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First Gathering of Nation's Immigration Sector Post-Election to be Hosted by NPNA Dec 8-9 Online

It will be the largest, most accessible National Immigrant Integration Conference ever

WASHINGTON – Just weeks after the most consequential U.S. election in modern history, and with the pandemic still raging in many parts of the country, the <u>National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA)</u> will host the first gathering of the entire sector supporting immigrants and refugees in the first-ever fully virtual <u>National Immigrant Integration Conference (NIIC,)</u> to be held <u>Dec. 8-9, 2020</u>. This online format will foster conversations on the crucial policy issues impacting immigrants and refugees, and be accessible to the broadest audience in its 13-year history. More than 5,000 attendees are expected to participate.

"Everything is on the line for immigrants and refugees in this election," said *Steve Choi, NPNA co-chair*. "NIIC is an urgent space for us to come together and strategize about whatever the landscape ahead may hold."

"NIIC is taking place at such a critical moment," added *Nicole Melaku*, *NPNA executive director*. "Communities of color, including 5.3 million newly naturalized immigrants, are a growing part of the electorate, and more immigrants are running for office at every level. The full civic integration of immigrants, refugees and communities of color strengthens our democracy, and is essential to ensuring that the issues impacting our communities are addressed in the public square and policymaking."

NIIC 2020—New American Dreams—is an effort anchored by the NPNA and a diverse and powerful cohort of national partners, including: the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Church World Service, Immigration Hub,

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"NIIC is taking place as we find ourselves and our communities on the precipice of a new era, one in which we can foreground the issues that unite us and sculpt a society that is inclusive and welcoming," said *Laura Martin, executive director of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada*, one of the groups anchoring NIIC 2020, and a member organization of NPNA. "Immigrant and refugee communities are here and standing at the ready, pressing forward for justice."

Among the NIIC 2020's goals are to:

- Rebuild immigration policies that include the full civic integration of immigrants, refugees, and people of color into our communities, and increase access to opportunity and justice for all.
- Build a reflexive democracy rooted in inclusion so that the U.S. remains a place of possibility and one of the greatest democratic experiments in the world.
- Demand accountability for the injustices inflicted against Black and Brown communities.
- Commit to comprehensive approaches to racial justice and equity, and find holistic, community-based remedies that address our nation's foundational inequities.

"No matter what the political winds may bring, it's time we get back to a place where we uplift all that we share in common and set aside our differences so that we can build unity, create a nation where we respect our neighbors, and work together toward a better future," *Melaku* said.

The National Immigrant Integration Conference (NIIC) 2020: New American Dreams is the largest conference on immigration and refugee issues in the United States. It is the key annual gathering for policy makers, service providers, advocates, immigrant and refugee serving organizations, educators, municipal leaders, business and economic development groups, philanthropy, labor unions, faith leaders, academics, and the many other organizations that work for a successful, diverse nation, and toward shared prosperity for all.

The National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA) hosts the annual National Immigrant Integration Conference. Over the last four years, NPNA and its member organizations in 37 states have assisted over 250,000 immigrants to become U.S. citizens and pursue legal status. NPNA harnesses the collective power and resources of the country's 41 largest regional immigrant rights organizations in 37 states. Its aim is to achieve a vibrant, just, and welcoming democracy for all.

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

NIIC 2020 Regional Partners: Asian Community Development Council, CHIRLA, Comunidades Unidas, Make the Road NV, Progressive Leadership Alliance of NV, OneAmeria, Promise Arizona, Unite Oregon.

Sign-up information and schedule available here.

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