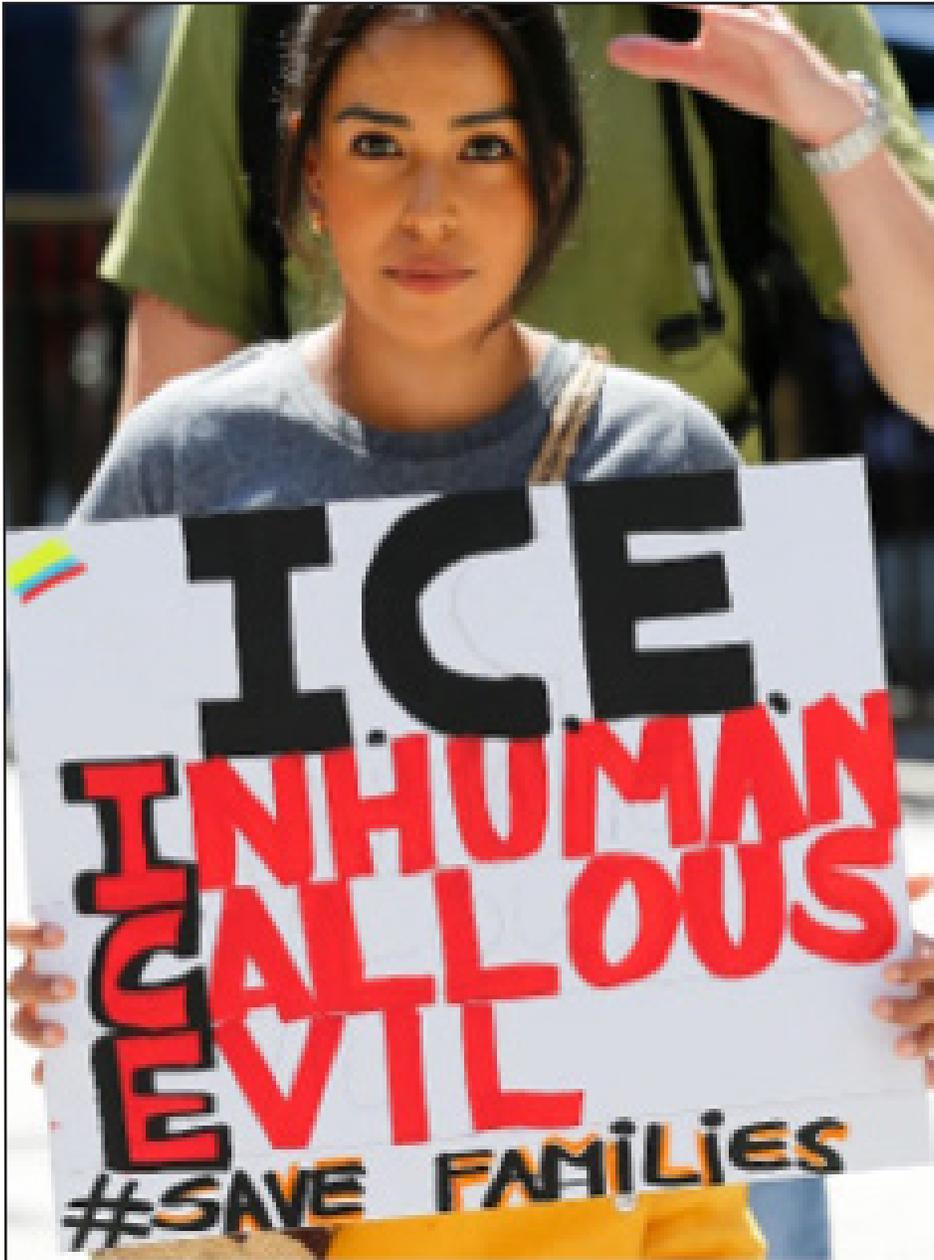


Fall 2024

ADELANTE!

