

National Immigrant Solidarity Network

4th National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference

April 10-12, 2009 Chicago, IL

<http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org/2009Conference/>

**Stop Immigrant Raids! Support Immigrant Workers Rights!
Together We Build A New Immigrant Rights Movement!**



Weekend of Celebration of Immigrant Rights!

Friday April 10: Community Action

Friday - Saturday April 10 - 11: National Immigrant Rights Film Festival

Saturday April 10: Immigrant Community Town Hall and Cultural Festival (evening)

Saturday April 10: Immigrant Conference Benefit After Party (evening)

Sunday April 12: We'll Move Our Conference to Casa Aztlan! (1831 S. Racine, Chicago)

Heart of the Pilsen neighborhood--Chicago's progressive Latino community, we'll invite the local community to join with us to formulate our 2009-2010 National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy!



**Organized by: National Immigrant Solidarity Network
No Immigrant Bashing! Support Immigrant Rights!
web: <http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org>
Tel: (202)595-8990**

Rules of Conducts *Las Reglas de Conductos*

This is a community safe space conference with respect and unity.

No drugs and alcohol will be allowed.

We'll not allow ANY languages and/or languages of violence, racist, sexist, homophobia, and/or any other social/cultural/religion prejudices against other groups.

Disagreements and arguments are OK but we'll not allow any destructive behaviors.

Anyone who violates this will be asked to leave the conference

**National Immigrant Solidarity Network
April 10-12, 2009 4th Chicago National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy
Conference Coordinating Committee**

Ningunas drogas y el alcohol serán permitidos.

Esta es una comunidad y espacio de conferencia segura con respeto y unidad.

Nosotros no permitiremos NINGUN idioma y/o los idiomas de violencia, racista, sexista, la homofobia, y/o cualquier otro social/cultural/religión prejuiza contra otros grupos.

Los desacuerdos y los argumentos están bien pero nosotros no permitiremos ninguna conducta destructiva.

Cualquiera que viola estas reglas necesita irse de la conferencia

**La Red nacional del Inmigrante Solidaridad Chicago el 10-12 de abril de
2009 cuarto Conferencia del nivel local Nacional de Inmigrante Estrategia
que Coordina Comité**

Conference Schedule

Friday April 10, 2009

(Location: UIC Student Center West, Chicago, IL)

12:00 - 3:00 PM: Immigrant Rights Community Action!

Join with Good Friday Walk, Organized by: 8th Day Center for Justice

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at downtown Chicago

* We'll Assemble at Financial Plaza (Clack & Jackson) around 12:30 PM for the Immigration part of the Walk

3:00 PM: conference space open, tabling begin at UIC Student Center West (Location: Basement Recreation Room)

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Workshop Section One (Basement Recreation Room)

- 2009: State of the Immigrant Rights Struggle and CIR Legislation -- Lee Siu Hin NISN

4:15PM - 5:15 PM: Workshop Section Two (Basement Recreation Room)

- E-Activism Tools for Immigrant Rights Campaigns -- Lee Siu Hin NISN, Perna Lal The Sanctuary - Promigrant.org

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM: Dinner (Basement Recreation Room)

6:00 PM - 10:30 PM: National Immigrant Rights Film Festival (Basement Recreation Room)

Film Festival Opening and Meet with Producers!

Made in L.A.

Children in No Man's Land

A Forgotten Injustice

Saturday April 11, 2009

(Location: UIC Student Center West, Chicago, IL)

9:00 AM: Conference/tabling begins, light breakfast (Chicago Room)

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Morning Assembly: Immigrant from Around World Speaks Out! (Chicago Room)

An open section, we're inviting immigrants from around the World to talk about their experience migrate and living in the U.S., everyone are welcome to speak out!

