

How Do We Fight Back? The Resource Sheet

Detention and Deportation Principles

Review the following principles with your community and consider incorporating them into your demands for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR). An indicator of the success of CIR would be a reduction in the need for detention beds and draconian deportation policies. DWN members and other organizations have created a sign on letter outlining these principles to send to Congress in advance of their debate of the issues. **We are asking you to sign on to this letter** and send a clear message to Congress with us. You can find the letter at www.detentionwatchnetwork.org.

- **End mandatory and unjust detention and support fair alternatives to detention.** All immigrants should have the right to an individualized hearing in front of an independent judge to determine whether they can be released to the community. Any detention that does occur should be for the least amount of time and in the least restrictive setting possible.
- **Require conditions of detention that are humane and respectful, not punitive.** Prison facilities and jails should never be used for immigrant detention. People in detention must have the right to access legal, social, health, spiritual and other supportive services.
- **End the criminalization of immigrants and refugees.** Immigrants and refugees must be disentangled from the paradigm of national security and the framework of criminal justice. Immigration reform legislation should ensure that immigration law and enforcement serve an appropriate, sensible, narrowly-tailored role in our system of laws.
- **Stop forcing judges to deport U.S. residents without considering the circumstances.** Not allowing judges to consider the circumstances of a case denies basic American due process and does not solve the problem of undocumented immigration.
- **End unfair extreme punishment for minor offenses.** Mandatory deportation for minor offenses is judges to consider the circumstances of each individual case and decide what is best for that situation.
- **Stop automatic imprisonment without cause and deportation without due process.** The administration's blanket policy of automatically imprisoning thousands of immigrant families while they await deportation hearings is costly, cruel, and does nothing to solve the immigration problem. We don't need to take people out of the community and pay for jailers, doctors and teachers for families who have been contributing to our society.
- **Uphold the U.S. Supreme Court decision against indefinite detention of immigrants.** Indefinite detention is impractical, unconstitutional, and does not solve the problems of undocumented immigration. Individuals should not be detained indefinitely when fair alternatives exist.
- **Protect due process in immigration proceedings and make sure real judicial review is available.** Deporting immigrants without hearings or oversight denies basic American due process and does not solve the problem of undocumented immigration.

How Else You Can Get Involved

Rights Working Group

www.rightsworkinggroup.org

Rights working group is a coalition of more than 200 community-based groups and policy organizations which, through their campaign, *Liberty & Justice for All*, promote civil liberties and human rights on a national level.

Join the *Liberty & Justice for All* campaign to restore due process to the immigration system and take action, like being part of the Night of 1,000 Conversations. Contact Stephanie Anderson: sanderson@rightsworkinggroup.org.

Families for Freedom

www.familiesforfreedom.org

Families for Freedom is a New York-based multiethnic defense network by and for immigrants facing and fighting deportation.

Join FFF to enact the Child Citizen Protection Act, HR 1176, immigration legislation which would restore discretion to the immigration judge when deporting a

Other Advocates on Detention and Deportation Issues

NYSDA Immigrant Defense Project

www.immigrantdefenseproject.org

The Immigrant Defense Project of the New York State Defenders Association defends the rights of immigrants facing criminal or deportation charges through trainings, impact litigation and legal support for community organizing.

Contact IDP for legal resources on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions and Know Your Rights materials

Immigrant Legal Resource Center

www.ilrc.org

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center is a national resource center that provides trainings, materials and advocacy to advance immigrant rights. Its' programs consist of civic participation, policy and advocacy, and technical assistance.

Contact ILRC for information on community and legal trainings and legislative updates.

parent is against the best interests of US citizen children. For more information contact Betsy DeWitt: betsy12060@aol.com.

Detention Watch Network

www.detentionwatchnetwork.org

The Detention Watch Network (DWN) is a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to educate the public, media and policymakers about the US immigration and deportation system and advocate for humane reform.

Join DWN to work collaboratively with groups around the country to speak out about the U.S. detention and deportation system. DWN also hosts a list serve for anyone interested in these issues. To join, contact Rita Espinoza: program@detentionwatchnetwork.org.

Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)

www.fairimmigration.org

Learn more about how to organize against state and local anti-immigrant ordinances.

National Immigration Project

www.nationalimmigrationproject.org

For over three decades, the National Immigration Project has been protecting the rights of noncitizens facing the greatest barriers to justice.

Contact NIP for referrals, immigration strategies and public education materials.

National Immigrant Legal Center

www.nilc.org

Since 1979, the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) has been dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of low income immigrants and their family members. In the past 20 years, NILC has earned a national reputation as a leading expert on immigration, public benefits, and employment laws affecting immigrants and refugees.

Contact NILC for information on raids, workers rights, other know your rights and worksite enforcement materials.