MEXICO SOLIDARITY & CHICANO LIBERATION



Immigration & The Fight For Democracy

MAGA's
Ethnic Cleansing
Plan & How We
Can Fight It

What is
Liberation
Road?

*We Will Never
Be Defeated*
Poem by
Bill Gallegos

Liberation Road/El Camino Para La Liberación

ADELANTE!

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What is Liberation Road?

Liberation Road is a nationwide revolutionary political organization working to achieve a socialist United States. We are multinational, multi-racial, and multi-generational, organizing around issues that affect the lives of working and oppressed people.

One of our principal goals is to build unity among like-minded socialist organizations and individuals so that we can more effectively face the current challenge from the racist right-wing and neo-fascist social movement, led by Donald Trump, even as we work for a fundamental transformation of our society.

The decision of President Biden to not seek re-election and to endorse Vice-President Kamala Harris for the Presidency has unleashed a wave of enthusiasm for the Democrats, and created much more favorable conditions to defeat Trump and the MAGA Right in November. The greatest gift that the US Left can offer to this campaign is to build our unity and work together to Block the fascists from taking power, to Broaden the popular front that is needed to do so, and to Build the foundations for the expansion of Democracy for working and oppressed peoples in this country.

We live in a country where economic and political control of our lives resides with a capitalist ruling class headed by a small handful of multi-billionaires, nearly all of whom are white men. This tiny cabal has massive influence over who gets elected to office, who gets to vote, whether women have control over their own bodies, whether people of color can be massively incarcerated or even gunned down with impunity by the police, and whether U.S workers will have the power to use the

tremendous wealth they have created in the democratic interest of all.

Doctor Martin Luther King correctly characterized U.S. capitalist society in his 1968 speech at Riverside Church as the “greatest purveyor of violence in the world today.” Even now, the United States has over one thousand military bases abroad, causing violence, death, and destruction in the Middle East and Africa while supporting Israel’s genocidal war against Palestinians in Gaza.

The U.S. ruling elite continues to expand the trillion-dollar military budget. This ongoing waste occurs even as millions of our people go hungry, lack housing, and suffer from poor schools and hospitals. All these and other necessary social services remain horrendously underfunded while our economy maintains an addiction to fossil fuels, threatening the existence of all life on our planet.

Liberation Road firmly believes that none of this is inevitable or without an alternative. We are working to achieve a socialist society — one based on three basic principles: genuine democracy, true equality for all races and nationalities, genders, and abilities, and an economy based on people’s needs, not profit, with control of that economy in the hands of working people and their allies. We believe that to achieve socialism, we must build the broadest possible unity, which must also be internationalist and support all peoples and nations who desire genuine independence and sovereignty. We must center the fight against racism and national oppression as the best path to unite our multi-racial working class and

“**We are multi-racial and multi-generational, organizing around issues that affect the lives of working and oppressed people.**”

to develop the one alliance that can defeat our capitalist oppressors — that of the working class movement and the liberation movements of oppressed people of color.

That is why Liberation Road stands in solidarity with the newly elected government in Mexico. It's why we initiated the Mexico Solidarity Project (MSP) to build unity between the vibrant social movements in Mexico and our struggles here in the U.S. Mexico and the U.S. share a nearly 2,000-mile border. We also share a tortured history dating back to the 1840's when the U.S. annexed roughly half of Mexico's territory and began the systematic oppression of its conquered Indigenous and Mexican residents.

Over the past 150+ years, the U.S. has continued to plunder Mexico's resources and super-exploit its labor in Mexico itself and in the sweatshops of our nation. Mexico is now in an exciting period with a newly elected female president, Claudia Sheinbaum. She heads the Morena Party, which former president Andre Manuel Lopez Obrador founded. Morena is working for what they call 'the 4th Transformation,' a comprehensive social and economic change project. We believe that if we can defeat the GOP's anti-immigrant and deportation plans, we will help to build strong ties across our borders, provide critical support for the Mexican people, and gain an essential ally in our effort to transform our society.

Towards that end, we must say:
Si Se Puede!

