



Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Si quieres una copia en español, llama al 5 505-246-1627

El CENTRO Members Speak Out Against All Privately Run Prisons and Detention Centers

On Monday, July 16th at 1:00 PM, our members along with other immigrant-based organizations and civil rights advocacy groups spoke out at the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee of the New Mexico Legislature to advocate for the end of all privately run detention centers and prisons in New Mexico. New Mexico has one of the highest percentages of people incarcerated in private prisons in the nation. Impacted New Mexico families, refugees, and asylum seekers spoke out about the violence and abuse experienced inside these privately run institutions. Those that testified, urged the legislature to stand against the criminalization and persecution of our communities and against the industry that makes billions of dollars capitalizing on human misery. The resounding messages were clear: private prisons are wrong for New Mexico and rural communities deserve better economic development models.

Our members, community members, and allies packed the hearing room and together we showed our legislators that we will continue organizing and fighting for the rights of our communities. Norma Dorado, an active member of El CENTRO urged the committee to end all privatized prisons in New Mexico, "My son was detained for a month and a half. While he was in this prison, our family suffered every second. It is frustrating that there are companies that benefit economically at the cost of our New Mexican families. New Mexico is unique, and we will not be victims of the anti-immigrant fervor that has resulted in the growth of private detention centers throughout the country-- which is one more attack on our communities."



The Fight for the Reunification of Families and the End of Detention Continues *Families Belong Together Rally*

On June 30th El CENTRO members participated in the Families Belong Together Rally. One of our most active leaders, Hilaria Martinez, spoke for the protections of our immigrant communities, "I urge the community to continue to organize, to speak out, and to stand up for the justice that our families deserve." Thousands of people came together to show that our communities will not continue to be demonized because of the color of our skin, our religion, or where we come from—and we'll keep the pressure on until we win.

El CENTRO Members "Presentes" at Bernalillo County Commission

El CENTRO urged commissioners at the County Commission meeting on June 26th to oppose family separation, detention, and deportation of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers and the privatization of immigrant detention centers which profit of the targeting, persecution, and separation of our communities.

We will continue fighting to stop family detention and the zero-tolerance policy at the border. As people across the U.S. continue to face attacks on their civil and human rights, we will continue fighting back and organize. Please, follow us on Facebook at @ElCentrodelaIgualdadYDerechos or give us a call at 505-246-1627 to learn how you can get involved.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES

WHEN: Thursday July 26th, 6:00 to 8:30 pm
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: We will discuss our next steps in the fight to protect our communities, ensure better protections for our families. We will also talk about our role in the local elections.

WORKERS' RIGHTS ORIENTATIONS

WHEN: July 26, & August 9 & 23, 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

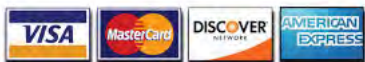
LEGAL CONSULTATIONS -THE NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER

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 consults!
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!



El CENTRO Members Celebrate Pride Month and Demand for No More Deaths in the Hands of DHS

Roxsana Hernández, a transgender woman and asylum seeker from Honduras, died on May 25, 2018 while in the custody of the Cibola County Correctional Center, an ICE immigrant detention center operated by the private prison company CoreCivic. On June 6, members of El CENTRO participated in a protest in front of the ICE offices in Albuquerque as part of a national day of action and honored Roxsana's life by demanding that all trans women who need medication or whose lives are at risk while they are detained to be released immediately. The protest was organized by Equality New Mexico, Colibrí, the New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice and the NM Dream team.

On June 9th, our members had the honor to march with Equality New Mexico at the Pride March to honor and celebrate our LGBTQIA members (folks in the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, Queer, Intersexual, Asexual communities).



Luchador del Mes: Felipe Rodríguez Working Immigrant Father

Every month we highlight the work and the story of one of our active members. This month we highlight Felipe Rodríguez. Felipe became involved with El CENTRO after he was a victim of wage theft. He was working over 40 hours a week yet he was never paid overtime. He and his wife are low-wage workers who work tirelessly to provide for their three children. Felipe has also been actively attending actions to demand for the rights of our immigrant communities. In addition, he participates in our bi-monthly membership meetings and events.

Ultimately, Felipe went through the Department of Workforce Solutions to resolve his case and was able to recover a satisfactory percentage of his lost wages. This experience not only motivated Felipe to fight against wage theft, but he learned about and is working to advance paid sick leave in Albuquerque, "My boss never offered me paid time off to seek medical help. I stand in solidarity with many working families, especially parents, who sacrifice their ability to pay bills to take care of their children or sacrifice their health to ensure that their families do not

suffer from economic struggles," he says. Felipe encourages other immigrant workers to step forward and advocate for their rights, "I invite all of you to come forward with your cases of wage theft and to organize to end labor abuses and wage theft in our beautiful state."

If you would like to get involved or learn more about workers' rights, El CENTRO is recruiting new members for their workers' rights committee. Contact Marian Méndez Cera at mmendez_elcentro@yahoo.com, or call 505-246-1627. Also, stay tuned to our website www.elcentronm.org and like us on Facebook: @ElCentrodelaIgualdadYDerechos.



EL CENTRO INVITES WORKERS WITH CLOSED AND UNCLAIMED WAGE THEFT CASES TO COME FORWARD

After years of the Department of Workforce Solutions' (DWS) refusal to enforce New Mexico's wage enforcement laws properly, under the leadership of Governor Susana Martinez, EL CENTRO and other workers' justice organizations from across the state filed a lawsuit last January.

In a landmark victory for low-wage workers, we reached a settlement agreement in December 2017. This agreement benefits all employees who have experienced or are currently experiencing a violation of the New Mexico wage payment laws. It requires the Labor Relations Division (LRD) to take specific measures to strengthen its investigations of claims for unpaid wages and to enforce the law more uniformly.



What if I filed a wage theft claim in the past and my case was closed or rejected?

If you filed a wage claim in the past and did not receive the assistance you expected, you may be eligible for a re-investigation of your wage claim if one or more of the following things happened to you:

CATEGORY 1: LRD closed, refused to accept for filing, or only partially investigated your wage claim due to a prior \$10,000 limit or one-year time limit.

CATEGORY 2: LRD rejected, closed, or insufficiently resolved your wage claim in the employer's favor.

If any of these things occurred, and if your wage payment dispute was after January 17, 2014, please file a new wage claim form before March 9, 2019. Your claim will be reviewed for re-investigation.



How can I know if I can re-open my case? Who can I contact to present a wage theft claim?

EL CENTRO provides bi-weekly wage theft orientations to workers; helps workers file wage claims; works with a team of pro-bono attorneys to give legal advice and when appropriate; and engages workers to seek other means of resolution through community-oriented approaches including direct-action against unscrupulous employers. For more info, contact Marco Nuñez at mnunez@yahoo.com, Marian Mendez at mmendez_elcentro@yahoo.com, or call 505-246-1627.



JULIO 26, 2018; 6-8:30PM

JUNTA DE MEMBRESIA

LA ACCION ES
PODER



En esta junta:

- El rol de nuestra comunidad en las elecciones: Cómo asegurar que nuestra voz cuente en las próximas elecciones locales.
 - Cuáles son nuestros siguientes pasos en la lucha para mantener nuestras familias unidas y asegurar nuestros derechos laborales.
- ¡No te lo pierdas!

HABRA CUIDADO DE NIÑOS Y UNA CENA LIGERA.

PARA MAS INFORMACION, LLAMA AL EL CENTRO DE IGUALDAD Y DERECHOS:
505-246-1627 O DANOS "LIKE" EN NUESTRA PAGINA DE FACEBOOK.