Immigrant women make great contributions to the rich social, cultural, intellectual, and economic fabric of the United States. They are our mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, spouses, partners, and friends. They are students, teachers, laborers, business owners, lawmakers, and much more. Yet, despite their many contributions to our families and communities, issues of concern to women continue to be left out of conversations about immigration reform, and women continue to suffer injustice, discrimination, family separation, and fear because of our nation’s immigration laws.

The face of the migrant in the United States is increasingly that of a woman. Women now make up 51% of the immigrant population, and 100 immigrant women arrive in the United States for every 96 men. The majority of women migrate to reunite with family, to make a better life for their children, or to escape oppression, discrimination, and violence that prevent them from living full and free lives in their home countries. Current immigration laws, policies, and programs disproportionately disadvantage women, and women are too often left out of policy discussions that affect their lives. In the absence of sufficient legal channels for migration, more than 5 million women in the United States are undocumented and living on the margins of our society.

Policies that divide communities, separate families, and violate the human and due process rights of migrants reinforce gender inequities and ignore the unique circumstances that compel women, LGBT individuals, and others seeking protection and equality to migrate and dictate their needs after they arrive.

Instead of honoring the contributions of immigrant women to the United States, past efforts at immigration reform have failed to provide for equitable citizenship,

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1 Statement Prepared by the National Coalition for Immigrant Women’s Rights (NCIWR). For more information please visit ncwir.wordpress.com or contact Natalie D. Camastra at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) at Natalie@latinainstitute.org; Wida Amir at the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF) at wamir@napawf.org; or Emily Butera at Women’s Refugee Commission at emilybu@wrcommission.org.


adequate protection, and full integration for all women. A reasonable and sustainable solution to current and future immigration needs MUST take into account gender specific perspectives. In addition, the path forward on immigration MUST ensure equality for all immigrants, protect and promote their civil and human rights, and empower aspiring Americans to fully participate in and contribute to our economy and society.

As we begin a long overdue national conversation about immigration reform, we the undersigned organizations, call on policymakers to uphold and incorporate the following principles to ensure that the human rights of all migrants are protected:

- Any pathway to citizenship and integration must be open, affordable, safe, and accessible to ALL immigrant women, including those whose work is in the home and those who are employed in the informal economy.

- Immigrant women must be afforded equal employment-based migration opportunities and workplace protections so that they may safely pursue economic opportunity and support their families with dignity and pride.

- Immigration reform must protect the right of all families to stay together, regardless of immigration status, family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, and provide sufficient family-based channels for migration in the future.

- Immigration reform must advance ALL immigrant women's access to public services and economic support, including comprehensive health coverage and care, and legal and social services that promote equality of opportunity, integration, and the ability to make decisions regarding reproductive and sexual health and the well-being of the family.

- Enforcement, detention, and deportation programs that compromise immigrant women's safety, violate their civil, human, and due process rights, and tear families apart must be replaced by sensible and sufficient legal channels for migration that adequately meet family and labor demands and respect our obligations under international law.

- Reforms to our immigration policies must bring an end to programs that disproportionately impact women by discouraging reporting of crimes to law enforcement and compromising the safety of communities, and must advance protections for women fleeing state and interpersonal violence and victims of trafficking or exploitation.
Endorsing Organizations

Members of the National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights (NCIWR):

Advocates for Women
Advocates for Youth
Americans for Immigrant Justice
API Chaya
Asian Pacific American Legal Center,
    A member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice
ASISTA Immigration Assistance
Breakthrough
CaliforniaLatinas for Reproductive Justice
Center for Community Change
Center for Women Policy Studies
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights
Forward Together
Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy
Hispanic Federation
Humanitarians in Action
Immigration Equality
Jahajee Sisters
IMUMI (Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración)
Law Students for Reproductive Justice
MataHari: Eye of the Day
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Council of Jewish Women
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National Organization for Women
National Women’s Health Network
New York Immigration Coalition
OneAmerica
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Refugee Women’s Network, Inc.
Reproductive Health Access Project
Sauti Yetu Center for African Women
Sin Fronteras
Southwest Women’s Law Center
The Advocates for Human Rights
Unid@s: The National Latina/Latino LGBT Human Rights Organization
Violence Intervention Program
Women’s Refugee Commission
Women Watch Afrika, Inc.
Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc.