Immigrati Fight

*“First they came for the communists,
and I did not speak out because I
was not a communist...and then
they came for me.”*

– **Pastor Martin Neimoller**, speaking about himself and other Germans who initially refused to denounce the Nazi repression of communists and other groups labeled “dangerous.”

Bill Gallegos

Liberation Road

U.S. **GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump** demonized Mexicans and immigrants as a central part of his 2016 presidential campaign. In 2024, he has doubled down. If elected, he promises to unleash an ethnic cleansing campaign to deport the 12 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

This is horrible enough as a complete violation of human rights. But this *pogrom* is only one piece of the larger anti-democratic ‘Project 2025’ of the Heritage Foundation. They are coming for all of us. While singling out Mexican immigrants, Trump aims at all immigrant communities, including growing communities in the South, Midwest, and East.

Thankfully the political energy has significantly shifted since President Biden dropped out of the presidential race. Vice-President Kamala Harris is now the Democratic Party candidate, and the polls show a significant shift in her direction. More than a million new volunteers have signed up for Harris, and hundreds of millions of new dollars have been contributed to her campaign.

The Biden-Harris Administration has been mixed on

on & the for Democracy



Texans in support of Dreamers.

immigration: On one hand, it continues to support the legalization of Dreamers (DACA) and pushes for a path to legalization for the spouses of immigrants with legal residency. On the other hand, it has denied asylum protections for refugees crossing the southern border and supported legislation for increased militarization as well as new administrative hurdles. While our most important fight is against the MAGA Right, the fight for full rights and protections for immigrants is a long-term struggle beyond the November elections.

The Biden dropout also creates significant new opportunities for the Left and progressives to advance the

fight against the fascist threat, to advance a progressive platform, and to put new pressure on both Biden and the Harris campaign to demand a ceasefire in Gaza. It enables us to push back strongly against Trump's racist threats against immigrants while advancing a positive program for immigrant rights.

What Trump's ethnic cleansing campaign would mean in real life

Trump has made his anti-immigrant campaign the centerpiece of his fight for office. He promises, on his

first day in office, to unleash a massive deportation campaign. This will be a military operation aimed against many communities throughout the U.S. with large immigrant populations. Armed U.S. immigration agents will invade neighborhoods, workplaces, schools and other gathering spaces suspected of having undocumented immigrants. These troopers would seek out, arrest, and transport to concentration camps anyone who cannot prove their “right” to be in the U.S. It’s no exaggeration to predict a scenario of armored vehicles and military helicopters in our cities and towns, especially in the prioritized communities of Mexicans, Chicanos, and Centro Americanos. But assaults will also be directed against Chinese, Asian, and Pacific Islander, Haitian, Muslim and Arabs, and African immigrant communities.

This campaign could directly affect 12 million undocumented workers and their families, an estimated 40–50 million people. We’ve already seen children coming home from school to find their parents taken away by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to who knows where. And past experiences like the infamous 1950’s “Operation Wetback,” which Trump claims as his model, shows that these campaigns often end up arresting and deporting U.S. citizens who “look illegal.”

Immigrant communities – and all who live there,

immigrant or not – will suffer enormous impacts at their schools, unions, churches, social and athletic clubs, small and medium-sized businesses, and so on. The ripple effects have the potential to destroy the economic, social, and cultural fabric of rural and urban communities. It will be a horrendous crime against humanity.

Trump and the GOP have also pledged to build a network of concentration camps along the U.S.-Mexico border. The U.S. Border Patrol is already the largest domestic military force but will be bolstered by state National Guard units if Trump retakes the White House. Armed white racist “militias” already active along the border will certainly receive support from Trump to move into urban areas with significant immigrant communities.

