

# NNIRR in 2008...

## And what's up in 2009

### *In 2008 NNIRR:*

- **Held our first national conference in 10 years, *Claiming our Rights, Envisioning our Future: Communities Organizing for Justice*, with over 600 participants from across the country and 70+ workshops.** The number of grassroots participants and the quantity and quality of workshops far exceeded expectations and showed the tremendous desire to be part of a “movement” for immigrant rights. We’re excited by the connections and proposals for action that emerged in Houston. The conference report is available online in English and Spanish at [www.nnirr.org](http://www.nnirr.org)
- **Published *Over-Raided, Under Siege: U.S. Immigration Laws and Enforcement Destroy the Rights of Immigrants*.** This is the first annual report from HURRICANE, the Human Rights Immigrant Community Action Network initiated by NNIRR. HURRICANE documented abuses and trained communities in a human rights database adapted for immigrant rights groups to track and monitor abuses. The report included 100 stories of human rights violations and 206 incidents of immigrant raids in 2006-2007.
- **Publicized and worked with local groups responding to the countless abuses and the well-publicized workplace raids sweeping the country in 2008.** Serving as a hub for information and referrals, we kept members and allies updated and reached out to national media to expose flagrant violations of due-process, abuse of basic worker rights and to build support for workers and their families.
- **Monitored and profiled the presidential campaign and the issue of immigration and the elections.** Through our website we profiled candidate and party positions on immigration and shared background articles and commentaries. We generated a brief position statement on our vision for immigrant rights and reforms, distributed nationally among our members and constituents, as a reference point for fair and just immigration policies.
- **Advanced our agenda for migrant rights in the international community.** This year NNIRR helped to lead NGO preparations for the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in Manila, Philippines in October, working with Migrant Rights International and other global partners. We also actively participated with U.S. trade policy and global justice allies on issues and events that spotlighted international concerns of economic inequity, particularly the role of U.S. global policies and practices.
- **Piloted a new popular education workshop on trade policy, migration and human rights**, in Austin in September, in conjunction with Colectivo Flatlander. This is a timely addition to our popular education tools as we join with allies to press the new Administration and Congress on responsible, humane and fair global engagement.
- **Set the foundations for a new initiative to address racial justice and immigrant right.** We are developing a new educational tool for BRIDGE (Building a Race and Immigration

Dialogue in the Global Era) on the history of racial justice and fight for civil rights, to raise greater awareness in diverse immigrant communities, and connecting the dots throughout our program to strengthen outreach, build bridges with African American and other communities of color and work towards a pro-active, common agenda.

- **Launched our current effort to end immigration raids, detentions and deportations with our “open letter” to President-Elect Barack Obama.** The letter also calls for immigration reform that protects human rights and the rights of families and workers is being circulated for endorsement. It will be released prior to the inauguration in January.

### *What's to come in 2009?*

- **Our Open Letter to the new president** with members, allies, activists and organizers singing on and committed to defending immigrant rights and shifting the debate on immigration policy. We will send a delegation to DC to begin talking with new members of Congress and the Administration about our proposals for fair and just immigration reform, and we will work continuously to engage immigrant community voices and build support for important reforms.
- **An end to the raids, deportations and detentions! Our goal is for a moratorium in the first 100 days** as a first step towards embracing immigration reforms that can address the longterm issues of a viable legal immigration program, legalization, workers' rights protections and more.
- **The engagement of scores of local communities in the Human Rights Immigrant Communities Action Network (HURRICANE)** - through ramped up trainings using our human rights database as an organizing tool to document key human rights violations. A second “100 Stories” report from the data will be released early in the year, and we will work directly with local communities to gather their stories and heighten advocacy efforts to address immigration enforcement abuses.
- **A “National Immigrant Rights Summit “ among members and allies to discuss strategic directions for immigrant rights,** given the amazing opportunities and hurdles we face with a new Administration and the complex and mounting impacts of the economic recession on immigrant communities in the U.S. and for affected peoples around the world.
- **Our new report on Trade, Migration and Human Rights** will be a timely contribution to the discussion and debate on directions for U.S. global engagement, and will show the links of current development, trade and migration policies.
- **An international perspectives 8-city, 2-week speaking tour** with provocative spokespersons from the global regions will help to raise awareness about the “root causes” of global migration and spotlight NNIRR’s new report on trade, migration and migration.
- **A new NNIRR “racial justice and immigrant rights project”** enhancing the Network’s education, capacity building, advocacy and alliance building work, to provide more cohesion and to strengthen awareness and engagement in immigrant communities concerning racial justice issues.
- **The annual national Immigrant and Refugee Rights Training Institute** in the Fall -- convened since 2004 and now also unfolding in strategic regions.