10:30 AM - 5:30 PM: National Immigrant Rights Film Festival (Basement Recreation Room)

De Nadie 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Lunch and Meet the Producers 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Voice of the Mountain 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

USA v. Al Arian 2:15 PM - 4:00 PM

La Americana 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

10:30 AM -11:45 AM: Workshop Session Three

- Immigration under Venezuela, Haiti, Colombia -- Jesus Rodriguez, Consul General of Venezuela; Eunice Escobar, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America; Leonel Jean Baptiste, Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti (Chicago Room)

- Sojourners Visitation Program for Detainees (1) -- David Fraccaro (Rm 206)

- The Multi-issue Immigration Issue -- Jorge Mujica Justice Mission (Rm 213A)

- LGBTQ-immigrant alliances -- Yasmin Nair CLIA (Rm 213B)

11:45 AM -1:00 PM: Workshop Session Four

- "The Deportee's Wife" Live Performance -- Giselle Stern Hernández (Chicago Room)

- Detention Watch -- Silky Shah DWN (Rm 206)

- Putting a Human Face on the issue of Immigration: Using Made in L.A. for change -- Almudena Carracedo Producer of "Made in LA" (Rm 213A)

- Education not militarization -- Jesus Palafox AFSC (Rm 213B)

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Lunch and do-it-yourself networking/issue meetings (Chicago Room)

- SPECIAL LUNCH TIME WORKSHOP! Making Trade Fair, the Struggle for Justice -- Cesar Sanchez Casa Guatemala / Maya Essence (Rm 206)

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM: Workshop Session Five

- Farmworker-student alliances -- Norma Himert CIW/SFA (Chicago Room)
- Discrimination Against Muslims in The American Immigration Judicial System -- Elizabeth Brotherton (Rm 206)
- "Lost In Haiti" Short Film Showing & Discussion about Haitian American -- Producer Gregory Jesus Luc Bourgeois (Rm 213A)
- Dream Act -- A Mohammed DREAMActivist.org (Rm 213B)

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM: Workshop Session Six

- Braceros -- Sergio Moreno Union de braceros (Chicago Room)
- Sojourners Visitation Program for Detainees (2) -- David Fraccaro (Rm 206)
- Video workshop -- Anka Karewicz Video Chamba (Rm 213A)
- Community of Advocates for Undocumented Student Education Organizing & Issues in Chicago -- Nancy Serrano -- CAUSE (Rm 213B)

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM: Strategy Section One

- Working Class Caucus (Chicago Room)
- Detention & Deportation Support Strategy Meeting (Rm 206)
- LGBTQ Caucus (Rm 213A)
- Student/Youth Caucus (Rm 213B)

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM: Report Back from strategy section/campaign discussion (Chicago Room)

6:30 PM - 7:00 PM: Dinner (Chicago Room)

7:00 PM - 10:30 PM: Immigrant Community Town Hall and Cultural Festival and Immigrant Conference Benefit After Party!

Community Town Hall 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (Chicago Room)

Key Note Speaker: Kim Bobo - Executive Director Interfaith Worker Justice

Performers: BAGWIS, Tonathiu De La Cruz, Luis Badillo.

After Party 9:00 PM - 10:30 PM (Basement Recreation Room)

Performer: ReadNex Poetry Squad

Sunday April 12, 2009

We'll Move Our Conference to Casa Aztlan!

1831 S. Racine, Chicago, IL 60608

Heart of the Pilsen neighborhood--Chicago's progressive Latino Community, we'll invite the local community to join with us to formulate our 2009-2010 National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy!

9:00 AM: Conference/tabling begin

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Morning Assembly: Formulating 2009-2010 Grassroots Immigrant Campaign Strategy

10:30 AM -11:30 AM: Strategy session 2

11:30 PM -12:30 PM: Strategy section 3

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM: Lunch and do-it-yourself networking/issue meetings

1:30 - 4:30 PM: Strategy Assembly

- Proposals: clarify questions and vote for endorsement for the proposals.
- Based on the proposals that are passed, lay down our 6-9-month campaign strategy and create working groups.

End with encouraging words and unity clap!

