
- Proposed cuts to legal immigration
- Cuts to refugee admissions
- Muslim bans

We are working with members and allies on education, communications, and legislative/policy monitoring; congressional education and engagement; and supporting mobilizations and other actions, especially at local levels. We’ll give particular attention to outreach on campuses.

Advancing migrant rights around the world
The UN’s proposed Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration has become an advocacy focus for migrants’ rights advocates around the world, including NNIRR and partners in the U.S. UN negotiations over the compact will be centered in New York in 2018. We will:

- Continue to work closely with U.S. allies from immigrant community, human rights, labor and faith sectors to pressure the U.S. on its positions, especially on safe and regular migration options, regularization and labor rights.
- Provide information and analysis, conduct briefings and strategy sessions and support events and media during negotiations at the UN.
- Bring member voices to the global consultation process.

SCALING UP MOVEMENT EDUCATIONAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES:

The policy and movement-building challenges have sparked renewed interest in expanding NNIRR’s education and training tools, especially for BRIDGE (Building a Race & Immigration Dialogue in the Global Economy) our popular education program. Hundreds of today’s immigrant rights activists and advocates have benefitted from BRIDGE trainings, which grounded them on issues like globalization, racism, LGBTIQ rights, women’s and workers’ rights, and human rights.

Moving forward we are excited to:

- Expand and “scale-up” BRIDGE as a key vehicle for enhancing immigrant community leadership, and building space and capacity for current and “long view” political change. We’re looking to new multi-media technology and online portals to reach broader communities and actively engage members in “dialogue” and action.
- Add a new Films & Multi-media resource page to our website with media literacy resources and critical questions that can be used to promote community conversations and plans for action.
- Provide up-to-date tools and fact sheets on current issues, for use with community meetings, classrooms and media messaging.