



NNiRR

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

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Dear friend,

As we close this challenging year, we hope you and your family are well. With the 2020 election “almost” behind us, we can now say that we look forward to 2021 with renewed optimism — with recovery from the pandemic and momentum towards much-needed change.

Thank you for standing with the National Network. Your partnership and solidarity are needed more than ever as we seek vital immigration policy and practice changes under the new Administration.

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated structural inequalities, and created complex challenges for the protection of human rights, civil rights, and community well-being for immigrants and non-immigrants alike. There is no time to lose.

We plan on hitting the ground running to undo the cruelty and inhumanity of the Trump Administration, and will work with our members, partners and allies to roll back decades of punitive immigration policies. **The incoming Administration must carry out its promises to bring about immediate and long-range immigration reforms.**

The Biden/Harris team has signaled immediate steps to address the more visible and shameful practices of the last four years — committing to end family separations, restore DACA protections for immigrant youth, and end the travel bans. But we need to do more: we seek a sea change in immigration and border enforcement policies, and ***we must ensure that COVID recovery redresses the catastrophic impacts of the pandemic on migrant families, many of them performing essential jobs.***

The first 100 days of the Biden Administration can set the foundation for more durable legislative changes. But as we write, the “balance of power” in the Senate is uncertain — and we know the difficulty of working with a divided Congress.

Yet, we are optimistic... The crises over the past four years have shifted public views on immigration and racial justice, including among many legislators. The Trump years have exposed the inhumanity of family separation, and the brutal outcomes of harsh and discriminatory enforcement by police, ICE and Border Patrol in Black and immigrant communities. There has been greater awareness of the role of “essential workers.”

We need to seize the opportunity of this historic moment to strengthen empathy and solidarity, and build support for the human rights of immigrants, migrants and refugees.

NNIRR priorities for 2021:

Strengthening grassroots engagement and lifting community voices on needs and aspirations are key to bringing about true relief, progress and rights for all immigrants and refugees.

- ❖ **End Trump's cruel and inhumane policies and practices by demanding** immediate executive actions from the new Administration in its first 100 days.
- ❖ **Articulate and advocate** for a new immigration system grounded in human rights, with an emphasis on legalization of those undocumented. NNIRR will bring immigrant voices to the table to ensure their priorities are central to the formulation of such policy proposals.
- ❖ **Document and seek justice for the historic human rights violations at the border.** From our office in El Paso, NNIRR has partnered with grassroots leaders and organizations at the border to raise the alarm on the exponential vulnerabilities faced by migrants in overcrowded refugee camps, farmworker dormitories, and immigrant detention centers. We are responding to immediate needs, and looking towards the future by documenting, organizing and redressing current and historic human rights abuses on the borderlands.
- ❖ **Advance international migrant rights** with civil society partners to help advance the UN's Global Compact for Migration and address the root causes of migration. We will press the Biden/Harris Administration to re-engage in such multilateral spaces, at a minimum, and implement guidelines for protecting human rights for migrants in transit, at borders and in receiving countries.
- ❖ **Address the nexus of climate and migration** by building intersectional alliances with migrant and climate justice partners to develop mutual agendas, as climate disasters and environmental degradation are fast becoming critical drivers of displacement and cross-border migration. NNIRR will seek strategic international engagement to address issues of resilience, mobility and governance.
- ❖ **Organize & advocate at the intersections of social justice.** NNIRR's long-standing commitment to intersectional solidarity gives us a platform for working with partners and allies to advance mutual movement agendas. The past four years gave rise to increased xenophobia, racism, violence, and impunity by enforcement. Our organizing to end racial and social injustice must be inclusive and interconnected.

The year ahead brings with it hope and change. Through partnership and solidarity join us as we **Dream. Rise. Organize.**

With peace and justice,

Alma Maquitico, Jennifer Ferrigno & the NNIRR Board of Directors

P.S. Four years ago, many of you stepped forward with generous donations to help us fight the cruel and racist policies of the incoming Trump Administration. Please give again now and help us end those inhumane policies and uphold human rights in this new era.