About the Conference

National Immigrant Solidarity Network (NISN), the leading national immigrant activist network, is calling for 4th National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference the weekend of April 10-12, 2009 at Chicago, IL!

The conference will be our strategy planning meeting for grassroots immigrant activists looking 2009 and beyond. We want to send a clear message to the Congress and our new President:

Stop Immigrant Raids! Support Immigrant Workers Rights!

The conference will be our strategy planning meeting for grassroots immigrant activists looking 2009 and beyond. We want to send a clear message to the Congress and our new President: Stop Immigrant Raids! Support Immigrant Workers Rights!

We envision this as a grassroots activist conference of broad-based, multiethnic organizers from African American, Native American, African immigrant, Asian American, Latino/Latina, Arab-Muslim-North African, progressive labor, interfaith, LGBTQ, student, anti-war/peace and global justice groups from across the country. To meet face-to-face and discuss how to build a new national, broad-based, immigrant rights/civil rights movement, and to set our 2009-2010 national grassroots immigrant campaign strategy.

We'll focus on building multi-ethnic, multi-constituent, broad-based grassroots immigrant rights movements run by decentralized volunteer-based community-rooted immigrant rights activists from youth, workers and community members who can play more active role on campaign formulation and decision making for local coalition building to organize popular education campaigns, such as: campaign to against immigrant detention, deportation & raids; immigrant labor rights movement; campaign against local anti-immigrant ordinance; comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) and linking the immigrant rights movement with other struggles, such as: anti-war and anti-globalization movements.

We'll also discuss the lessons from the 2008 election and what we should expect from the new President and the Congress affecting immigrant legislation for the next two years.

Based on these discussions: feedback from workshops, pre-submitted campaigns/strategies, and ideas from strategy sections, we want to draft:

- NISN new campaign strategies for 2009-2010
- New National Immigrant Solidarity Network (NISN) Points of Unity
- NISN program and action plans for 2009-2010
- An open letter to President Barak Obama and the Congress about our position on Immigrant Rights (which we'll ask for nation wide endorsement and bring to Washington DC at our Congressional lobby day sometime later 2009)

Points of Unity

- 1) No to anti-immigrant legislation, and the criminalization of the immigrant communities.
- 2) No to militarization of the border.
- 3) No to the immigrant detention and deportation.
- 4) No to the guest worker program.
- 5) No to employer sanction and "no match" letters.
- 6) Yes to a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
- 7) Yes to speedy family reunification.
- 8) Yes to civil rights and humane immigration law.
- 9) Yes to labor rights and living wages for all workers.
- 10) Yes to the education and LGBT immigrant legislation.



What we want to accomplish from the conference?

- Networking, Building Allies
- Workshops and skill sharing training that will help conference participants "how to" organize their own immigrant workers campaign
- Expand our NISN work to Chicago immigrant workers, activist communities
- New Steering Committee and Working Groups for NISN
- NISN Points of Unity for Immigrant Rights
- NISN Policy Proposal/Open Letter to the President Barak Obama and the Congress
- 2009-2010 action/campaign plans

Strategic Campaign Proposals

National Immigrant Solidarity Network always welcome constructive suggestions and new campaign strategies from our activist allies, members and broad-based immigrant right organizations.

We are inviting you to submit immigrant campaign proposals for the discussion during our conference at April 10-12, 2009.

Copies of proposals will be distributed to the conference participants for discussion and endorsement at the Strategy Assembly Sunday, April 20, 2009 afternoon (please check our conference schedule).

The campaign proposals should follow our National Immigrant Solidarity Network Ten Points of Unity.

Based on the endorsed proposals, we'll create several working groups, and electing a new steering committee to carry out the projects for the next 6-12 months.

Campaign Areas

The conference will be focus on the following areas, at the end of the conference; we'll draft a strategic campaign proposal.

