



Key Elements of Comprehensive Immigration Reform

IWJ Policy Statement

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Interfaith Worker Justice advocates for justice for all workers in the U.S.—native born, citizens, legal residents, and those who are forced to live and work in the shadows, undocumented workers, and their families. Only comprehensive immigration reform will serve to protect all workers.

Comprehensive immigration reform must aim to provide full and equal protections of employment and labor laws, civil liberties, and civil rights for all workers in the U.S. Reform should work to remove economic incentives for the exploitation of immigrant labor and strengthen requirements to fairly consider hiring native-born workers. Permanent status must be favored over temporary status, and families must be valued and allowed to remain intact. Components of legislation must include:

- A reasonable plan to regularize the status of the overwhelming majority of undocumented workers in the U.S.
- Measures that ensure family integrity by ending deportations and allowing reunification of immigrants who are parents, children, or spouses of permanent legal residents or citizens.
- Adequate funding and commitment to strong enforcement of employment and labor laws, and measures that deny employers an incentive to underpay and exploit immigrant workers.
- Elimination of guest worker programs that do not include full workplace protections or provide a path to permanent residency and citizenship.
- Measures that address and begin to ameliorate the structural issues created by trade and aid policies, including the impoverishment of working people in countries throughout the world, the deindustrialization and bleeding of jobs from North America, and the push to leave one's country and migrate in search of survival wages and conditions in the U.S.