The Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America

presents



Sister María Magdalena Silva Rentería

November 14, 2020

5:30 pm on Zoom

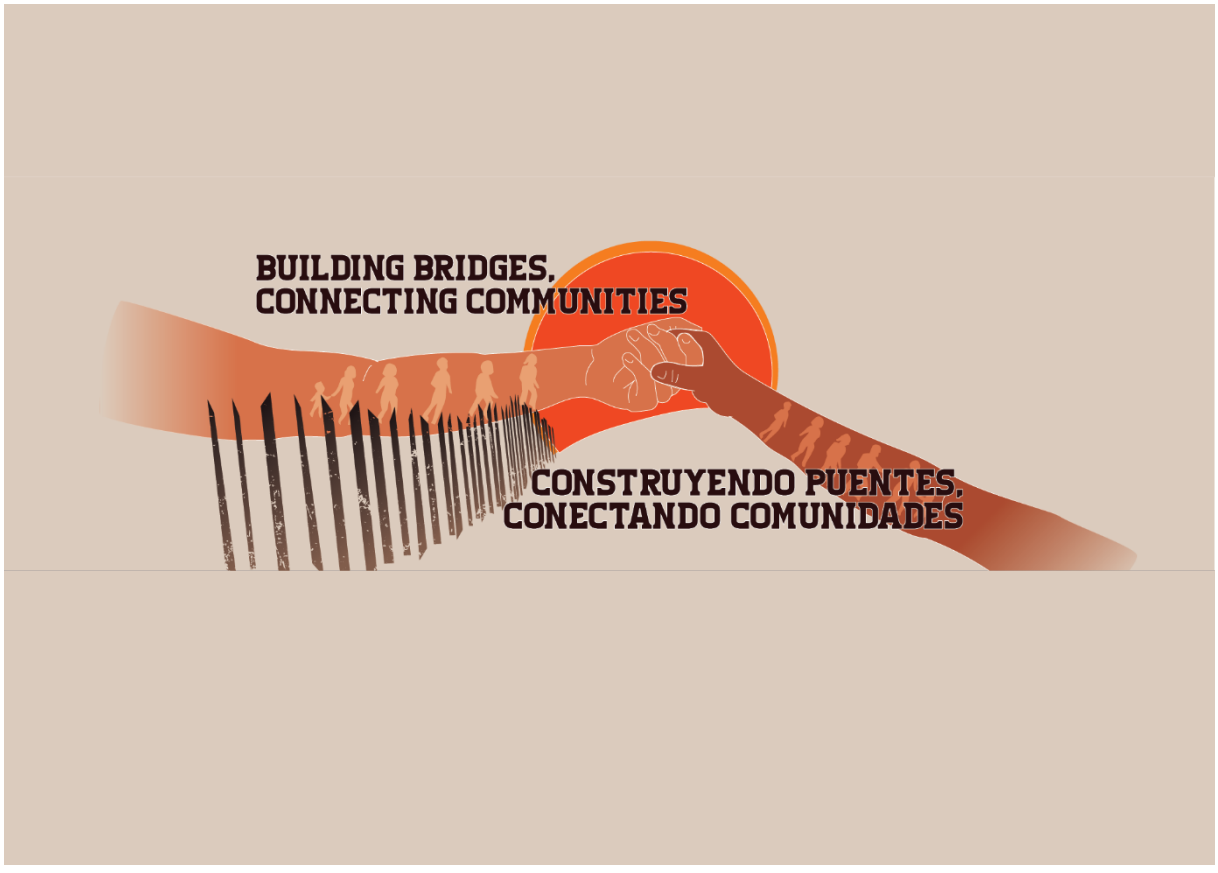
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America

Annual Celebration
Saturday, November 14, 2020

Building Bridges – Connecting Communities

***5:30 PM** Zoom opens / evento se abre*	
***5:35PM** Welcome Remarks / Bienvenida*	**Min. Vimary "Vima" Couvertier-Cruz (MC)** *CCDC Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*
***5:40 PM** Opening Prayer / Oracion*	**Rev. Julian DeShazier** *University Church Chicago*
***5:45 PM** Opening Remarks / Palabras de apertura*	**Claudia Lucero** *CRLN Executive Director*
***5:50 PM** Donation Appeal Call*	**Rev. Dr. Linda Eastwood** *CRLN Board Chair / McCormick Theological Seminary*
***6:00 PM** Music Time*	**Rebel Diaz** *(Video)*
***6:15 PM** Annual Awards / Reconocimientos:* *Sanctuary Working Group* *Martin Luther King Center – Cuba*	**Juan Carlos Hernández** **Marilyn McKenna** *CRLN Staff* *(Video)*
***6:20 PM** Reminder of Donation Appeal*	**Min. Vimary "Vima" Couvertier-Cruz**
***6:23 PM** Introduction of Speaker / Oradora*	**Juan Carlos Hernández** *CRLN Immigration Program Coordinator*
***6:25 PM** Address / Presentación*	**Sister María Magdalena Silva Rentería** *Founder and Director of CAFEMIN*
***6:50 PM** Reminder of Donation Appeal*	**Rev. Dan Dale** *CRLN Board Member*

6:55 PM ***Q & A***	**Vimary "Vima" Couvertier-Cruz / Sharon Hunter-Smith**
7:20 PM ***Call to Action / Llamado a la acción***	**Sharon Hunter-Smith / Juan Carlos Hernández** *CRLN Staff*
7:25 PM ***Closing Prayer / Oracion Final***	**Rabbi Brant Rosen** *Tzedek Chicago*
7:30 PM ***Closing Song / Canto de cierre***	**Chris Inserra** *(Video)*



Sister Magda



Originally from Zacatecas, a state in Northern Mexico, Sr. María Magdalena Silva Rentería immigrated to Mexico City to join the Josefina Sisters Community in 1982. There she began her service with boys, girls, youth, and women; her mission was to lead them to a more dignified and humane life. After the devastating 1985 earthquake in Mexico, which claimed 10,000 lives, and left some 250,000 homeless, she coordinated the work of shelters for affected people. She is a member of the national team of the Human Mobility Pastoral of the Mexican Episcopal Conference.claimed this land as ancestral territory and has made use of international human rights laws to avoid eviction.

Currently, she is the Director of Cafemin (House for Reception, Training and Empowerment of Migrant and Refugee Women), as well as Coordinator of Redodem (Documentation Network of Organizations Defending Migrants).