- 2008 Elections and How It'll Impact Immigrant Rights Movement
- Linking Immigrant Rights Movements with Other Struggles
- Immigrant Raids, Detention & Deportation
- Immigrant Labor Campaigns and Day Labor Centers
- Housing, Education and Healthcare Rights for the Immigrants
- No to the Border Wall and Militization of the Border
- Strategic Resources for the Immigrant Activists
- Support Local Chicago Grassroots Immigrant Campaigns
- Building a Multi-ethnic, Multi-Constituents-Based Immigrant Rights Movement
- Congressional Immigrant Legislation
- International Immigrant Rights Campaigns



How to Build Our Common Ground Consensus and the Decision Making Process

We want this conference as positive experience to everyone as possible, and to build stronger broad based movement. Disagreements will be OK, argument is necessary, but we cannot allow name calling and shouting match.

We also need to have a good conscious on power analysis to understand sensitivities between & to avoid power dynamics over different: gender, race, sexual orientation, culture, language, age, religion, class, political believes, social background, policy ideas and geo-locations.

People should learn to take a step back, take a deep breath when necessary.

Since we want to have a clear policy and project accomplishment at the end of the conference, we want to propose a rule of conducts, as well as decision making process for the conference:

1) Any proposals should be in the framework of our NISN Points of Unity

2) We'll be using modify consensus for decision making process which:

- We'll try to reach consensus to pass a campaign and strategy proposals
- If there's anyone to block it, we'll go to vote for simple majority
- Any passed proposals will be official documents of the conference

3) We welcome anyone to propose strategy and campaign proposals; however, if we cannot reach agreement on certain proposals, we'll put aside as unofficial "additional proposals" document.

* People should also need to understand, passing a proposal doesn't mean it'll be happen, it'll happen when you push for it! Sometimes try not to take too serious.



About National Immigrant Solidarity Network

National Immigrant Solidarity Network (NISN) is a coalition of community, immigrant, labor, human rights and student activist groups, founded in 2002 in response to the urgent needs for the national coalition to fight immigrant bashing, support immigrant rights, no to the sweatshops exploitation and end to the racism on the community. Please visit our website:

<http://www.ImmigrantSolidarity.org>

Print Information about NISN: http://www.immigrantsolidarity.org/Flyers/ISN_9.pdf

Our Latest NISN Newsletter (Jan-Feb 2009): <http://www.immigrantsolidarity.org/Newsletter/Jan-Feb09.pdf>

Contact Information

E-mail: info@ImmigrantSolidarity.org

(213) 403-0131 (Los Angeles)

(212) 330-8172 (New York)

(202) 595-8990 (Washington D.C.)

(773) 942-2268 (Chicago)

Past Conferences

July 27-29, 2007 National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference
University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond, VA.

<http://www.2007conference.net>

July 28-30, 2006 Washington DC National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference

<http://www.immigrantsolidarity.org/2006Conference/>

E-Mail Lists

Please join the our National Immigrant Solidarity Network daily news listserv (4 - 5 e-mails per day), send e-mail to: isn-subscribe@lists.riseup.net
or visit: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/isn>

*The NISN monthly Action Alert! Listserv (2-3 e-mails per month), go to webpage <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/isn-digest>

**Please join our following listservs:

Asian American Labor Activism Alert!

send-e-mail to: api-la-subscribe@lists.riseup.net

or visit: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/api-la>

New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania areas immigrant workers information and alerts

send e-mail to: nyc-immigrantalert-subscribe@lists.riseup.net

or visit: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/nyc-immigrantalert>

US-Mexico Border Information/Alert!

send e-mail to: Border01-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

or visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Border01/>

Virginia state-wide immigrant organizing e-mail list,

send- e-mail to: va-immigrantrights-subscribe@lists.riseup.net

or visit: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/va-immigrantrights>

Chicago/Midwest/Great Lake Region Immigrant List,

send e-mail to: chicago-immigrantrights@lists.riseup.net

or visit: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/chicago-immigrantrights>

