



NATIONAL IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION CONFERENCE 2018

NEW AMERICAN DREAMS

FROM RESISTANCE TO VICTORY

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NPNA Calls for Humanitarian Response to Our Brothers and Sisters Seeking Asylum At Border;

*Plans to Convene Over 1,000 Immigrant & Refugee Leaders at
Annual NIIC Conference to Discuss Solutions*

WASHINGTON - As President Donald Trump considers ordering federal troops to the US border with Mexico to face off against a caravan of several thousand refugees, including children, fleeing violence and walking from Central America toward the US to seek asylum, the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA) and its partners demand an honest and humanitarian response, and

one that that will address the magnitude of the problem, including enlisting Congress to fix our broken immigration system.

"The United States has a long and proud history of welcoming immigrants fleeing violence and persecution. These refugees are no different," said Kay Bellor, Co-Chair, We Are All America and Vice President for Programs, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. We Are All America is a national campaign on behalf of refugees co-launched by NPNA in 2017. "We call on Congress to fix our immigration and asylum system and immediately step up to help those in urgent need, like these Central American refugees."

Last spring, the federal government's "zero tolerance policy" resulted in more than 2,600 children separated from their parents or caretakers when they attempted to cross the U.S. border. Despite widespread protests and public outcry, numerous lawsuits against the federal government and resulting promises by the Administration to reunify families, some of these children still have not been reunited with their parents.

"What we saw last spring was abhorrent and has still not been fully resolved; countless families are still separated," said Steven Choi, Co-Chair of NPNA and Executive Director of the New York Immigration Coalition. "We are disheartened to again see this Administration return to a rhetoric of demonizing immigrants, and we are gravely concerned about the policy implications that may follow."

NPNA and its partners will be amplifying common sense and long-haul immigration and refugee policy solutions, including pathways to citizenship and a national New American Dreams Platform at its National Immigrant Integration Conference 2018 (NIIC 2018) that will be held this December. The largest immigration conference in the nation, NIIC which is organized by NPNA and over 60 of its partner organizations, will include a focus on topics such as America as a Refuge: Refugee Resettlement, Asylum, TPS & the

Refugee Crisis; and Welcoming & Inclusive Society: Grassroots, State & Municipal Government Strategies. Over 1,200 leaders from upwards of 500 organizations across the United States are expected to attend.

“For those of us who work with immigrants and refugees, we have to pick up the pieces when the policy goes awry,” said Angelica Salas, Executive Director for The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA.) “This has far-reaching consequences that go beyond the individuals, whole communities are affected. As advocates, we need to prevent disastrous prescriptions, and come up with workable solutions.”

The [National Immigrant Integration Conference 2018 \(NIIC\)](#): New American Dreams --From Resistance To Victory [will be held December 9-11 in Arlington, Va.,](#)

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New American Dreams: [The National Immigrant Integration Conference 2018 \(NIIC\)](#) is the largest conference on immigration and immigrant integration 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. It is a collegial and intentionally generous space.

[The National Partnership for New Americans \(NPNA\)](#) is the anchor and lead entity that organizes the annual National Immigrant Integration Conference (NIIC). In the past two years, NPNA partners have assisted over 50,000 immigrants to become U.S. citizens and pursue legal status. NPNA harnesses the collective power and resources of the country's 34 largest regional immigrant rights organizations in 29 states. Its aim is to achieve a vibrant, just and welcoming democracy for all. NPNA is proud to partner with over 65 organizations from the corporate, philanthropic, labor and NGO sectors who support and power NIIC.

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