Given her long experience in working with migrants, she has a deep understanding of the issues they face and stands with them as they cross through Mexico or stay in her country. ▪

CAFEMIN

Rebel Diaz



We are Rebel Diaz. Somos hermanos-RodStarz and G1-who grew up in Chicago and came up in The South Bronx. Somos hijos de political refugees from Chile who fled a CIA-funded dictatorship in the 1970s. Revolution raised us, and the culture of Hip-Hop provided us our own Nueva Cancion. We've been doing rebel rap since the Clinton era, sharing our story and those of our people; el barrio, the hood, the poor, los inmigrantes. Our bilingual sound has been shaped by pieces of South American folk, house, and Latin percussion gettin down with boom-bap breaks and 808s. Hip-Hop and a vision for liberation have taken us around the world. With DJ Illanoiz and our band, we've rocked stages in front of thousands at festivals, and in front of dozens in squat house living rooms. We learned about tomas in our international tours, then came back to The Bronx, took over an abandoned building and started a community center, The RDACBX. We've given lectures at Ivy League schools but are college dropouts. We went from rapping about being 'periodistas de la esquina' to hosting a television news program on the global network Telesur English. We've been blessed to open for the likes of Public Enemy, Calle 13, and Rage Against the Machine. The New York Times, Washington Post, and NPR among others, have featured our work and words. Educators across the world use our music and videos as learning tools. Today, we continue in la lucha with our families and in our community through our music and mul-

timedia work.

1. WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON? - (G1)

See I gotta draw the line I cant take it no more
If you aint down with revolution what you waitin for
Makin money for suckas and our communities poor
Rippin flags off of coffins man this aint our war
Colonized and terrorized by the worlds biggest killers
the US government the biggest weapon and drug dealers
Fillin prisons with children incarceratin the future
Myspace and facebook they got us stuck on computers
Stuck on stupid bumpin music that's the abusive to the shorties
And the nonsense that you spittin they just listen and absorb it
Ive been dormant ive awoken im a giant im ready
Im with the APPO in Oaxaca and we holdin machetes

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

CHORUS:
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?
Chi city!!!
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?
South bronx!!!
WHICH SIDE ARE YOUON?
Oaxaca!!!
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?
Palestina!!

(RodStarz)
I rock hard like palestinian children holdin slingshots!!!
Im with every single kid that's down for hip hop
For the culture the life what it really stands for
This music is resistance it's the voice of the poor
Im on the side of the workers, the teachers and lunchladies,
on the streets with brown mommys raisin our brown babies,
im with youth organizers cleanin up the bronx river
im like jaime escalante when I stand and deliver
im with evo morales man he runnin bolivia
distribution of the land so they could all live bigger
im with hugo and fidel, grandmaster and melle mel,
with the Panthers up in queens justice for sean bell,
im with camacho negron, im with ojeda rios,
freedom for oscar lopez time to get an appeal,
im with abu jamal im with assatta shakur,
im with the compas in Immokalee getting a penny more!!

(G1)

Im for tellin the truth exposing the lies
Think about the dead soldiers when youre drivin your ride
Them people died for the oil and Daddy Bushs revenge
Im with the widows the children and the lonely best friends
Im with Families Stayin Together as ONE
Im Not for the Raids and the Deportations!!
Im with Victor Toro and The M.I.R.
So watch out for those snitches in that unmarked car!
And for Lil Saulito, we gonna fight for your moms..
So we gonna shout her out, twice in One song..
Im for twelve million workers and Elvira Arellano
Im for a world without borders and a better tomorrow

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

CHORUS:
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?
Chi city!!!
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?
South bronx!!!
WHICH SIDE ARE YOUON?
Oaxaca!!!
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?
Palestina!!

2. I'M AN ALIEN -

Whoa oh!
I'm an alien!
I'm a legal alien!

Yup I'm an alien, from planet Chile
A Bolivarian galaxy that would be the illest!
Welcome to my world, a people's universe
Let's have a conversation that'll make your soul search
Earth
Mother
It feels good
To say things that uplift the hood
For what it's worth, we been here for a while
Follow the moon take a walk for a mile
In the shoes of the man that pick your fruit
I want access to schools I don't wanna join the troops!
You came to my country
You brought the dictator
Gave 'em money, and told 'em pay me later
So taste the tomato, tomato, whatever
The students, the farmers working together
Pa'lante inmigrante, no a la guerra!
Mundo Mapuche siempre, forever!

Chorus

Illegal?

I am not!
A human being, I got feet so I walk
If I can't eat, Ima move til I find
My piece of the pie
A dignified life
Wife and the kids deserve more than this
She waitress
He graveshift
Money keep on makin it
Bills keep on takin it
Spaceship ain't awaitin
But somehow I'm still an alien
Outta this world
OutKasted
Held captive by second class status
The factories closed ain't no jobs at home
Wall Street broke so they blame scapegoats
Jose not Joe gettin stopped by five oh
How they become the border patrol?
I dunno but what I know is I'm here to stay
If they ask me for my papers Ima laugh and say...

Whoa oh!
I'm an alien!
I'm a legal alien!

3. GOLPE -

TODOS SOMOS HIJOS DE LA MISMA HISTORIA
NO PIERDAN LA MEMORIA
AHORA ES LA HORA
TODOS SOMOS HIJOS DE LA MISMA HISTORIA
TODOS SOMOS TODOS SOMOS HIJOS
AMENAZAN A GUATEMALA
A LAS TIERRAS BOLIVARIANA
NO MO HABLEN DE DEMOCRACRIA
SIN JUSTICIA NO VALE NADA
SE LO HICIERON A GUATEMALA
SE LO HICIERON A ZELAYA
NO ME HABLEN DE DEMOCRACRIA
SIN JUSTICIA NO VALE NADA

Otra victoria! Todo somos hijos!
Quitaron el desfile de los grandes asesinos!
Ahora es un desfile de los desaparecidos!
se trata de memoria! No al olvido!ol
Nunca te olvides quienes son los enemigos
Mira al gobierno no son tus amigos
No son Los Homeys.. noo pson los Rebeldes.
Son neo liberales con grandes intereses
Anti imperialista corre en mi sangre
Como un hijo de un guerrerro que extrana a su padre...
Entonces compadre ven al festival
Cada treinta de junio en el parque centrall

TODOS SOMOS HIJOS DE LA MISMA HISTORIA
NO PIERDAN LA MEMORIA
AHORA ES LA HORA
TODOS SOMOS HIJOS DE LA MISMA

HISTORIA
TODOS SOMOS TODOS SOMOS HIJOS
AMENAZAN A GUATEMALA
A LAS TIERRAS BOLIVARIANA
NO MO HABLEN DE DEMOCRACRIA
SIN JUSTICIA NO VALE NADA
SE LO HICIERON A GUATEMALA
SE LO HICIERON A ZELAYA
NO ME HABLEN DE DEMOCRACRIA
SIN JUSTICIA NO VALE NADA

HIJOS DE MEXICO HIJOS DE COLOMBIA
TODOS ORGANIZADO PARA CONTAR NUESTRA HISTORIA
UNA QUE ES DE GUERRA
ENTRE RICOS Y LOS POBRES
EN GUATE FUE LA FRUTA
EN CHILE FUE EL COBRE
SON PLANES ECONOMICOS
PLAN PUEBLA PANAMA
QUE CONVIERTE GUATEMALA EN UN MERCADO GLOBAL
LA ESCUELA DE LAS AMERICAS EN FORT BENNING GEORGIA
ENSEÑA LA TORUTURA PARA CONTROLAR LA POBLA
EN EL NOMBRE DE OLIVERO
EN EL NOMBRE DE ARBENZ
SEGUIEREMOS PALANTE NUNCA RETROCEDER
ES VICTORIA QUE EL DESFILE
DEL EJERCITO SE IMPIDE
NO CREAN QUE SE OLVIDE ESTA LUCHA SIEMPRE SIGUE

4. La Patrulla-

La Patrulla me esta vigilando
Esta pendiente de todo lo que hago
La Patrulla me esta vigilando
Esta pendiente de todo lo que hago
Para poderme arrestar!
Para poderme arrestar !