Immigrant Detention & Deportation Alert!

visit: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/isn-immigrantdetention>

send e-mail to: isn-immigrantdetention-subscribe@lists.riseup.net



Special thanks to the following volunteers and endorsing organizations

Tom Baker, Jesus Palafox, Ron Kollath, Patrick R. Dunn, Nicole Sutton, Marisa Holmes, Jerry Mead-Lucero, Leila Mendez, Jorge Mujica, Anna Karewicz, Neal Resnikoff, Norma Himert, Bob Rudner, Marsha Love, Siobhan Kolar, Helen Kennedy, Lizbeth Barajas, Caroline Teal, Stacy Harwood, Cynthia Martinez, Claudia Gonzalez, Daisy Zamora and many others.

Chicago Food Not Bombs

Casa Guatemala

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) Los Angeles Chapter

Ombuds-Office of Indigenous Peoples and Nations of Ecuador in America (DEPIEA)

Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD)

Latin American and Caribbean Community Center

Latin American Solidarity Coalition (LASC)

Matahari: Eye of the Day

Lists/Descriptions of Workshops

(List Alphabetically)

2009: State of the Immigrant Rights Struggle and CIR Legislation

By: Siu Hin Lee - National Immigrant Solidarity Network

Updated analysis on how Obama administration will impact the immigrant rights movement; immigrant raids; Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) Legislation; what's the challenges and opportunities ahead for labor and community activists to support the struggle.

Braceros

By: Sergio Moreno - Union de Braceros

How to work in international issues in different languages.

Community of Advocates for Undocumented Student Education Organizing & Issues in Chicago

By: Nancy Serrano - CAUSE-Community of Advocates for Undocumented Student Education

CAUSE (Community of Advocates for Undocumented Student Education) is a grass roots organization dedicated to raising funds and awareness for undocumented students. Join us to learn more about the current student/faculty/citizen organizing. Listen to student organizing experience as well as current struggles of undocumented students in college.

Discrimination Against Muslims in The American Immigration Judicial System

By: Elizabeth Brotherton

The stereotyping has been disastrous for the millions of Muslim Americans and Muslim immigrants that call America home. My husband, Khalid Nethagani, an Indian/Muslim immigrant has experienced this negative stereotyping.

The DREAM Act: Undocumented students and how THEY are fighting for their rights

By: Mohammad A - DreamACTivist.org

This workshop will present the DREAM Act from the standpoint of actual students who would benefit from the Act. Undocumented students from across the nation - Mo (Michigan), Perna (California), and Chicago - will speak about their own lives. We will explain their youth activism going on and our hopes for the movement.

E-Activism Tools for Immigrant Rights Campaigns

By: Siu Hin Lee - National Immigrant Solidarity Network, Perna Lal - The Sanctuary - Promigrant.org

This is an introductory workshop on how labor activists can begin their e-Activism campaign for labor rights campaigns: a low-costs web page and on-line labor and social justice campaigns and activism. Topics and technologies such as: Independent Media, Internet radio, HTML webpage, MYSpace, on-line research, e-mail list and media outreach will be covered. We'll highlight our latest developed tools: <http://www.ActivistVideo.org>

Presentation by immigrant youth activist on the promigrant blogosphere and social networking tools such as Facebook Causes and Twitter.

Education not militarization

By: Jesus Palafox - American Friends Service Committee

Let people know about the reality of the DREAM Act, a de facto military draft.

How to Start a Detention Center Visitation Program

By: David Fraccaro - Sojourners Visitation Program with Detained Immigrants and Asylum Seekers

Sojourners Visitation Program with Detained Immigrants and Asylum Seekers out of the Riverside Church in NYC (the group that inspired the movie, "The Visitor") has visited hundreds of detainees for ten years, and has just released a training manual for how to begin and sustain visitation programs in other regions of the country. Requests from dozens of organizations from throughout the country have come regarding interest in visitation programs. It would be great to have many of them gathered in one place for this important volunteer work to continue in other parts of the country.