Trump’s previous attacks on immigrants outraged the souls of most people in the U.S. and the world. The kidnapping and incarceration in dog-kennel-like facilities of 3,000 immigrant children from Latin@ families seeking refugee asylum, haunts us. Hundreds of those children still remain separated from their families. The promised mass deportations will result in tens of thousands more children facing a similar fate. This is state political terror: threatening to harm a child if the adult does not cooperate. The Party of so-called “Christian” and “family values,” like the slave owners of the past, do not believe non-white families are fully



Very young children inside a U.S. Customs and Border Protection holding area in El Paso, Texas.

PHOTO: Lucas Jackson/Reuters

human.

Trump hopes to catapult himself into the White House with the support of bigoted white voters who rabidly agree with Trump's slander that immigrants are "poisoning the blood" of the United States, a horrendous echo of Adolph Hitler's demonizing of Jews as the Nazis prepared the Holocaust.

As horrible as mass deportation would be, it will be only the first phase of the Trump-led New Confederacy's destroy-democracy campaign aimed at completely institutionalizing white minority rule, or apartheid. The goal is to enable major sectors of the capitalists (agribusiness, service sector, construction) to more freely exploit workers and destroy the planet in their never-ending pursuit of profits. If Trump and the New Confederacy win in November, everything is on the table: voting rights, political representation, union rights, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, our environment and climate, free press and media, an independent judiciary—all the elements of a democratic society.

The defense of immigrants is therefore, not only a question of basic human rights, but a crucial part of building a broad and inclusive movement to defend and expand democracy in the U.S., and advancing a program that truly meets the needs of working people throughout the country.

Our Weapons of Analysis and Knowledge

If we are going to be successful in defeating Trump and the New Confederacy and building a movement for genuine democracy and a government that meets the real needs of the people, we need analysis, our own "think tank" to help us understand the current conditions so that we can create and implement an effective strategy of resistance and advance.

White supremacy is "in," vociferous, open, encouraged, rewarded. New Confederate ideology is spreading -- a belief that this is a white country, that Black and Brown lives don't matter, and that everything and anything must be done to keep America white and unequal. This includes repression of communities of color, with a focus on immigrants. Two objectives are here: divide and conquer, and maintain the inequality of communities of color so more profits can be made for industries that rely on immigrant workers.

The Black Freedom Movement is still the primary target of Trump and the Right, but the Chican@-Mexican@ and other oppressed communities of color with immigrant populations are an important

"The defense of immigrants is not only a question of basic human rights, but a crucial part of building a broad and inclusive movement to defend and expand democracy in the U.S."

target as well. While mass incarceration has had its most devastating impacts on the Black population, it has also had a devastating impact on the Latin@ population, who are disproportionately imprisoned in U.S. prisons and jails as well as ICE detention centers. There is no doubt that while the GOP campaign is ultimately directed at African Americans, Mexicans and other oppressed communities of color are next on their racist hierarchy of targets. The attacks on immigrants from China is a part of a major anti-China campaign that has already increased racist attacks on Chinese Americans.

The Republican Right has intermittently made some efforts to divide Black and Brown communities, conducting outreach programs and lauding Latin@s for "family values" and their "work ethic" (as contrasted with the Black community that they maintain lacks such values). Ultimately however, these efforts were unsuccessful as a more openly racist wing gained control of the Republican Party and began a campaign of demonization and repression against Chican@s and Latin@s. In California, the backlash from the Chican@-Latin@ population resulted in the near-marginalization of the Republican Party, which,

“First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak for me.”

—Martin Niemöller
German Lutheran Minister
Imprisoned by Nazis
1938 to 1945

at the statewide level, cannot get elected dogcatcher. Now the MAGA Right is accusing immigrants of taking “Black jobs” from the African American community, when it is systemic racism that is responsible for Black unemployment.