En la nacion Creada
Sobre la espalda
De gente robada
Donde la espada
De los que llegaban
Mataban la tribus que aqui ya estaban
A asi a traves de la arma
A traves de conquista
Un imperio surgio
Con la mano de obra barata
se construyo esta gran nacion
La misma que hoy discrimina
Mira a quien se le niega justicia
Ven te invito mira las cifras
Tu y yo estamos en las mismas
Sin empleo
Te miran feo
Pero no creo en el noticiero
El que quere convencerte
Que vivas la vida con miedo
Del negro del inmigrante
Criminales que queren matarte
Terrorista que tan en la lista
cuidao que van a escucharte
Mas bien es conquistarte

Mas facil explotarte
La muerte o la cárcel
Mira el caso de trayvon Martín

La Patrulla me esta vigilando
Esta pendiente de todo lo que hago
La Patrulla me esta vigilando
Esta pendiente de todo lo que hago
Para poderme arrestar!
Para poderme arrestar !

La Patrulla me esta vigilando
Esta pendiente de todo lo que hago
La Patrulla me esta vigilando
Esta pendiente de todo lo que hago
Para poderme arrestar!
Para poderme arrestar ! ▪

Siempre sigo siendo el enemigo de la policia
Siempre sigo siendo MC, Rodrigo de Rebel Diaz
Y no somos los unicos que siempre tenemos el puño arriba
Somos muchos miles millones lo que luchamos por la justicia
Yo yo quiero hablar de Ramarley Graham
Shot in front of his brother and Grams
Quiero hablar de John Collado
La policia lo Asesinaron !
Oscar Grant tomaba el tren
El proxima dia se casaba Sean Bell
Hilton Vega Anthony Rosario
Anthony Baez Lo Mataron
Amadou Diallo only had a wallet
Trayvon Martin couldnt go to college
Rekia Boyd Rekia Boyd !
All i wanna say is Rekia Boyd !!!
They killed that boy Kimani Gray
And all these rappers got nothin to say
Like its okay when the guns go off but when the kids get shot
All the cops get off!



2020 Honorees

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center, Cuba

This year we chose the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center, our partner in Cuba as one of the 2020 CRLN Honorees. Their work to build bridges and connect communities internationally has inspired us for more than twenty years. Despite the many barriers caused by U.S. policy, the Center has worked to welcome delegations from around the world to Cuba to learn from Cubans and to share in international visions for liberation.

The Center is a macroecumenical association of Christian inspiration. It supports the Cuban people and their Churches in solidarity and prophetically through sociotheological reflection and training, popular education, communication, comprehensive service to the community and the promotion of international solidarity. The Center was founded on April 25, 1987 as an initiative of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Marianao (IBEM) and the work of Pastors Raúl Suárez Ramos and Clara Rodés, as well as other close collaborators.

While the pandemic has made delegations to the Center impossible, it continues to work in its many other areas and is connecting virtually through webinars such as the recent webinar organized by Cuban and US religious organizations. We are inspired by all the work of the Center and want to deeply thank them for welcoming us into their communities. To learn more about the work of the Center please visit https://bit.ly/MLKHavana

Sanctuary Working Group

In the early days of the pandemic, people from across the county called for the freedom of all immigration detainees. Our members joined the call, but also chose to do something more. Anticipating the release of many people from detention, some members of our Organizing Committee formed the Sanctuary Working Group.

The group put out the word that we would be supporting people with temporary housing. Not many people were released, but the group has been able to assist a few individuals, though not all of them with housing. The small network has become a place where these groups can support each other in their work of supporting immigrants. And many donors made that possible. Thank you. This small, but dynamic group has been an inspiration, and proof that love is made visible through the work of justice. Bethany House of Hospitality, the Clerics of St. Viator, Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants, Su Casa Catholic Worker, Tzedek Chicago, University Church, and Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ make up this group.



Death & Silence

a Reflection by Juan Carlos Hernández

The opening scene in the final episode of the Netflix documentary, Immigration Nation, makes clear the high cost of immigration. It's a matter of life and death. A man lies on the ground, dead from exposure to the frigid desert winter. Snow blankets the surrounding plants. The Border Patrol officers who find the body ask the other men they corralled that day if they know him. They don't, but in his sneaker they find his name and a telephone number. A few scenes later, a border patrol officer is calling the man's father to tell him about the death. The man on the other side moans in pain, but when the officer asks about his immigration status, he goes silent…

My mind returns to another scene from that documentary. A border patrol agent is scouting out an area of small bushes and cacti. His dog smells a decomposing body and alerts the agent, who then spots a child's skull, bleached white by the sun. He holds it in his hand and speaks of the rising temperatures, "up past the 100s," he says. He does not mention the innocent life gone and forgotten.

comadre and compadre. I am godfather to their youngest son who I held as a baby in our church. They live in fear. They have always lived with some anxiety since they crossed the border some 30 years ago. It has been worse in the past 6 years. My compadre drives a truck with the logo of his workplace very clearly on its sides. He hopes it will protect him from getting pulled over, being taken into custody and deported. Their hope of straightening out their immigration status has never led anywhere, even after paying thousands of dollars in legal fees. I know this because they are family, not blood relatives, but just about. We have broken bread together; we have played soccer games and have gone camping. We have prayed together and mourned our dead together, too. My comadre and compadre sat with my family as my mother died and afterwards prayed her novena with my family at our home.

On the dark morning of November 15, 2018, I stood silent, waiting for my compadre. My father had passed away two days before. My compadre volunteered to pick me up and take me to the airport in his work truck at 4:00 am. He was quiet the entire drive and only said, "I'll pray for you," as I stepped out of the truck. About a year later, he would not be able to bury his own father in Mexico. He could not go because he would not be able to return to his children and wife here. My compadre sat in silence as his family and friends prayed in the days after his father's burial.

