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Why You Should Care

Migrants Deaths are Mounting

As US policies tighten up along the border, migrants fleeing the devastated, globalized economies in their home towns are taking more treacherous paths across hot, dry stretches of the Sonoran Desert. Reported annual deaths doubled between 1995 and 2005. The perils of Central Americans even reaching the US/Mexican border are also escalating.

US Policies Destroy Communities

Neoliberal US trade policies that promote the free movement of global capital have destroyed communities and economies in the global south forcing people to make the dangerous and harrowing journey to wealthy neighboring states.

Abuse of Migrant Laborers Allows Lowering of All Wages

The disenfranchisement of undocumented, immigrant workers destroys their ability to negotiate fair wage rates. Employers then utilize this labor supply factor to hold wage rates down across the board, increasing the income disparity between the workers and their employers.

Immigrant Workers are Modern Slaves

From H-1B Visas to undocumented workers, the lack of rights for migrants has put them in the position of being slave labor or indentured servants. Charges have been brought against Louisiana strawberry growers, Florida fruit producers and others that are treating their workers as virtual slaves.



What You Can Do

Work to stop the extension of neoliberal trade agreements. Encourage your representatives to vote No on trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. Insist that presidential candidates deal with US trade policies during their campaign and when they become president. Push for the US to practice foreign aid that builds self-reliant, strong, local economies around the world.

Help build strong alternative economies throughout the world.

Support NGOs developing self-reliant economies that create sustainable life-styles for people across the planet. Buy fair-trade products that give an equitable return to workers throughout the world. Withhold support from multinational corporations that are dependent on an abused and manipulative labor force to maximize bottom line profits.

Ensure that US immigration policies are fair and equitable. Educate yourself about the various factors involved with immigration policy and contact your representatives to make sure that they support policies that are reasonable and humane for all peoples and not based on political attitudes, racial bias or economic motives.

Promote universal rights for all workers. In order to ensure that migrant workers are not abused and enslaved, push for recognition of universal human rights and the rights proclaimed by the International Labor Organization in 1949 that workers have a right to organize unions. Every worker is entitled to citizenship and a full slate of rights in whatever country they are living so they will not be susceptible to manipulation by employers.