Mexican immigration to the U.S. has been motivated mostly by U.S. economic domination of Mexico, which has contributed to that nation’s massive poverty. NAFTA is a clear example of this domination. Within a few years after NAFTA went into effect in 1998, more than 3 million Mexican@s were driven out of the Mexican agricultural sector by U.S. agribusinesses like Con-Agra and Archer Daniels Midland which decimated most of the small and medium-sized farm operations in Mexico. Mexico’s economy is unable to absorb all of these workers who then have no other option but to be “pushed” out of Mexico to head North. In the U.S., agribusiness, construction, retail and service industries have been more than willing to employ undocumented immigrants who are denied most basic civil and labor rights. This is the “pull” of the “push-pull” dynamic that drives immigration from Mexico. What most people do not know is that Mexican immigration to the U.S. has dropped by fifty percent in the past two years, largely due to Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador doubling their minimum wage, vastly expanding their pension program, and opening opportunities in higher education for hundreds of thousands of Mexican students.

The U.S. shares a 2000-mile border with Mexico, the most important nation in the U.S. “backyard” because of proximity, Mexico’s enormous oil and gas reserves, massive U.S. investments there, and the linkages that exist between Chican@-Mexican@s in the U.S. and those in Mexico. These include linkages between social movements, artists, unions, and intellectuals as well as family ties. U.S. ruling class domination of Mexico and “control” of the border has been an important element of U.S. ruling class strategy for decades. This domination has been threatened in recent years by the overwhelming election of the left-leaning Andres Manuel Lopez-Obrador (AMLO) as President, the election of members of his political party Morena to a majority of seats in the Mexican congress, and the victories of thousands of Morena candidates to seats in local and regional governments. Mexico’s strategic importance to the U.S. has heavily influenced U.S. immigration policies, never more so than now. Morena candidate Claudia Sheinbaum was recently elected overwhelmingly as Mexico’s next president and the Morena Party won overwhelming at the local, state, and national legislative level. A new Trump Adminis-

tration would attempt to exert enormous economic and political pressure on President Sheinbaum especially on the issue of immigration.

Immigration from El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and Honduras can be directly linked to U.S. support in the 1980's for right wing governments, the military, and right-wing death squads in those countries. With U.S. (and Israeli) support, these forces in El Salvador and Guatemala murdered hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants, created hundreds of thousands of refugees, devastated their economies, and crushed all efforts at land and wealth redistribution. A similar situation occurred in Honduras as the U.S. government, under President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, supported a coup against the progressive, democratically elected president, Manuel Zelaya, who wanted to institute democratic and economic reforms. The poverty, crime, and violence that now dominates in those nations and compels people to migrate to the United States can be traced to U.S. government policies.

Drug trafficking and gang violence is used as one excuse for attacking Mexican immigrant communities. In Mexico, the drug wars have wreaked terrible carnage, carried out by cartels whose primary source of weaponry (70%) are U.S. gun manufacturers who don't think twice about exporting their death across the border as long as they continue to reap fabulous profits. Many of the violent gangs in Central America are also using arms supplied by the United States to right-wing death squads as well as the consistent flow of guns made by U.S. manufacturers. It is mostly the poor people of those nations who reap the violence and death that has been largely sowed by the U.S. government and corporations and forces many to migrate Northward.

According to Human Rights lawyer Jennifer Harbury, people flee Guatemala and El Salvador to escape the violence of the drug cartels led by former military thugs, trained at the School of the Americas, from the U.S.-supported dirty wars against popular forces in the 1980's. In other words, the U.S. created the refugee crisis and is



Mexican workers in the U.S., jailed and waiting for deportation as part of "Operation Wetback" in 1955.

PHOTO: Loomis Dean

now violating international law by treating asylum seekers as criminals and denying them the right to enter and seek asylum.

Republican whining about the danger of “open borders” is totally bogus. The U.S.-Mexico border was drawn in blood after the United States invaded Mexico in the 1840’s and stole its Northern territories, including the modern-day U.S. Southwest and California. In fact, all U.S. borders have a blood history rooted in the genocide and displacement of Indigenous peoples, such as the colonization of Puerto Rico and the annexation of Hawai’i. As the great Chicana theater artist Luis Valdez has said about Chicana-Mexican@s in the U.S., “we did not cross the border, it crossed us.” When the U.S. needs a supply of easily exploited labor, the U.S.-Mexico border is quite “open.” When the U.S. undergoes economic crisis or political and social benefits derive from scapegoating immigrants, the border is closed.