Some of us are lost to the desert and remain forgotten scattered bones without a name. Others, like my compadre, will never have the closure of a final touch or a last goodbye face to face. I was able to say goodbye to my father because he had struggled as an undocumented man many years before and was able to gain legal status in this country.

This is the month that we honor the dead in my Catholic faith. We remember them to celebrate their lives, to carry their lessons, their words, their faces and voices in us and to pass them on to new generations. I ask you to honor the lives of those who have died in the desert, in detention centers, in our cities or in their homelands far from their loved ones who have come to this country. May death not have the final word. ▪

The films provide a detailed cross-country and cross-border view of the struggles of immigrants and the work of immigration enforcement authorities.

You can find an Ally's Guide created by Never Again Action at this link:

https://www.neveragainaction.com/guide-page

5 things
you should know about the court decision on TPS

News & Commentary | By Peniel Ibe, Sep 17, 2020

That silence makes me think about my
Since taking office, President Trump has worked to end crucial protections for more than 300,000 immigrants from six countries with Temporary Protected Status (TPS). This life-saving program provides protection from deportation to people from certain countries afflicted by natural disasters, war, or other dangerous conditions—allowing them to live and work in the U.S.

Multiple lawsuits challenging these terminations have since been filed. Unfortunately, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling on Sept. 15 that would clear the way for the administration to move forward with terminations for El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Sudan. The decision leaves hundreds of thousands of TPS holders—many of whom have lived in the U.S. for decades—vulnerable to family separation and mass deportation.

Here's what you need to know about what's happening now with TPS.

1. There are multiple legal challenges to the Trump administration's efforts to terminate TPS.

TPS holders, advocacy organizations, and other allies have been working to prove that the Trump administration was wrong—and discriminatory—in terminating TPS for impacted countries. Multiple lawsuits challenging the termination have been filed to stop their implementation. The suits also accuse the administration of ending TPS for certain countries based on racial discrimination and infringing on the constitutional rights of TPS holders, among other issues.

The lawsuit ruled on this week was Ramos v. Nielsen. Plaintiffs in this case, which include TPS holders and U.S. citi-

zen children of TPS holders, claim that the decision to terminate TPS was based on a flawed reading of the law and driven by the administration's racist, anti-immigrant, and white supremacist agenda.

In October 2018, Ramos v. Nielsen—combined with another lawsuit, Bhattarai v. Nielsen—resulted in an injunction that prevented the removal of TPS holders from six countries (El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Sudan).

2. This week, the Ninth Circuit ruled against TPS holders and their children.

After an appeal by the Trump administration and hearing oral arguments, the court dismissed the claims made by TPS holders and their children--and lifted the injunction preventing the deportation of TPS holders.

In a 2-1 majority, the panel of judges ruled that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) secretary is lawfully allowed to make decisions on TPS determinations—thus the courts do not have the authority to review those determinations. The ruling also implied that even though the president has made racist comments about TPS holders and was highly influential in the decision-making process to terminate TPS, there was not enough evidence that the terminations were racially motivated.

3. There is limited time before the federal government can implement terminations for TPS and begin deportations.

The decision means that as early as March 2021, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can begin deporting TPS holders from Sudan, Nicaragua, and Haiti—and as early as November 2021 for beneficiaries from El Salvador. Due to the combining of the Ramos v. Nielsen and Bhattarai v. Nielsen cases, the ruling could trigger the terminations for TPS holders from Honduras and Nepal, as well.

Fortunately, this decision will not affect people's TPS status this year. This year:

TPS holders cannot face deportation.

TPS holders can still get drivers' licenses.

TPS holders' work authorizations are still valid.

Based on agreements between the administration and the plaintiffs' lawyers, the administration cannot take away protections from TPS holders earlier than five months from Sept. 14, 2020 (the date of the decision). TPS holders from El Salvador are an exception, guaranteed 365 days from the decision date under an agreement between the U.S. and the Salvadoran government.

4. Legal challenges to the administration's terminations of TPS continue.

Attorneys representing plaintiffs, including TPS holders and their U.S. citizen children, could appeal the Ninth Circuit ruling. That could kick off a series of events within the courts that would further delays terminations and the onset of enforcement actions. However, it is not guaranteed that the higher courts will hear the case or its appeals.

If the courts reject a request to appeal this week's ruling by the Ninth Circuit, DHS could also terminate the automatic extension of protection it negotiated with plaintiffs' attorneys.

TPS holders from Haiti are covered under other lawsuits making their way through the courts (including Saget v. Trump), which may affect their timeline.

5. Only legislation—not litigation—will provide a permanent solution to protect TPS holders, ensuring they can remain in the U.S. with their families and communities where they belong.

Litigation, while impactful, can only provide temporary relief for TPS holders, their families, and communities. Ultimately, only Congress can provide a permanent solution to protect TPS holders.

Without congressional action, the terminations of TPS will lead to devastating moral and economic consequences not just for TPS holders but for their families, communities, and for the entire country."

Through organizing and advocacy, TPS recipients and their allies are counteracting the administration's aggressive efforts to deport millions of people with deep roots in our communities.

Bills have been introduced in Congress that would protect TPS holders. The House has passed the Dream and Promise Act, which would offer a pathway to citizenship for people with TPS, Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). It's time for the Senate to follow suit.

Take action today: Tell your senators to provide permanent protection for TPS holders by creating a roadmap to citizenship for TPS holders and all immigrants!

▪



Alfredo Corchado, "A Former Farmworker on American Hypocrisy"

(The New York Times, May 7, 2020)

EL PASO — The other day, armed with a face mask, I was rushing through the aisles of an organic supermarket, sizing up the produce, squeezing the oranges and tomatoes, when a memory hit me.

Me — age 6 — stooping to pick these same fruits and vegetables in California's San Joaquin Valley. I spent the spring weekends and scorching summers of my childhood in those fields, under the watchful eye of my parents. Once I was a teenager, I worked alongside them, my brothers and cousins, too, essential links in a supply chain that kept America fed, but always a step away from derision, detention and deportation.

Today, hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Mexico and Central America are doing that work. By the Department of Agriculture's estimates, about half the country's field hands — more than a million workers — are undocumented. Growers and labor contractors estimate that the real proportion is closer to 75 percent.

Suddenly, in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, these "illegal" workers have been deemed "essential" by the federal government.

Tino, an undocumented worker from Oaxaca, Mexico, is hoeing asparagus on the same farm where my family once worked. He picks tomatoes in the summer and melons in the fall. He told me his employer has given him a letter — tucked inside his wallet, next to a picture of his family — assuring any who ask that he is "critical to the food supply chain." The letter was sanctioned by the Department of Homeland Security, the same agency that has spent 17 years trying to deport him.

"I don't feel this letter will stop la migra from deporting me," Tino told me. "But it makes me feel I may have a chance in this country, even though Americans may change their minds tomorrow."

