



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## National Immigrant Integration Conference: Recommitting Our Country To One Of Welcome

**WHAT:** The annual [National Immigrant Integration Conference \(NIIC\) 2021--New American Dreams](#), the largest immigrant integration conference in the country.

**WHO:** Hosted by the [National Partnership for New Americans \(NPNA\)](#), and held alongside national and regional partners including:

***National Partners:** Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Church World Service, Immigration Hub, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, National Immigration Law Center, New York Immigration Coalition, Unidos US, UNITE HERE, World Education Services.*

***Regional Partners:** Asian Community Development Council, CHIRLA, Comunidades Unidas, Make the Road Nevada, One America, Promise Arizona, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, Unite Oregon.*

**WHERE:** Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, Nev.

**WHEN:** Oct. 3-6. Registration [here](#).

**NATIONWIDE** – The annual [National Immigrant Integration Conference \(NIIC\) 2021](#), the largest conference focused on immigrant and refugee issues in the country, will take place from Oct. 3-6 in Las Vegas. Each year, NIIC brings together over 1,000 policymakers and advocates from across the United States and many international partners. The conference provides a key avenue for leaders across the sector serving immigrants and refugees to connect and share ideas, information, and strategies, particularly on integration issues including economic opportunity, education, employment, healthcare access and civic engagement.

### REGIONAL PARTNERS



Hosted by the [National Partnership for New Americans \(NPNA\)](#), the [NIIC 2021 – New American Dreams](#) first launched in 2008 and has grown to become the central gathering space for the entire sector. The NIIC embodies NPNA's commitment to ensuring an inclusive and welcoming democracy that helps to integrate all refugees and immigrants while recognizing the vital impact they have on our country.

"As the United States steps up to welcome thousands of refugees fleeing Afghanistan and others seeking refuge from conflicts and climate displacement, religious and political persecution, now is the time to urgently work together to find lasting solutions for immigrants and refugees as they navigate our broken immigration system. The NIIC is an opportunity to connect the ideas and people so that we can improve how immigrants and refugees settle in the U.S. by supporting their integration journey," said **Angelica Salas**, *executive director of CHIRLA and co-chair of NPNA*.

Salas is among the more than 100 experts from the field who will be featured as speakers at the conference in Las Vegas. Others include: **Nsé Ufot** (*New Georgia Project*), **Greisa Martínez Rosas** (*United We Dream*), **Nana Gyamfi** (*Black Alliance for Just Immigration*), **Christine Chen** (*APIA Vote*), and **Hans Van der Weerd** (*International Rescue Committee*). The conference will address the most pressing issues in the immigrant and refugee sector, including anticipated legislative changes to immigration policy and a new wave of Afghan refugees displaced as the U.S. exits Afghanistan.

"Immigrants to the U.S. face many challenges in their pursuit of integrating into their new communities. These challenges range from learning the language and culture to finding gainful employment and a place to live. We need real solutions to support some of the most vulnerable people in our society," added **Laura Martin**, *executive director of PLAN and one of the Nevada anchors for the conference*.

Other featured speakers include **Arun Venogupal**, *a contributor to National Public Radio*, **Tefere Gebre** *of the AFL-CIO*, **Professor John A. Powell** *from the University of California at Berkeley*, **Krish Vignarajah** *of Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Service*, and among other international guests, **Stella Opoku-Owusu** *of the Africa Foundation for Development*.

"There are so many organizations and communities working to support the full inclusion of immigrants and refugees; the NIIC is a chance for these groups to join together to develop holistic solutions to some of the most challenging situations they face. As a new wave of refugees arrives on our shores, and we emerge from the pandemic more clear-eyed about the work of essential workers, there's never been a more important time to help new Americans so we can all move forward together," said **Nicole Melaku**, *executive director of the National Partnership for New Americans*.

To register, visit the NIIC 2021 website [here](#). Find more details on the NIIC schedule and program [here](#). *Please note that vaccination and masks are required for attendance. For more information on NIIC's COVID policy, click [here](#).* Members of the press are encouraged to contact Fernanda Durand at [fernanda@communicationsshop.us](mailto:fernanda@communicationsshop.us) for media registration.

**NIIC 2020 National Partners:** *Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Church World Service, Immigration Hub, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, National Immigration Law Center, New York Immigration Coalition, Unidos US, UNITE HERE, World Education Services.*

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