U.S. capitalism is a white racist capitalism rooted in a history of genocide, enslavement, annexation, and colonization. That history includes the forcible annexation of Northern Mexico, territories that include some of the most fertile agricultural lands in the world, enormous oil, gas, and coal deposits, as well as deposits of other important minerals, and broad coastal access to trade from the Pacific Rim. Control of these territories has helped enable U.S. capitalism to become the wealthiest country in the world.

A system of white privilege has helped the U.S. ruling elite to secure the support of a broad section of the white population. Whites have greater wealth, higher incomes, easier access to voting, political representation, social rights, and cultural and language dominance, than do oppressed people of color. These privileges help ensure votes and political support for the policies and programs of the ruling Right, including economic policies that mainly benefit the 1%. The truth is these relative advantages hurt the very people voting for these policies. White supremacy holds down all workers of every skin color. Scapegoating immigrants detracts attention from the real problems white working and middle class Americans face. Trump paints the majority of Latin@ immigrants as rapists and murderers at worst and freeloaders at best, and promises to “deport them all” even promising to shoot migrants who cross the border after being deported. He uses fear to convince whites to lock the doors against newcomers, even those banging on the door to cry out for help, even children who have braved the desert crossing alone. “The only thing we

have to fear is fear itself” – and now, Trump and the New Confederacy is building a base on fear.

Program for Resistance

Our Strategy:

We must build local, state, and national opposition to Trump’s ethnic cleansing program. Our campaign should take leadership from the Chicano-Latino and other communities that will be most directly impacted, but should aim to build a broad popular front of unions, worker centers, civic organizations, grassroots organizations, civil liberties groups, art and cultural activists, academics, and elected officials. Our strategy should include grassroots organizing, voter registration and mobilization, creative use of all forms of social media, and non-violent self-defense plans to keep ICE out of our schools, workplaces, places of worship, etc.

Internationalism must be central to our strategy. We must support and expand the ongoing efforts to build solidarity with the social movements in Mexico and encourage them to pressure the Mexican government to refuse to cooperate with any ethnic cleansing campaign initiated by a Trump Administration. There is already precedent for a stance like this from Mexico’s president, who has refused to accept immigrants that the government of Texas is attempting to deport to Mexico. The Mexican government can also be encouraged to suggest a similar position with the governments in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and with other “pink tide” governments in America Latina, as well as with China. The growing attack on Chinese immigrants to the U.S. should be considered an important element of the militaristic efforts by the U.S. ruling elite to make China “enemy number one” of the United States.

Workers (of the world) Unite! Ethnic cleansing is a workers’ issue. The labor movement can, indeed it must, play an active and aggressive role in the immigration fight. Not only do unions have large numbers of Latin@ members, but strengthening workers’ rights at home and abroad stops the global race to the bottom. In 2000 the AFL-CIO, reversed a hundred years of anti-immigrant activity and since then has played a more progressive role. Leftists in the labor movement need to understand that labor’s future will largely be determined by our approach to white supremacy, and today that requires practical and political responses to the immigration crisis like those mentioned above.

Build Black-Brown unity. Separating families has consistently been white supremacist U.S. policy: Native



PHOTO: David Bacon

Over 1,500 hotel workers, members of Unite HERE Local 2, on strike against three hotels in San Francisco. September, 2024

Americans (forcible removal of children to schools designed to “knock the Indian out of them”), African Americans (selling husband, wives, and children separately), Asians (separating Japanese American fathers suspected of being community leaders from their families, by putting them into different internment camps during WWII) and Latin@s as we are now witnessing in horror. Together, the Black and Brown populations in the U.S. represent more than 80 million people in areas of historic concentration in the U.S. South and the U.S. Southwest. A “Sunbelt Strategy” that unites our two social movements could anchor a united front of all oppressed people of color and a significant minority of white working people. A common campaign against the mass incarceration of Black people and the ethnic cleansing of Latin@s could be a major launching point for melding these forces into the foundation, the beating heart, of the United Front that can lead the working class out of capitalist barbarism.

