Life Interrupted
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Published by Duke University Press

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Appendix  Ideas and Resources for Action

How to Get Involved

With so much interest in the fight against trafficking, I have a few suggestions on how individuals might get involved. The ideas for action are centered on making workplaces safer and more secure for all workers. There is no silver bullet, but a range of activities can build awareness and move us toward more just and sensible policies. They involve attending local, state, and national commissions and hearings on immigration issues and labor protections; and volunteering with workers’ rights and migrants’ rights organizations in local communities. They also include protesting efforts to criminalize vulnerable workers through ordinances that affect day laborers and sex workers and supporting efforts that regulate unregulated labor sectors, raise wages, and protect workers from retaliation if they call out abuse. These strategies address the wide range of structural factors that make worker exploitation possible. They aim to empower workers and offer greater security and respect to all those living in our communities.

Consider getting involved in the following issues:

1. Fight for immigration reform that includes a possibility for citizenship for all current and future workers, including workers in the informal economy who perform day labor.
2. Monitor worker recruitment programs that tie workers’ visas to one employer or involve recruitment agencies that charge high fees.
3. Work to close the FSLA loophole that excludes some agricultural workers and workers who clean or provide child and elder care in private homes.


5. Fight to end immunity for diplomats who abuse workers in their employ.


7. Fight to rescind state- and local-level law enforcement practices that target migrants in your community.

8. Assist and support migrants in their efforts to organize to protect their rights.

9. Assist and support sex workers in their efforts to organize to protect their rights.

10. Assist and support low-wage workers in their efforts to organize to protect their rights.
Consider unearthing information through research on the following:

1. The hiring practices and payment structure of your employer or of services you use (such as landscaping and housecleaning). How does your employer or the businesses you use guarantee employees’ payment, safety, and benefits? Do they use recruiting agencies that extract fees from workers seeking visas and work?
2. The credentials of “experts” who are cited in the media.
3. Antitrafficking organizations’ history, programs, and staff biographies. Before donating money, find out how they have evaluated the success of their past programs.
4. The supply chains of the companies that make the products you use daily.

Resources

Following is a list of organizations that conduct innovative rights-based organizing or provide legal and social services (including to trafficking clients). This list is by no means exhaustive but rather is intended to serve as a model of the kind of organizations that may be in your community.

- Adhikaar
  New York, N.Y.
- Americans for Immigrant Justice
  Miami, Fla., and Washington, D.C.
- Asian Pacific Islander Legal Center
  San Francisco, Calif.
- Ayuda
  Washington, D.C.
- bayswan (Bay Area Sex Worker Advocacy Network)
  San Francisco, Calif.
- Boat People, sos
  Falls Church, Va.
- Break the Chain Campaign, Institute for Policy Studies
  Washington, D.C.
- Casa de Maryland
  Hyattsville, Md.
- CAST (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking)
  Los Angeles, Calif.
- Causa
  Salem, Oreg.
- Center for Labor Research and Education, UCLA Labor Center
  Los Angeles, Calif.
- Chinese Staff and Workers’ Association
  New York, N.Y.
CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles)
Los Angeles, Calif.

Coalition of Immokalee Workers
Immokalee, Fla.

Colorado Legal Services
Denver, Colo.

Damayan
New York, N.Y.

Domestic Workers United
New York, N.Y.

Florida Immigrant Coalition
Miami, Fla.

Heartland Alliance
Chicago, Ill.

ICIRR (Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights)
Chicago, Ill.

Immigrant Women and Children Project,
Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc.
City Bar Justice Center
New York, N.Y.

Lideres Campesinas
Oxnard, Calif.

Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
Kalamazoo, Mich.

MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition)
Boston, Mass.

Mosaic Family Services
Dallas, Tex.

New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice
New Orleans, La.

PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste)
Woodburn, Ore.

Sex Workers Project, Urban Justice Center
New York, N.Y.

Safe Horizon
New York, N.Y.

Southern Migrant Legal Services
Nashville, Tenn.

Tahirih
Falls Church, Va.

Tenants and Workers United
Alexandria, Va.

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
Nashville and Memphis, Tenn.

Worker Justice Center of New York
Rochester and Albany, N.Y.

Workers Interfaith Network
Memphis, Tenn.
National-level Organizations and Online Resources Related to Workers’ Rights, Forced Labor and Trafficking, Immigration Reform, and Racial Profiling

ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project
http://www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights/about-aclus-immigrants-rights-project

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
http://www.civilrights.org/

BAJI (Black Alliance for Just Immigration)
http://www.blackalliance.org/

MPI (Migration Policy Institute)
http://www.migrationpolicy.org/

BPPP (Best Practices Policy Project)
http://www.bestpracticespolicy.org/

National Council of La Raza
http://www.nclr.org/

Desiree Alliance
www.desireealliance.org

National Domestic Workers Alliance
http://www.domesticworkers.org/

Detention Watch Network
http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/

National Guestworker Alliance
www.guestworkeralliance.org

Equal Justice Initiative
http://www.eji.org/

The National Immigration Forum
http://www.immigrationforum.org/

Families for Freedom
http://familiesforfreedom.org/

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
www.nationalimmigrationproject.org

The Freedom Network
http://freedomnetworkusa.org

NDLON (National Day Laborer Organizing Network)
http://www.ndlon.org/en

The Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center
www.htprobono.org

NILC (National Immigration Law Center)
http://nilc.org/

The Interdisciplinary Project on Human Trafficking
American University
Washington College of Law
http://traffickingroundtable.org/

NNIRR (National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights)
www.nnirr.org/

Jobs with Justice
http://www.jwj.org/

One America
http://weareoneamerica.org/

Presente.org
http://presente.org/

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Rights Work
http://rightswork.org/

Rights Working Group
http://www.rightsworkinggroup.org/

Solidarity Center
www.solidaritycenter.org

Southern Poverty Law Center
http://www.splcenter.org/

Students Working for Equal Rights
http://www.swer.org/

SWOP-USA (Sex Workers Outreach Project)
http://www.swopusa.org/about-us/

United we dream Network
http://unitedwedream.org/

We Belong Together
http://www.webelongtogether.org/