True to form, America still wants it both ways. It wants to be fed. And it wants to demonize the undocumented immigrants who make that happen.

Recently, President Trump tweeted that he would "temporarily suspend immigration into the United States" — a threat consistent with the hit-the-immigrant-like-a-piñata policy he spearheaded in his 2016 campaign. Less than 24 hours later, the president backed down in the face of business groups fearful of losing access to foreign labor, announcing that

he'd keep the guest worker program.

In the past, the United States has rewarded immigrant soldiers who fought our wars with a path to citizenship. Today, the fields — along with the meatpacking plants, the delivery trucks and the grocery store shelves — are our front lines, and border security can't be disconnected from food security.

It's time to offer all essential workers a path to legalization.

It might seem hard to imagine this happening during the "Build the wall" presidency, when Congress can barely agree on emergency stimulus measures. Many Republicans no longer support even DACA, the program that protected Dreamers who grew up here and that could be revoked by the Supreme Court this week. But the pandemic scrambles our normal politics.

"We have started talking about essential workers as a category of superheroes," said Andrew Selee, the president of the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute and author of "Vanishing Frontiers." If the pandemic continues for a year or two, he said, we should think "in a bold way about how do we deal with essential workers who have put their life on the line for all of us but who don't have legal documents."

Maybe, he said, "they should be in the pipeline for fast-track regularization, just like those with DACA" are, for now.

Of course, America has always been a fickle country. I learned that lesson as a crop-picking boy, when my aunt Esperanza, who ran the team of farmhands that included my mom, brothers and cousins, would yell: "Haganse arco." Duck!

The workers without documents would stop hoeing and scramble. Run — if not for their lives, then almost certainly for their livelihoods. We'd watch as the vans of the Border Patrol came to a screeching halt, dust settling. The unlucky workers would make a beeline for the nearest ditch or canal. Some would simply drop to the ground, hoping for refuge amid the rows of sugar beets, tomatoes or cotton. Sometimes the agents gave chase. We'd always root for the prey.

On more than one occasion, agents took my mom and my aunt Teresa, locking them in the cages in the back of the van, because they didn't have their green cards on them. We'd race home and fetch the cards and make a mad dash to the immigration offices in Fresno some 60 miles away from our farm camp in Oro Loma, praying we'd make it before they could be deported. We were desperate to prove they had every right to be out in those desolate fields, as if they were taking a dream job away from somebody else.

One time, Aunt Teresa looked genuinely disappointed at the sight of our smiling faces. She was ticked off she hadn't been

deported.

"I miss Mexico," she said.

Sometimes, the night after such raids, a puzzling thing would take place. A labor contractor or farmer would drive up as we'd gather for dinner of beef, green chile and potato caldillo washed down with tortillas. He'd compliment us for the hard work we had put in that day. And then he'd ask: Did we know anyone who might want to come and work alongside us?

He meant more Mexicans.

The instructions were simple: Get the word out, spread the farmer's plea back in our towns in Mexico because plenty of rain had fallen that winter and now it was summer and everything around us was ripe, aching for that human touch. The season looked promising. Plenty of crops to pick.

Today not much has changed. The vulnerable — Dreamers working in health care; hotel maids; dairy and poultry plant workers; waiters, cooks and busboys in the $900 billion restaurant industry — still work to feed their families while feeling disposable, deportable by an ungrateful nation.

Tino, the farmworker in the San Joaquin Valley, is worried about the coronavirus. He wonders whether it's best, after 17 years of hiding from immigration authorities, to return to Oaxaca, "where I'd rather die."

But Tino's dreams outweigh his fears. He wants the best for his family, including a son born in the United States, who's looking at colleges in California. So, he continues in his $13.50-an-hour job.

He works for, among others, Joe L. Del Bosque of Del Bosque Farms, one of the largest organic melon growers in the country. Mr. Del Bosque employs about 300 people on hundreds of acres, and his fruits and vegetables are sold in just about every other organic supermarket across the country, including the place where I now shop in El Paso.

"Sadly, it's taken a pandemic for Americans to realize that the food in their grocery stores, on their tables, is courtesy of mostly Mexican workers, the majority of them without documents," Mr. Del Bosque told me. "They're the most vulnerable of workers. They're not hiding behind the pandemic waiting for a stimulus check."

Along with other farmers, he has been pleading with Congress for the past few years to legalize farmworkers, if not as part of comprehensive immigration reform, then as a bill focused on farmworkers, because "you need these workers today, tomorrow and for a long time."

"With or without Covid," he added, "we need to constantly replenish our work force to ensure food supplies."

Some Democratic lawmakers, including Representative Veronica Escobar of El Paso, are pushing to include legalization in any updated coronavirus relief package. "The hypocrisy within America is that we want the fruits of their undocumented labor, but we want to give them nothing in return," she said.

Even with unemployment projected to be 15 percent or higher, Mr. Del Bosque told me he doubts he'll ever see a line of job-seeking Americans flocking to his fields. The rare few who have shown up at 5:30 a.m. don't come back. Some, he said, give up the backbreaking work before their first lunch break.

He fears looming labor shortages. That's not because of raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement resuming or a wall keeping workers out. He worries about a potential coronavirus outbreak, yes, but his most immediate concern is that his farmworkers are aging. Their average age is 40. My old school, Oro Loma Elementary School, which was once filled with Mexican children, closed down in 2010.

The fields are simply running out of Mexicans as fewer men and women migrate each year, either because they're finding better jobs in Mexico or because of demographics. The Mexican birthrate is down from 7.3 children per woman in the 1960s to 2.1 in 2018. Those who do come want higher-paying jobs in other industries.

The best way to guarantee food security in the future is to legalize the current workers in order to keep them here, and to offer a pathway to legalization as an incentive for new agricultural workers to come. These people will be drawn not just from Mexico, but increasingly from Central and South America.

Del Bosque Farms have been dependent on Mexican workers since Mr. Del Bosque's parents, also immigrants from Mexico, started hiring them in the 1950s under the Bracero Program, which began during World War II. The program issued some five million contracts to Mexicans, inviting them to come to the United States as guest workers to help fill labor shortages so Americans could fight overseas.

Hundreds of the workers who've toiled at Del Bosque Farms over the years have become legal residents, many more citizens, including my father, Juan Pablo.

For many years my father spent the springs and summers working in the United States, but every November he'd high-tail it back to his village in Mexico, where he played in a band called the Birds with his five brothers. He didn't trust his American bosses to raise his pay, and always worried about the possibility of suddenly being deported, so he wouldn't commit to them. The Texans

especially, he thought, were prejudiced against Mexicans.

The boys from Mexico worked so hard, Texas ranchers argued during one of America's cyclical anti-immigrant periods, that the hiring of Mexicans should not be considered a felony. Thus, the Texas Proviso was adopted in 1952, stating that employing unauthorized workers would not constitute "harboring or concealing" them. This helps explain why Americans call immigrants "illegal" but not the businesses that hire them.

When the Bracero Program ended in 1964, amid accusations of mistreatment against Mexicans, my father thought he had enough of plowing rows on a tractor and digging ditches. He dreamed of running a grocery store in Mexico, raising his kids out where mountains embraced us. But he was such a hard worker that his boss couldn't fathom the idea of losing him. So he helped my father get a green card for every member of his family, including me. Later he began working for the Del Bosques.

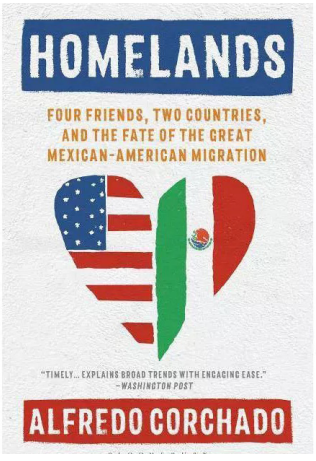
Without legalization, he would have left and probably never come back.

As a 6-year-old immigrant, I'd cry at night under the California stars, homesick for Mexico, for my friends and cousins. Then one night, as my mother tucked me into bed, she caressed my face. "Shhhh," she whispered, "they're all here now." And she was right.

Today my siblings include a lawyer, an accountant, two truck drivers, a security guard, an educator and a prosthetics specialist. Cousins went off to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, or to help run medical centers and corporations, including Walmart in Arkansas. Others still grind away in the fields of California and meatpacking plants of Colorado, work in nursing homes or clean the houses of the rich. Many of us make an annual pilgrimage to our home village in the Mexican desert. But we're firmly planted here.

Without being thanked for it, we're replenishing America. ▪

Alfredo Corchado is the Mexico border correspondent for The Dallas Morning News and the author of "Midnight in Mexico" and "Homelands: Four Friends, Two Countries and the Fate of the Great Mexican-American Migration."



Over 110 House Democrats Call for Immediate End of Remain in Mexico Policy

Feb 12, 2020

Press Release

WASHINGTON— Congressional leaders called on Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf to immediately terminate the Trump Administration's "Remain in Mexico" policy, otherwise known as the Migrant Protection Protocols. This policy has led to multiple human and civil rights violations at our border, while also causing the mass suffering of tens of thousands of migrants and asylum seekers. In the year since its implementation, at least 816 migrants have been assaulted, raped, or murdered while waiting under "Remain in Mexico."

"Under this dangerous and illegal policy, the Administration has forced tens of thousands of vulnerable children, families, and other asylum seekers into unsafe conditions before their asylum requests can even be heard. In the span of just one year, 'Remain in Mexico' has inflicted irreparable harm to nearly 60,000 asylum seekers. The Trump Administration has forced the United States to turn its back on our international legal obligations damaging our status as the global leader on refugee protection," the Members wrote. "'Remain in Mexico' repeatedly jeopardizes the physical safety and emotional well-being vulnerable populations sought to escape from in the first place. This program undoubtedly causes further harm and inflicts unnecessary trauma on these populations. The Trump Administration must immediately terminate this cruel and illegal policy, provide all asylum seekers with meaningful access to a fair asylum process in the U.S., and restore the U.S. commitment to be a safe haven for refugees."

The letter was led by Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chairman Joaquin Castro (TX-20) and signed by 112 Democratic members of Congress: Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler (NY-10), House Foreign Affairs Chairman Eliot Engel (NY-16), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chair Judy Chu (CA-27), Congressional Black Caucus Chair Karen Bass (CA-37), Appropriations LHHSEd Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-3), Appropriations CJS Subcommittee Chairman Serrano (NY-15), Judiciary Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren

(CA-16), Foreign Affairs Western Hemisphere Subcommittee Chairman Albio Sires (NJ-8), Appropriations DHS Subcommittee Chairwoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40), Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-12), Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Chairman Jamie Raskin (MD-8), Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (MS-2), Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano (CA-32), Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), Congressman Earl Blumenauer (OR-3), Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01), Congresswoman Deb Haaland (NM-1), Congressman Peter DeFazio (OR-04), Congressman James P. McGovern (MA-2), Congressman Juan Vargas (CA-51), Congressman Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), Congressman Ruben Gallego (AZ-7), Congressman Filemon Vela (TX-34), Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12), Congrssman Raúl Grijalva (AZ-3), Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia (TX-29), Congressman Jimmy Panetta (CA-20), Congressman Jesús G. "Chuy" García (IL-4), Congressman Darren Soto (FL-9), Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez (CA-38), Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16), Congressman Alan Lowenthal (CA-47), Congressman Tony Cárdenas (CA-29), Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (FL-26), Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA-7), Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán (CA-44), Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA-13), Congressman Ben Ray Luján (NM-3), Congressman Gil Cisneros (CA-39), Congressman Jimmy Gomez (CA-34), Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-7), Congressman Bobby Rush (IL-1), Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez (NY-12), Congressman Anthony Brown (MD-4), Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (TX-15), Congressman Ro Khanna (CA-17), Congresswoman Norma Torres (CA-35), Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-6), Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23), Congresswoman Gwen Moore (WI-4), Congressman Lou Correa (CA-46), Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. (NJ-10), Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC), Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), Congresswoman Donna Shalala (FL-27), Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-14), Congressman Steven Horsford (NV-4), Congressman Peter Welch (VT), Congressman Jared Huffman (CA-2), Congressman Danny K. Davis (IL-7), Congressman André Carson (IN-7), Congresswoman Julia Brownley (CA-26), Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (MN-5), Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (Fl-20), Congressman Bill Foster (IL-11), Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO-5), Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (CT-5), Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4), Congressman Adam Smith (WA-9), Congressman Denny Heck (WA-10), Congressman Pete Aguilar (CA-31), Congresswoman Grace Meng (NY-6), Congressman Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. (GA-4), Congressman Mark Pocan (WI-2), Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-8), Con-

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The letter was also endorsed by 42 organizations, including ACLU, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, The Immigration Hub, Lawyers for Good Govt Project Corazon Matamoros, The Center for Victims of Torture, Coalition on Human Needs, Women's Refugee Commission, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, National Immigrant Justice Center, The Latin America Working Group, Doctors for Camp Closure, Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, United We Dream, Immigrant Defenders Law Center , Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), Witness at the Border, National Justice for Our Neighbors, Just Neighbors, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), New Mexico Comunidades en Acción de Fé (NM CAFé), Project Lifeline, Southern Border Communities Coalition (SBCC), Doctors for America, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, The US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Human Rights First, Church World Service, Tahirih Justice Center, Americas Voice, Physicians for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, Save the Children Action Network, Families Belong Together, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Texas Civil Rights Project, The San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium (SDIRC), National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights, Union for Reform Judaism (the URJ), the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach, Justice in Motion, Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG), and Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA).

Full text of the letter follows and can be found here.
Dear Acting Secretary Chad Wolf,

We just marked the one-year anniversary of the Trump Administration's 'Remain in Mexico' policy, also known as the Migrant Protection Protocols. Under this dangerous and illegal policy, the Administration has forced tens of thousands of vulnerable children, families, and other asylum seekers into unsafe conditions before their asylum requests can even be heard. In the span of just one year, 'Remain in Mexico' has inflicted irreparable harm to nearly 60,000 asylum seekers. The Trump Administration has forced the United States to turn its back on our international legal obligations damaging our status as the global leader on refugee protection. We call on the Trump Administration to immediately terminate this harmful policy.

'Remain in Mexico' is just another tool used by this Administration to circumvent and dismantle the U.S. asylum system. 'Remain in Mexico' obstructs access to legal counsel, making it nearly impossible for asylum seekers into actually obtain asylum. In fact, members of the American Federation of Government Employees, the union that represents USCIS asylum officers, asserts that the policy fails to provide even basic procedural protections to asylum applicants. Only 4 percent of those subject to 'Remain in Mexico' have been able to find legal counsel. In contrast, nearly a third of those allowed to remain in the U.S while pursuing their asylum claim have obtained legal counsel over the same time period. Legal representation is critical to securing asylum as those with lawyers are four times more likely to be granted asylum than those without counsel. This obstruction of due process not only violates U.S. asylum and immigration law but harms vulnerable children and families who desperately need protection.

Moreover, this policy closes the doors to vulnerable populations, including children and families, forcing them to wait in dangerous conditions in locations even our own government considers very dangerous. In the last year, there have been more than 800 documented attacks on those subject to 'Remain in Mexico', including cases of kidnapping, extortion, torture, rape, and murder. A recent study by the U.S. Immigration Policy Center at San Diego found that one in four people subject to 'Remain in Mexico' in Tijuana and Mexicali have been threatened with physical violence. Families, children, and others are living in makeshift encampments, often without adequate access to water, food, medical care, and proper sanitation. Furthermore, in alleged

violation of CBP's own policy, we understand that other vulnerable populations, such as pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQ individuals, and those with severe illnesses, have also been forced to wait in these conditions. For LGBTQ asylum seekers, this policy forces them to remain exposed to the very abuse and persecution they are seeking protection from in the U.S.

In response to the alarming reports about conditions at the border caused by 'Remain in Mexico,' Members of Congress have traveled to Texas and Mexico to investigate these allegations first-hand. Members have spoken with hundreds of vulnerable families forced to live in makeshift refugee camps. Unfortunately, these visits have confirmed that many human rights violations are occurring at the border as a result of 'Remain in Mexico'.

'Remain in Mexico' repeatedly jeopardizes the physical safety and emotional well-being vulnerable populations sought to escape from in the first place. This program undoubtedly causes further harm and inflicts unnecessary trauma on these populations. The Trump Administration must immediately terminate this cruel and illegal policy, provide all asylum seekers with meaningful access to a fair asylum process in the U.S., and restore the U.S. commitment to be a safe haven for refugees.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Sincerely,

# # #

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), founded in December 1976, is organized as a Congressional Member organization, governed under the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives. The CHC is dedicated to voicing and advancing, through the legislative process, issues affecting Hispanics in the United States, Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories.

ACTION ITEMS

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Petition to President-elect Biden

GO TO THIS LINK TO SIGN:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19dwQddtxtnI_tlfHe7ftMaxgDb4VlDow7a01UtXw_a4/viewform?edit_requested=true

We the undersigned request that you and your administration make it a priority to revoke the policies and rules changes initiated by the previous administration that have made it almost impossible for people seeking asylum to receive protection and find safety. In particular, we note the following items, by no means an exhaustive list, as examples of what must be changed:

1) the mis-named Migrant Protection Protocols, which have forced 60,000 asylum seekers to remain in Mexico for the duration of their asylum process, fending for themselves on the streets or in makeshift shelters without running water or sanitary facilities;

2) the Asylum Cooperative Agreements with Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, allowing the U.S. to deport asylum seekers to these three countries to seek asylum there rather than here. These are precisely the countries from which people flee seeking asylum in the United States;

3) the CDC closure, under pressure from the previous administration, of the border to "non-essential travel" during the COVID-19 pandemic. Migrants of all types were put in the "non-essential travel" category, resulting in the expulsion of over 150,000 people, including children. Travel for U.S. citizens of almost any kind was put in the "essential" category. This is an anti-asylum policy masquerading as a public health measure;

4) exorbitant fee increases for filing asylum applications and work permits, putting it beyond the means of most asylum seekers;

5) requirement that asylum seekers wait one year after filing for asylum to put in an application for authorization to work;

6) restrictions in eligibility requirements for receiving asylum such that being threatened by gangs or domestic violence are not valid reasons for seeking asylum.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19dwQddtxtnI_tlfHe7ftMaxgDb4VlDow7a01UtXw_a4/edit

ASK YOUR SENATOR TO SUPPORT TPS LEGISLATION

What is TPS?

TPS is a life-saving immigration program that allows foreign nationals to remain in the U.S. if, while they were in the U.S., something catastrophic happened in their country of origin that prevented their safe return. Examples include war, famine, natural disaster, or epidemic. TPS protects people from deportation and allows them to work legally while they remain in the U.S. The program is a temporary, humanitarian form of relief that does not grant permanent residence in the United States.

It was created by a bipartisan act of Congress in 1990, allowing the Department of Homeland Security to grant the status when disasters strike.

Only legislation—not litigation—will provide a permanent solution to protect TPS holders, ensuring they can remain in the U.S. with their families and communities where they belong.

Litigation, while impactful, can only provide temporary relief for TPS holders, their families, and communities. Ultimately, only Congress can provide a permanent solution to protect TPS holders.

Without congressional action, the terminations of TPS will lead to devastating moral and economic consequences not just for TPS holders but for their families, communities, and for the entire country."

Through organizing and advocacy, TPS recipients and their allies are counteracting the administration's aggressive efforts to deport millions of people with deep roots in our communities.

Bills have been introduced in Congress that would protect TPS holders. The House has passed the Dream and Promise Act, which would offer a pathway to citizenship for people with TPS, Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). It's time for the Senate to follow suit.

Take action today: Tell your senators to provide permanent protection for TPS holders by creating a roadmap to citizenship for TPS holders and all immigrants! Find your senators here:

https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC

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For the tireless pursuit of social and economic justice for the indigenous people in Latin America, particularly Guatemala

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Lifelong activist in solidarity with liberation struggles around the world

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Founder of *Women for Guatemala*, former Executive Director of *ICIRR*, and current Executive Director of *Gads Hill Center*

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Sharon Hunter-Smith

For her tireless commitment to human rights in Latin America, to speaking out on behalf of those who are struggling for justice in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Cuba, as well as for migrants and immigrants who come to our country in search of safety and peace

Recognized by Martha and Denis Pierce

The staff of CRLN

For their human rights work

Recognized by Frank Schneider

Martha Esperanza Sanchez *deceased*

An activist for immigrant rights, women's rights and solidarity with her beloved Honduras. Martha's gentle spirit and kind heart made a difference to many in her all-too-short life.