Build unity on the Left. Left and socialist organizations should be finding more ways to unite against the Trump ethnic cleansing anti-immigrant campaign. This is at once a working class, women’s, and oppressed peoples’ issue. The moral outrage and the political strategy behind this campaign should motivate left organizations to meet,

to talk, to strategize, and to collaboratively support the growing and massive resistance movement that has developed around these issues. In many communities the Sanctuary movement unites a broad range of people in the name of protecting their neighbors and friends. This takes many forms, from campaigns to pass Sanctuary legislation to civil disobedience at ICE facilities to disruption of raids and establishment of literal sanctuary churches and homes where people at risk of detention or deportation can be protected. This could be an important first step towards building the broader Left unity we need to truly transform this country and achieve socialism.

Build – Block – Broaden: We need a united front NOW against the extremist New-Confederate Right, which is constructing a dangerous path to fascism. They are eliminating the right to vote for tens of millions of people of color; demonizing the media; putting forward falsehoods, praising dictators, gutting trade union rights, women’s rights, and civil rights; mobilizing an openly racist, white nationalist, neo-Nazi social base, all aimed towards creating an apartheid country. Time is of the essence. We must unite all who can be united in a broad united front that even includes neoliberal Democrats to confront this common enemy and build a new majority committed to justice and self-determination.

Our Immediate Demands

1. An immediate end to the policy of arresting and criminalizing asylum applicants and incarcerating their children. While the government should pay the cost for reuniting children with their families, the actual work of and resources for doing so should be done by respected immigrants' rights organizations, the faith community, community-based organizations.

2. Immediate and unconditional residency for all DREAMERS, and a simple path to citizenship. These young people were brought to the U.S. as children and are undocumented; they have spent most of their lives here, and do not remember or identify with their country of origin.

3. Grant immediate asylum to all migrants and allow them to stay with family members or friends in the U.S. and to work with complete protection of labor laws and rights.

4. Grant legal residency to the undocumented spouses of "legalized" residents of U.S. citizens, a policy authorized by the Biden Administration but blocked by a racist court decision.

5. Add 500 new judges who can process and approve asylum claims, ending the terrible backlog that keeps migrants and their families in a fearful limbo. There should be no further expansion of the Border Patrol, already the largest federal police force.



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Our Longer-Term Demands

6. Abolish ICE. It is the modern-day Gestapo and should be immediately closed down. The resources now committed to ICE and the Border Patrol should be directed instead to immediately processing all asylum applications, the reunification of separated families, and speeding decisions on hundreds of thousands of other legalization applications.

7. Just and democratic immigration policies.

Immigrants usually leave home due to U.S. military, economic, and political policies; we on the Left say they should therefore be granted full legal, civil, and labor rights. But beyond the political rationale, just immigration policies are based on the moral sentiment engraved on the Statue of Liberty: to give refuge and freedom to those suffering from want. Our policies now do not welcome - they punish: they cause immigrants to die near the border, to be deported to face violence and death from which they are fleeing, to live in constant fear of deportation, to survive in the shadows of the society they desperately seek to join.

8. The U.S. must reduce and retrain the Border Patrol in humanitarian practice; stop migra raids in our communities; get the U.S. military off the U.S.-Mexico border. We have resources, we have room, we have compassion based on our own immigrant histories: we demand that the U.S. grant immediate and unconditional residency for all undocumented immigrants. If there is free flow of capital across borders, there should also be free flow of labor.

9. Hands off Mexico. Trump and company have threatened a military invasion of Mexico! U.S. bilateral relations with Mexico must be based on respect for Mexico's sovereignty, genuine mutual trade reciprocity, and an end to the War on Drugs which has contributed significantly to the rise of the narco-cartels in Mexico. We must also oppose all U.S. efforts to politically, economically or militarily pressure the new Morena government to disrupt AMLO's agenda for greater social and economic equity.

