

CENTER FOR LABOR RENEWAL

“Forging a New Consciousness of Solidarity and Struggle”

CLR Interim Steering Committee:

Bill Fletcher - Charles Jenkins - Elly Leary - Tracy Tucker - Jerry Tucker

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The Center for Labor Renewal Statement on Worker Migration

Full statement Access: www.centerforlaborrenewal.org/workermigration

Statement Summary:

The U.S. Congress has on its current legislative agenda an array of Immigration Policy Proposals that are counter to the interests of working people. The national debate on immigration is being conducted “in a climate of fear, mass workplace raids, and political backlash against the rising movement for immigrant rights.” The Center for Labor Renewal has issued a statement calling for real, pro-worker immigration reform that includes:

- Full labor rights, fully enforced, for all workers in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.
- Decriminalization of migrant workers, reunification with immediate family members, and a clear path to citizenship.
- No guest worker programs. They are inherently a form of servitude.
- Global fair trade and development policies that let workers work and survive in their countries.

The CLR’s Migration Statement not only calls for real, pro-worker immigration reform, it describes how corporate-led globalization is uprooting millions of workers and leading to social chaos. The Statement calls for a US Labor Movement that can play a leading role in the struggle to unite all workers, US and foreign-born, to oppose this internationalized wage-competition and race to the bottom.

US unions have often excluded large groups of workers and in so doing, reinforced corporate control. We need a labor movement that works wholeheartedly for all workers. This means moving beyond the ‘unionism of the 1950s’ and its nationalist culture to build a multi-racial, global labor movement. We need to take education seriously and talk to members, stressing that human and labor rights must cover immigrants everywhere. We need to open up our unions to build alliances with immigrant worker organizations. We need to “construct egalitarian and democratic global unions and cross-border solidarity.” The Center for Labor Renewal calls for the concepts in this Statement to guide the nation’s debate and policy reform.

CLR Working Group on Migration: [Judy Ancel](#) [David Bacon](#) [Ruth Needleman](#) [Immanuel Ness](#) [Mike Prokosch](#)

*“The **Center for Labor Renewal** is an ever expanding circle of activists and ideas dedicated to combining different threads of working class organizing and activism for the transformation and renewal of labor as a progressive social movement in this country and internationally.” CLR was conceived in 2005 when the national U.S. labor union leadership was engaging in a ‘debate’ which largely ignored the fundamental crisis of our nation’s working class. It was launched in the Spring of 2006 following a meeting of activists from unions, worker centers, educators, and working class organizations who issued a Call for the CLR which, along with other information, can be found on the CLR web site.*

The CLR Statement on Worker Migration can be found at www.centerforlaborrenewal.org/workermigration a list of CLR endorsers and additional information on the CLR can be accessed there.

Contacts: On Statement – Above listed members of [CLR Working Group](#) by e-mail links
On CLR – by link on web site, or e-mail: contact@centerforlaborrenewal.org