Additional Endorsing Organizations:

9to5
9to5 Atlanta
9to5 California
9to5 Colorado
9to5 Milwaukee
Above Status
ACCESS Women’s Health Justice
AIDS United
All of Us or None
Alliance for a Just Society
American Friends Service Committee
American Gateways
American Immigration Council
American Jewish Committee
American Medical Student Association
American Sexual Health Association
Applied Research Center
Arkansas Coalition for DREAM
Arrow Evaluations
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific Community in Action
Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA)
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Boston New Sanctuary Movement
Brooklyn Law School, ICOP
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Health Families and Communities
CASA de Maryland
Casa Esperanza
Casa Latina
Catholic Charities ILS
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Reproductive Rights
Central American Resource Center--CARECEN--of Northern California
CEUS, Comité En Unión Para Salvadoreños
Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program
CLUE Santa Barbara
Coalición de Derechos Humanos
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Cobb Immigrant Alliance
Cobb United for Change Coalition
Dady & Hoffmann LLC
DFCS
Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.
Farmworker Association of Florida
Fe y Justicia Worker Center
Feminist Women Health Center / Lifting Latina Voices Initiative
First Focus
Florida Immigrant Youth Network
FMGlobal/TheWomen'sQuestion
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
Grassroots Leadership
I Am Choice
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Center for Women and Children
Immigration Counseling Service (ICS)
inMotion
Institute of Science and Human Values, Inc.
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM, MN)
Interfaith Solidarity Cascadia
International Socialist Organization
John Snow, Inc.
Just Neighbors
Justice For Our Neighbors- New York
Kansas National Organization for Women
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)
Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
LatinoJustice PRLDEF Latinas at Work Project
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
Loyola New Orleans College of Law, Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice
Lutheran Social Services of New England
MAIZ-Cihuatl Tlatocan (Movimiento de Accion, Inspirando Servicio)
MALARIA, AIDS AND RIGHTS ORGANIZATION (MATO)
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
McCrummen Immigration Law Group
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Mil Mujeres
Ministry of Health, Republic of Armenia
Ministry of Interior, Albania
Miracle Mile NOW of Los Angeles
MomsRising.Org
Movimiento Justicia y Paz – Detroit
Ms. Foundation for Women
Mujeres Unidas y Activas
National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC)
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of Social Workers - Michigan Chapter
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)
National Council of Jewish Women, BCS
National Council of Jewish Women, Concordia Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Frederick, Maryland Section
National Council of Jewish Women, St. Louis Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Palm Beach
National Council of Jewish Women Bergen County Section
National Council of Jewish Women Greater Miami Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Howard County, Maryland Section
National Council of Jewish Women, California
National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Dallas Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Philadelphia Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Illinois State Policy Advocacy Chair
National Council of Jewish Women, Lakeville
National Council of Jewish Women, Louisiana State Policy Advocacy Chair
National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Missouri State Policy Advocacy Chair
National Council of Jewish Women, Pennsylvania State Policy Advocacy Chair
National Council of Jewish Women, Sacramento
National Council of Jewish Women, State Public Advocacy Chair
National Council of Jewish Women, Texas State Policy Advocacy
National Council of Jewish Women, West Morris Section
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Employment Law Project
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
National Health Law Program (NHeLP)
National Minority AIDS Council
National Tongan American Society
NC AOC-CIP
New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC
Ni-Ta-Nee NOW
Northern Dallas Chapter of the National Organization for Women
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights