Hearing for Sanctuary Resolution has been Postponed, but our Fight for Sanctuary in Albuquerque Continues

Stay tuned for the NEW hearing date on resolution 18-7 strengthening Albuquerque’s status as an immigrant-friendly city and the next steps on la lucha. We will announce the new date in the coming weeks.

New Provisions in Resolution 18-7:
- ensure that the City is not using any resources to enforce federal immigration laws.
- safeguard personal and identifying information so that the federal government can’t use this information to target our families.
- limit ICE’s access to nonpublic City facilities if they don’t have a judicial warrant and,
- ensure that the City will not enforce any federal program requiring the registration of individuals on the basis of religious affiliation or ethnic or national origin.

Previous employees from Hacienda del Rio Demand Their Wages

On March 6th, members of El CENTRO and former employees from Hacienda del Rio held a protest to demand the collection of their stolen wages as ordered by the County of Bernalillo Second Judicial District Court. Over two years ago, four former workers of Hacienda del Rio filed suit against Hacienda and its owners for wage theft. In December of last year, District Judge Nancy J. Franchini ruled on D-202-CV-2016-05310 citing Hacienda del Rio and its owners are liable to pay for unpaid wages totaling over $40,000 for the four workers including damages.

“How many of you would be ready to pay your bills if your employer suddenly stopped paying you?” asked Blanca Garcia, working mother, member of El CENTRO, and victim of wage theft. Garcia added, “any small additional expense, whether it was medical or school related, caused additional stress for my entire family. When we finally demanded our stolen wages, I was called “impatient” IMPATIENT?! How could I have afforded to be patient when I am no longer able to pay for the needs of my children and my granddaughter?! I wanted my children to learn the importance of fighting for the rights of all immigrant working families. Today my children and my granddaughter know that they have a brave woman to look after them. My family is now committed to join the fight for the rights of all New Mexican workers.”

At this protest, we demonstrated that our working families and low-wage workers are more organized than ever. El CENTRO provides bi-weekly wage theft orientations to workers at our office, 714 4th SW, Albuquerque; helps workers file wage claims; works with a team of pro-bono attorneys to give legal advice and when appropriate; and organizes workers to seek other means of resolution through community-oriented approaches including direct-action against unscrupulous employers. For more information on how to get involved contact Marco Nuñez at mnunez_elcentro@yahoo.com, Marian Mendez at mmendez_elcentro@yahoo.com, or call 505-246-1627.

Membership Meeting: Sanctuary for our families

We host membership meetings every other month. These meetings are for our members to come together, share information and their experiences, and discuss strategies to fight for immigrants’ rights, civil rights, and workers’ justice. In February’s membership discussed how to continue our fight for sanctuary in Albuquerque. We also recognized the work of some of most active members and Defensores de Familia: Jessica Rodriguez, Edgar Salina, Christian Nuñez, Jane Guevara, Elizabeth Guevara, and Lucía Hernández. Thank you very much to all the members that attended, the fight continues!

La Lucha Sigue for a Clean Dream Act

In New Mexico, the NM Dream Team has taken a lead on fighting for a “Clean” Dream Act. Throughout these months, NM Dream Team has lead walkouts, press conferences, and actions across the state and representing New Mexico in Washington, DC. Thank you for your fearless leadership. We laud Senators Heinrich and Udall for honoring our New Mexican values of family unity and justice on February 15th, when they voted against the most white-supremacist atrocious, xenophobic Republican bills that would have traded...
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOP FOR WORKERS
WHEN: March 13th 5:30 to 8 pm
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Come learn about your rights with ICE, and what to do if ICE or law authorities come to your workplace. We will discuss ways to organize and continue protecting our communities
WORKERS’ RIGHTS ORIENTATIONS
WHEN: March 19, April 2 & 16 5:30 to 7 pm
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Come to our orientations if you think you’ve been a victim of wage theft and/or discrimination, and want to learn about your rights and options. Call in advance to reserve your spot, 505-247-1023

CIVIL RIGHTS WORKSHOPS
WHEN: Contact us to schedule and sign up
DESCRIPTION: Learn about your civil rights with ICE/police, and how to make a family emergency plan and how to join the movement to fight back!
Contact us at 505-246-1627 or sign up on line at www.elcentronm.org

LEGAL CONSULTATIONS - THE NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER
WHEN: Every Wednesday, 1 to 5 pm
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Do you need help with any immigration related issues or obtaining a background check? Come on Wednesdays to sign up for a free consultation with an immigration attorney.

NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER PHONE CONSULTATIONS
WHEN: Every Friday, 11 am to 1 pm
DESCRIPTION: Free legal consuls! Call 505-247-1023

For more information about events and to check out our complete Know Your Rights with ICE and Law Enforcement Toolkit at our Website!

