



national network for immigrant and refugee rights

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What are human rights violations?

From the NNIRR Initiative HURRICANE/El Huracán: The Human Rights Immigrant Community Action Network

The U.S. government's immigration law enforcement operations, as well as private and public agencies who collaborate with immigration control, are committing a multitude of abuses and rights violations against immigrant and refugee members of our communities in the United States on a daily basis.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its bureaus, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) are implementing laws, policies, measures, practices and strategies that undermine community safety and human rights. The DHS has broken new ground in the criminalization of immigration status alone.

Immigrants are subjected every day to racial, religious and ethnic profiling by local, state and federal police and other public officials (which are still illegal under U.S. law), obliged to live in substandard housing, have inadequate or denied access to health care, social and educational services; exploited by unscrupulous employers, landlords, police and other services and public servants and officials. DHS inflicts physical, emotional/psychological and legal abuses against immigrants and refugees, who suffer illegal arrests, detention, and deportations. Official U.S. immigration laws and enforcement make immigrants and refugees more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and hate violence.

Immigrants and refugees are being subjected to all forms of human rights violations, including:

- **Labor rights and protections violations** – including non-payment of wages, hazardous work conditions including inadequate or lack of training and safety equipment to handle toxic and other dangerous materials, minimum wage and hour violations; stopping union organizing and threatening workers with deportation.

- Lack of job security, lack of living wages or income, lack of social security and other benefits including unemployment insurance, workers compensation, denial of labor rights are violations of human rights.
- **Social rights and protections violations** – including denying access to social services, schools, higher education and health care or provided substandard services under duress; substandard housing; denied access to training and vocational schools, denied access to driver’s licenses, auto insurance and redlining.
 - Denial and lack of health, social and educational services, Unaffordable housing and overcrowded or substandard housing are human rights violations.
 - Living in fear of deportation and lack of safety and police protection and services is a human rights violation.
- **Political rights and protections** – being denied access to civic participation and obstacles to vote, representation, and voice; subjected to illegal profiling; violation of due process rights; police abuse of authority and other violations resulting in the undermining of public safety and stable community; and being subjected to policies and laws that weaken or nullify the right of immigrants’ and refugees’ right to political representation and opinions and beliefs.
 - Being kept in an immigration status of undocumented, without options to regularization of status or access to permanent residency and citizenship are human rights violations.
 - Being denied access to or a voice in political and social representation in decision- and policy-making bodies are human rights violations.

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