10. End the embargo on Cuba and the economic sanctions on Venezuela and Nicaragua. Most current migrants are from those three countries due to the severe situation imposed on them by US policies.



PHOTO: David Bacon

“Workers (of the world) Unite! Ethnic cleansing is a workers’ issue.”

Unite HERE Local 2
members strike and
picket at Grand Hyatt Union
Square, SF.

The dehumanization and demonization of people of color is another important ingredient, and hatred and fear are powerful weapons in the arsenal of the racist Right. The carrot element of the carrot-and-stick strategy to pacify people of color has been abandoned, as is painfully evident with the Trump/Right ethnic cleansing campaign. The radical Right is ascendant, and now we are getting the stick: they mean us serious harm.

But as people of color become a majority, we are going to be a very angry majority. A majority situated strategically economically and politically. A majority with immense potential networks in the global South. A majority with vast experience of struggle in virtually all arenas. And a majority that has support from tens of millions of white workers. Unless the ruling class completely abandons all pretense of democratic governance, for example outlawing elections, the electoral arena will become an even more highly contested arena of struggle. Our populations are younger than the white population, and increasingly large sections of our population can vote. We are situated in crucial areas of the South and Southwest, as well as other areas. The Asian Pacific Islander populations are the fastest growing of all, with significant concentrations in the Southwest and South.

We are undoubtedly a threat. The choice between barbarism and socialism is clearer than ever, as barbarism is the order of the day particularly for Blacks and Browns. For all who love peace and believe in human dignity, the time is now.

Bill Gallegos is a member of Liberation Road and a veteran activist in the Chican@ Liberation Struggle and the Environmental Justice Movement.

For The Love of Peace and Human Dignity

The ultimate goal of Trump and his New-Confederate supporters is to institutionalize an apartheid system in the United States. We already have a highly racially oppressive and unequal society. But we do not have apartheid, a racially based system where a white minority exercises political, economic, and cultural dominance over a non-white majority population. We will inevitably become a majority people of color nation, and that’s when apartheid could be fully institutionalized. The white supremacists in power are preparing for that day. Maintaining supremacy will require a massive repressive apparatus and that is being put in place; the agenda of the Right is to defund social programs while increasing expenditures on policing and the military. It also requires the dismantling of democratic processes. The attacks on voting and other civil rights specifically targeting people of color are laying down more prerequisites to apartheid.

We Will Never Be Defeated

by Bill Gallegos

Crisp morning on Colorado plains.

The sad and joyful beauty of Aztlan.

Walking in the campos of Salinas,

Lechuga – pale emeralds in the Sun.

The Montañas of Nuevo Mexico

echo the sounds of Dinè, Hopi, Pueblo – all the ancestors
de nuestra Nación.

But this is a new day – a new time.

We are millions. An endless wave,

Advancing, receding, cresting over the cities

where our torment and our beauty, our souls are imprisoned
behind long blocks of melancholy and pain, barricaded by neon.

Oppression ..

Servitude ...

Racism ...

Indignity...

Humiliation

One side of our world.

Our hard, calloused bodies misused for corporate greed.

We bleed and die in the mines, fabricas and fields.

Our minds and bodies misused by hispanismo – a bleached replica of what we are:

Manufactured in Washington and brewed by Coors and Goya

-- not by us -- Never in Califas, nor Tejas, Nuevo Mexico, Arizona or Colorado –

No hecho en Aztlan..

But we have a gift, another side to our world....

We are not meant to be slaves – our hands make magic. Our bent backs
create wealth and art. Our sweat can build, can carve our nobility, unleash

the aspirations which make us sing, which make us dance with the stars.

We are ever the children of the Sun. “Let all that is positive bind us” says Amiri.

Borne again through the never-ending hope of our children,

In the struggle and death of our ancianos and martyrs.

We are not meant to bow before the corruption of power.

We are meant to walk the earth with the Sun at our backs, and to drink the
sweet, sweet waters of freedom.