Recognized by Mary McCann & Trini Sanchez

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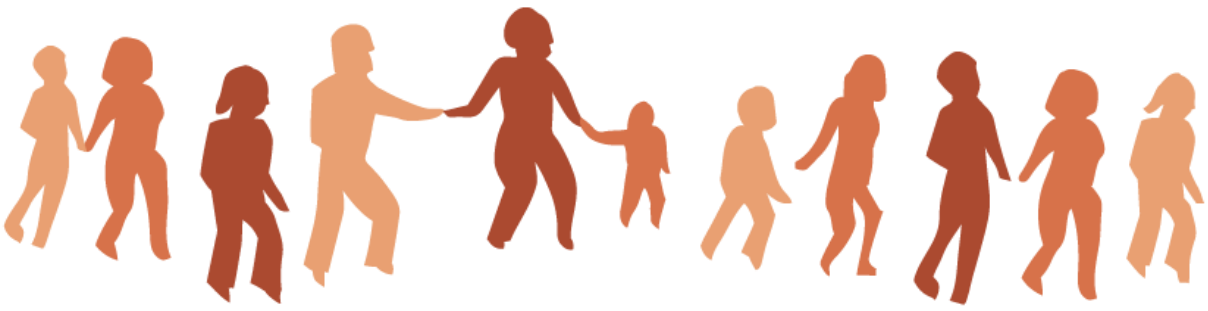
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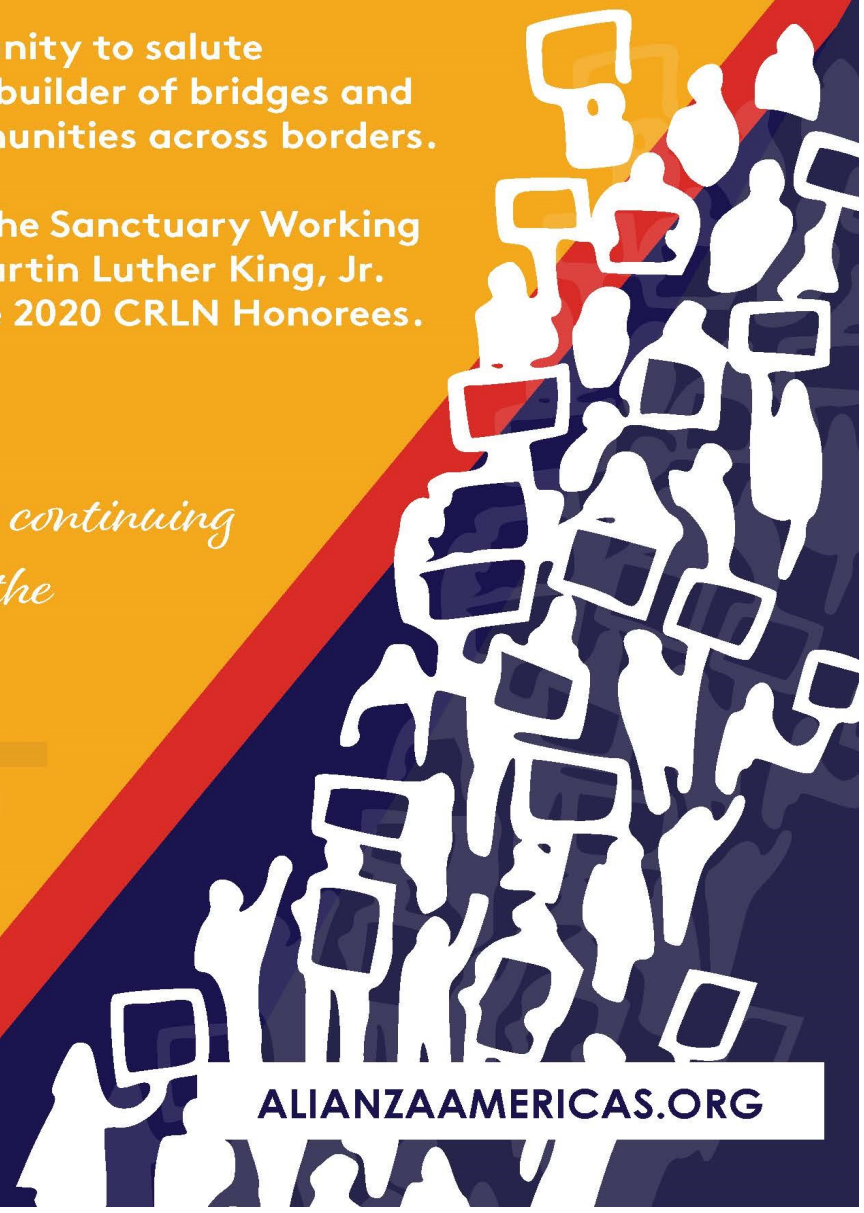
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Alianza Americas salutes CRLN on its Building Bridges, Connecting Communities event.

We take this opportunity to salute **Sister Magda**, a true builder of bridges and a connector of communities across borders.

Congratulations to the Sanctuary Working Group and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center; the 2020 CRLN Honorees.

We look forward to continuing to work together in the years to come.



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CIS Congratulates CRLN for its 31 Years of Building Bridges of Solidarity for Justice and Dignity



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During the crisis of COVID-19, the CIS has moved several solidarity exchanges online. None-the-less, we continue to build solidarity in new ways, and invite you to join us:

- CIS English School is online now. We train volunteers to teach English in person in El Salvador or from anywhere in the world with our English courses online.
- Study Spanish online with Salvadoran teachers. Take classes online from your home at your convenience. Online or in person classes available at $15/hour.
- Join the CIS 14th International Mission of Election Observers in El Salvador. Many traditional meetings will be online. We will organize outdoors activities in the communities taking into account social distancing. El Salvador is 1 of 3 Latin American Countries deemed safe to travel during COVID-19 by international tourism agencies. You must always wear a mask. * Long term observers January 3 – March 26. * Short term observer February 22 – March 2 , 2021.
- Donate to build a dignified home in Paso Puente Community, an urban shanty town.
- Donate to CIS COVID-19 Relief Phase II: Computers, internet connections and other tech tools for underprivileged youth for virtual classes, exams, assignments during the pandemic, as well as strengthen their studies for the long-term.

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Congratulations to our sister organization CRLN for your many years of faithful solidarity with the people of Latin America.

¡Adelante!

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Thank-you to the Fundraising Committee!

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