

Why All U.S. Workers Should Support the Struggle for Immigrant Rights

Undocumented workers are just like all other working people in the U.S. and around the world: we want decent jobs, safe housing, quality health care, a good education and a bright future for our children. We play an essential role in the economy, often doing some of the most back-breaking work, and we pay our taxes. Yet we have no legal protection against abusive employers.

By turning workers against each other based on whether or not we have a piece of paper, and making it harder for immigrant workers to organize in unions, we have all been left divided and weak. Working peoples' strength springs from our solidarity and from the fact that we do all the work that makes this country run. Ultimately, we have the power to bring this entire society to a grinding halt in order to insist that our needs be addressed.

The current attacks on immigrant workers are part of the attacks being faced by all working people. Undocumented workers do not "take" jobs away from other workers: employers destroy jobs by downsizing and moving operations overseas! Undocumented workers do not lower wages: employers lower wages in order to maximize their profits!

We invite all working people to get involved in their local immigrant rights movement by attending meetings, raising the issue in your trade union local, discussing with your co-workers, etc.

The struggle for Immigrant Rights affects us all. Let's not forget that the eight-hour day, union recognition, and Civil Rights (just to name a few), were only won after mass united struggles by working people. A victory for one is a victory for all! But we can only succeed if we are united. Together we can build a mass movement of all working people - union and non-union; those with documents and those without - and win a better life for all of us, no matter where we were born.

For more information please contact the Workers International League:

wil@socialistappeal.org
WIL, PO Box 4244, St. Paul, MN 55104
www.socialistappeal.org
www.militante.org
www.marxist.com



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UNITE ALL WORKERS! DEFEND IMMIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS!

Resolution Passed by ILWU Local 10 in San Francisco. Take this to your union local and use as a model for similar resolutions. An injury to one is an injury to all!

Whereas, millions of working people have demonstrated against HR4437 which passes the House of Representatives and would build a 700 mile wall at the border with Mexico and make it a felony to be an undocumented worker or to help one; and

Whereas, other "guest worker" proposals are employer schemes to exploit immigrant workers without providing full rights; and

Whereas, this massive migration is the result of the devastating effect of NAFTA on the Mexican economy, pushed by both parties, Republican and Democrat; and

Whereas, the LIWU Longshore Division sent a Delegation in 1994 to Mexico to try and galvanize opposition among the longshore unions to the unionbusting and anti-worker effects of NAFTA but was unsuccessful; and

Whereas, the ILWU has always defended immigrant workers' rights beginning with International President Harry Bridges who the U.S. government tried to deport four times; and

Whereas; the present wave of largely Latino and Asian immigrants face the threat of deportation and such threats only serve to intimidate workers and drive down wages and working conditions for all workers;

Therefore be it resolved that the ILWU will continue its principled fight for the rights of immigrant workers by calling for an end to the deportations, ranting full citizenship rights and mobilizing the labor movement against racist attacks by Minutemen.



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