



CHIRLA

Coalition For Humane
Immigrant Rights
of Los Angeles

CHIRLA

Advancing the Rights of Immigrants and Refugees in Los Angeles Since 1986

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Mission

The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) was formed in 1986 to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees in Los Angeles; promote harmonious multi-ethnic and multi-racial human relations; and through coalition-building, advocacy, community education and organizing, empower immigrants and their allies to build a more just society.

To further our mission, CHIRLA:

- Participates in national, state, and local advocacy to form public policy on topics that impact immigrant welfare
- Organizes immigrants around social issues that affect the immigrant community
- Provides a support network for the immigrant and refugee community
- Educates community members about issues that affect immigrants and refugees
- Works to improve racial and ethnic relations in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California
- Provides extensive information & referral services to individual immigrants, service providers and community leaders.

Recent Accomplishments

For the last 20 years, CHIRLA and its members have been key players in the fight for immigrant rights. Some recent Coalition accomplishments are:

- Passage of legislation providing in-state tuition to immigrant students in California
- Preservation of the safety net of social services in the state budget to maintain the well-being of low-income immigrants in California.
- Defeat of several anti-solicitation ordinances against day laborers
- Establishment of the first Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Registration of 20,000 new citizens and contact with over 26,000 voters in the first 8 months of our Electoral Program
- Collection of over \$3 million in back wages to immigrant workers.

CHIRLA's PROGRAMS

CHIRLA programs combine policy/advocacy, organizing, education and coalition-building

Immigration & Citizenship

Immigration and citizenship laws are constantly changing and have grown increasingly hostile towards immigrants. CHIRLA works to:

- Advocate for fair and humane immigration laws, such as legalization, family reunification and due process rights for immigrants being deported for minor offenses
- Respond to enforcement activities, including the implementation of immigration laws by local law enforcement agencies
- Combat anti-immigrant policy proposals
- Provide training, technical assistance and support to legal service providers and advocates on immigration issues

Enforcement Committee

CHIRLA responds to issues impacting the immigrant community resulting from changes in immigration law, as well as the erosion of civil liberties for immigrants in post 9-11 America. CHIRLA participates in & leads national and local campaigns to draw attention to the devastating effects of policies such as Special Alien Registration & Operation Tarmac.

Immigrant Access

Each year, more immigrant families suffer from cuts in social programs. CHIRLA works to:

- Preserve and restore immigrant access to services and eligibility for benefits through policy analysis, legislative advocacy, outreach to community members, and technical assistance to service providers.
- Advocate for low-income immigrants by working directly with policy makers and community members to provide an integrated response to legislation and policy changes around issues affecting immigrants.

California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative (CIWC)

This collaborative of four organizations works to promote and protect the rights of immigrants by focusing on access to healthcare and public benefits on a statewide level.

Immigrant Rights Organizational Network (IRON)

The committee is formed by service providers, community based organizations working with immigrants, educators, health advocates, civil rights organizations and religious groups. The goal of IRON is to connect immigrant service providers to statewide policy advocacy in order to amplify the voice of immigrant communities throughout the state.

Workers' Rights

CHIRLA challenges the abuse and exploitation faced by immigrant workers in low wage, traditionally non-unionized industries. These workers commonly face unscrupulous employers, language barriers and lack of legal status. CHIRLA works to:

- Address workplace injustice and nefarious immigration policies through information sharing, advocacy, organizing and policy reform.
- Collaborate with different ethnic communities, service providers and worker centers to work towards ensuring protection and respect for the rights of immigrant workers.
- CHIRLA was a founding member of the Multi-Ethnic Immigrant Workers Organizing Network (MIWON)

Day Laborer Committee

CHIRLA has worked with day laborers in Los Angeles since 1988 and created a nationally replicated model for day laborer organizing. CHIRLA's goal is to discuss problems and develop strategies to create safe and organized environments for seeking work. CHIRLA provides mediation, education, outreach, and leadership development at street corners where day laborers tend to congregate; unites day laborers with community allies to improve working conditions and quality of life for day laborers; provides technical assistance on day laborer issues to organizations across the nation; and works as a founding member of the National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON)

Household Worker Committee

Since 1992, CHIRLA has worked to develop leadership and advocacy skills for one of the most isolated groups of immigrant workers: individuals employed in private homes. CHIRLA also seeks to establish a critical organizing presence in the industry of Domestic Employment Agencies. The women of the Household Worker Committee are actively involved and empowered to work on a local, state, and national level to advocate for pro-immigrant policies.

Wise-Up! Immigrant Youth Leadership Development

CHIRLA Wise Up! was formed by immigrant students to address issues faced by many of the more than 300,000 immigrant youth in Los Angeles. Wise Up!:

- Advocates for increased access to higher education for immigrant youth. CHIRLA's efforts were essential in passing in-state tuition legislation for immigrant students in California
- Organizes and empowers immigrant students to advance their rights through education and action.
- Operates clubs in five local high schools throughout Los Angeles
- Holds an annual countywide Immigrant Youth Empowerment Conference

Los Angeles & Orange County DREAM Teams

Staffed and led by CHIRLA and the Korean Resource Center, these committees work in nationwide collaboration to advance policy that would provide immigrant students a path to legalization via higher education.

Community Education & Outreach

CHIRLA responds to the need for information in the immigrant community when new laws are adopted and/or immigration procedures change. We work to help immigrants understand their civil and human rights. Community education and outreach is carried out via:

- Face-to-face seminars
- Trainings, townhall meetings, and fairs
- Media outreach campaigns

Information HOTLINE (1-888-6-CHIRLA)

CHIRLA operates a toll-free Spanish/English hotline that provides referrals and information on immigration and public charge, access to social services, workers' rights, and other issues of concern to the immigrant community.

Immigrant Anti-Discrimination & Tolerance

CHIRLA aims to support victims of hate violence and promote diversity and respect in our communities through: advocacy on behalf of hate crime victims at the local, state and federal levels; resources and referrals via our hotline; and educational training for community members, service providers, and law enforcement professionals. CHIRLA also participates with the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission Hate Crimes Task Force to build coalition with other communities who have historically or recently been victims of discrimination.

GET INVOLVED!

The need to strengthen the movement for immigrant rights has never been greater! Consider getting involved in the Coalition in the following ways:

Coalition Membership

CHIRLA is made up of both organizational and individual associate members. Membership benefits include:

- Comprehensive information dissemination through mailings, publications, & action alerts
- Networking opportunities & option to participate in committees & task forces
- Reduced training/event costs
- Eligibility for Board of Directors membership & nominations

For more information, call CHIRLA's Membership Coordinator at (213) 353-1333 or email membership@chirla.org. You can also sign up online at: <http://chirla.org/membership.htm>

Donations

Consider supporting CHIRLA's mission with your financial contribution. Call CHIRLA's Development Coordinator at (213) 353-1333 or go to www.chirla.org to make a donation through PayPal or JustGive. Payment plans are available.

Interns & Volunteers

CHIRLA recruits volunteers to help carry out CHIRLA's mission of advancing the human and civil rights of immigrants. For more information about becoming an intern or a volunteer, please call CHIRLA's Volunteer Coordinator at (213) 353-1333 or email volunteer@chirla.org.