Immigrant Detention 101

By: Silky Shah - Detention Watch Network

Detained immigrants are the fastest growing population in federal custody. This workshop will give an overview of the US immigration detention and deportation system and highlight the local and state detention landscape in Illinois. The session will also highlight examples of individual and community responses, including recent efforts to pass legislation in Illinois allowing access for religious workers to visit detained immigrants. Panelists will suggest how you can learn more about what's happening in your community and how you might respond to the needs of detainees and their families.

Immigration under Venezuela, Haiti, Colombia

Jesus Rodriguez, Consul General of Venezuela

Eunice Escobar, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America

Leonel Jean Baptiste, Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti

1. immigration policies of the Chavez government and how it relates to Latin American unity;
2. how Free Trade Agreement with Colombia will displace thousands of Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples
3. Haitian immigration to the US and the continued abuse of Haitians both in Haiti and in US

LGBTQs and Immigration: Key Issues Beyond Marriage

By: Yasmin Nair - CLIA (Chicago LGBTQ Immigrant Alliance), Gender JUST (Justice United for Societal Transformation)

This workshop will highlight the intersections between the struggle for comprehensive immigration reform and LGBTQ rights. In particular, we will consider how LGBTQ rights organising is integral to an immigration rights agenda that is based on dismantling and ending the exploitation of labor. This workshop will show that LGBTQ immigrants, especially undocumented LGBTQ immigrants, are doubly and even triply impacted when their gender and sexual identities fall through the cracks in a system that does not recognise their needs.

"Lost In Haiti" Short Film Showing & Discussion about Haitian American Issue

By: Gregory Jesus Luc - Bourgeoisie Filmz

Producer Gregory Jesus Luc will show his film documentary trailer, follow by discussion about Haitian American Issue.

Making Trade Fair, the Struggle for Justice

By: Cesar Sanchez - Casa Guatemala / Maya Essence

Maya Essence, a community led project that seeks to empower communities through socio-economic justice practices and principles. This workshop will highlight the work of Maya Essence and its partners in Chicago & Guatemala. Also, we will talk about what are cooperatives and their importance in the development of community led projects to counter the negative impacts of globalization and anti- immigration.

The Multi-issue Immigration Issue

By: Jorge Mujica - Justice Mission

Immigration is related to many other issues, from the war to education to labor to the economy. There are forces in all of this issues who can also work for immigration reform.

Organizing through the means of documentary filmmaking

By: Anka Karewicz - Video Chamba (program of Arise Chicago Worker Center)

Present techniques of independent documentary filmmaking. Demonstrate interviewing techniques to help the participant understand how the interview is conducted from the perspective of the camera person, the interviewer and the interviewee

Putting a Human Face on the issue of Immigration: Using Made in L.A. for change

By: Almudena Carracedo - Made in LA

Join the Director of Made In L.A. team for a workshop on how this Emmy winning film and related short videos can be used as a tool in your work. The film's Director Almudena Carracedo will be joined by leaders from Sweat Free Communities, an organization that has been using the film to build support and understanding of their work.

Lists of Caucus and Strategy Sections

- Youth/Student Caucus
- Women Caucus
- LGBTQ Caucus
- Working Class Caucus
- May Day 2009 Organizing Strategy Meeting
- Detention & Deportation Support Strategy Meeting
- Legislative Strategy Meeting

Direction to our Sunday April 12 Conference Location Casa Aztlan 1831 S. Racine, Chicago, IL 60608 (Conference Time: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM)

- Take CTA (Chicago Subway) Pink Line to 18TH STREET stop (just one stop south from POLK stop), go approx 9 blocks east at 18th Street, or take 18 bus, to Racine, turn right (or south).

- Take 60 Bus to 18th Street, go 3 blocks east to Racine, or take 18 bus from CTA Pink Line 18TH STREET stop to Racine