Luchadora del Mes: Lucía Hernández, activist, student, immigrant grandmother, and a Defensora de Familia

Every month we highlight the work and the story of one of our active members. This month we highlight Lucía Hernández. She is a proud grandmother and an advocate for fighting to protect our immigrant families and communities. She is also taking English classes at CNM. She explains, “I am taking English classes in CNM because I want to have better opportunities to improve the economic stability of my family and my community.”

She became an active member with El CENTRO in 2016 after she came to our January’s membership meeting. At this membership meeting, Lucía decided that she wanted to become a Defensora de Familia (Family Defenders) and an active member with El CENTRO because “as a mother and a grandmother, I understand the importance of protecting our families. Our children deserve to live peacefully.”

As part of Defensores de Familia, Lucía looks forward to teaching Know-Your-Rights workshops throughout Albuquerque and to facilitate future membership meetings. Lucía has been actively involved in our vigils to defend our families against deportations, organizing local businesses for our May Day Rise-Up ABQ Rally, volunteering hours making phone calls for our Get-Out-to-Vote campaign on paid sick leave and setting up for events such as membership meetings. We, at El CENTRO, recognize that our strength has always come and will continue to come directly from our members. Thank you! If you would like to get involved or learn more about our Defensores de Familia group or our Civil Rights workshops, contact Fabiola Bawden at fbawden@yahoo.com, Marian Méndez at mmendez_elcentro@yahoo.com, or call 505-246-1627.

The New Mexico Immigrant Law Center will continue providing assistance with DACA applications and DACA renewals on their FREE Wednesday’s legal workshops from 1-5pm at El CENTRO 714 4th St SW, Albuquerque, NM.
El CENTRO insists that Congress must pass a Clean Dream Act and stand for our immigrant youth and their families. We will continue to hold our Members of Congress accountable every step of the way.

El CENTRO Presente in Protest Against Albuquerque Journal’s Attack on Our Communities

On February 7, 2018 the Albuquerque Journal sparked mass outrage on social media, people from all over the nation shared their disapproval of an obviously racist cartoon the Journal had published. El CENTRO joined a protest organized by the ANSWER Coalition along with local protesters against the Albuquerque Journal after publishing a revolting racist anti-immigrant cartoon portraying immigrants, muslims and DREAMers as gang members, violent criminals and terrorists. The protest took place across the street from the offices of the Albuquerque Journal where protesters demanded a retraction and public apology. “It is kind of hurtful that our own newspaper is reflecting Trump’s agenda,” Mendez-Cera, organizer from El CENTRO was quoted saying in the Journal. “It is xenophobic, anti-immigrant and does not reflect our values in New Mexico.”

The cartoon illustrates a white couple who were assaulted and harassed at gunpoint by members of the criminal gang MS-13 and a Muslim man by his side carrying bombs, along with a bloody knife. The white man bubbled up saying to his wife, “Now, darling, I think they prefer to be called ‘Dreamers’ … or future Democrats.” The Journal, after seeing the outrage of the public, released an apology.

The New CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos                      elcentronm.org                      (505) 246-1627

3
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH ICE

**DON’T OPEN THE DOOR!**
You have the right to not open the door (even if ICE has arrest warrant or deportation order). To enter by force, they need a search warrant. At work, ICE can only enter public spaces without a search warrant.

**REMAIN SILENT**
If you are being questioned by an immigration agent, you do not have to disclose your country of origin or immigration status. If you are arrested, you can either say or give your “know-your-rights” card or say "I do not want to answer any questions," and then, "I want to talk to a lawyer."

**HAVE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN**
For an example of a plan, visit our website www.elcentronm.org where you will find a list of documents and information necessary for your family plan.

**REMAIN CALM!**
If you run, you may be giving the officer a reason to arrest you. Calmly ask the officer, "Why was I stopped?". Ask “Am I being detained?”. If he/she responds, “NO”, ask “Can I leave?”. If he/she says “YES” assert your right to remain silent and give them your know-your-rights card. If you are arrested, don’t resist, remain silent, and contact your attorney.

**NEVER SHOW FALSE DOCUMENTS**
Do not lie— including about being a citizen. Also do not show any foreign document, such as a passport, consular identification or expired visa that ICE can use to identify your country of origin/citizenship.

**DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING!**
Do not sign a document if you do not understand it or if you have not talked to an attorney about your legal options.

**ORGANIZE!**
Participate in organizations such as El CENTRO to spread the word about our rights and to fight back against deportations. Make a plan with your co-workers so you can act in solidarity to protect the rights of all.

**DOCUMENT EVERYTHING!**
Use your cell phone to film any interaction with authorities, names of the officers or the badge number, the color of their uniform, the appearance of their vehicle and whether the officers are working with other departments.

**USE “MOBILE JUSTICE-NEW MEXICO”!**
Download the mobile application of ACLU NM to be able to record and keep track of any incidents with ICE or law enforcement.

Updated Feb 17

FOR MORE INFORMATION: elcentronm.org (505) 246-1627

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