

### **Sampling of Resources for Immigrants and their Advocates**

- **Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (AIWA)**  
AIWA's mission is to empower low-income, limited English speaking Asian immigrant women workers to stimulate positive changes in their workplaces, communities and broader society. AIWA works with women workers employed in the garment, hotel, restaurant, electronics assembly and other low-wage industries in Oakland, San Francisco, and Santa Clara County's "Silicon Valley". AIWA seeks to empower women through education, leadership development and collective action, so that they can fight for dignity and justice in their working and living conditions. [www.aiwa.org/](http://www.aiwa.org/).
- **Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC)**  
APALC's mission is to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education, and build coalitions to positively influence and impact Asian Pacific Americans and to create a more equitable and harmonious society. APALC staff offers expertise in: immigration and naturalization, workers' rights, family law and domestic violence, immigrant welfare, voting rights and anti-discrimination, and they have also worked towards building inter-ethnic relations. [www.apalc.org](http://www.apalc.org).
- **Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (API Legal Outreach)**  
API-Legal Outreach is a community-based, social justice organization serving the Asian and Pacific Islander communities of the Greater Bay Area providing services in San Francisco and Oakland. API Legal Outreach provides legal, social and educational services in more than a dozen languages and dialects including, Cantonese; Chiu-Chow; Hindi; Llocano; Japanese; Korean; Lao; Mandarin; Spanish; Tagalog; Taiwanese; Urdu; and Vietnamese. [www.apilegaloutreach.org](http://www.apilegaloutreach.org).
- **CASA of Maryland, Inc.**  
The mission of CASA of Maryland, Inc., is to improve the quality of life, social and economic well being of the Latino community. CASA facilitates self-development, organization and mobilization of the Latino community to gain full participation in the larger society. CASA's expertise includes: social services; health; employment; women's issues; and Legal Services. [www.casademaryland.org/](http://www.casademaryland.org/).
- **Centro Campesino**  
Centro Campesino's mission is to improve the lives of migrant workers and rural Latina/os and to create a strong southern Minnesota Latino/a voice. The Centro focuses on the following program areas: childcare; youth programs; legalization; health promoters; housing and campaign for justice. [www.centrocampesino.net/](http://www.centrocampesino.net/).
- **City Life/Vida Urbana**  
City Life/Vida Urbana is a grassroots, multi-issue, bilingual organization that has worked for social justice since 1973. Their main work has consisted of organizing tenants to preserve existing affordable housing and advocate for the creation of more. In all activities, City Life/Vida Urbana is committed to bringing together people of different races, backgrounds, and ideas. As a bilingual organization, one of their goals is to eliminate racism and build

- understanding and respect among the diverse groups in our community.  
[www.clvu.org/](http://www.clvu.org/).
- **Florida Immigrant Coalition (FIAC)**  
FIAC is unique among immigration organizations in that it provides both direct service to clients of all nationalities as well as impact advocacy that seeks to change national and statewide policies and procedures that adversely affect all immigrants. FIAC provides direct representation to low income individuals appearing before the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services or immigration courts, focusing on families with children; the homeless; individuals who are HIV+ or have AIDS; victims of domestic violence or trafficking; the elderly; the disabled; migrant farm workers and persons in detention. [www.fiacfla.org/](http://www.fiacfla.org/).
  - **Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)**  
ILRC works with immigrants and citizens to make critical legal assistance and social services accessible to all, regardless of income, and to build a society that values diversity and respects the dignity and rights of all people. [www.ilrc.org](http://www.ilrc.org).
  - **Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)**  
IRCO's mission is to assist refugees, immigrants and multi-ethnic communities to develop self-sufficiency and cultural awareness while affirming and preserving each culture within an ever-changing global environment. IRCO has a 25-year history of assisting over 45,000 refugees and immigrants through the various stages of integration into U.S. society. IRCO's birth was the product of the merger of the Indochinese Cultural and Service Center and the Southeast Asian Refugee Federation. Both organizations believed that services should strive to empower the refugee and immigrant communities. This belief and tradition still serves as the foundation for all IRCO services and programs. [www.irco.org/](http://www.irco.org/).
  - **Immigrant Solidarity Network**  
The Immigrant Solidarity Network was created when a dozen national grassroots & community groups agreed to form a broad-based immigrant support coalition, with the goal of mobilizing community forces to work in solidarity with different national immigrants and civil rights organizations. The organization serves as a clearinghouse providing links to the work, resources, newspaper articles and publications of various immigrant-based advocates throughout the country. <http://immigrantsolidarity.org>.
  - **Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride Coalition**  
This site contains links to resources of interest to immigrants and advocates in addition to providing information about the historic immigrant workers freedom ride. [www.iwfr.org](http://www.iwfr.org).
  - **Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)**  
MIRA succeeds in mobilizing community groups and immigrant leaders to speak out with one voice about issues that affect them. Combining capacity building, technical assistance, community education and policy advocacy with community organizing and civic participation, we are committed to fairness for immigrants and to sound public policies. With more than 130 organizational members, MIRA is a respected state and national leader on immigrant issues, and an authoritative

- source of information for policymakers, the media, and immigrant communities. [www.miracoalition.org](http://www.miracoalition.org).
- **National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (APALC)**  
APALC works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans through advocacy, public policy, public education and litigation. APALC focuses its work to promote civic engagement; strong and safe communities; and to create an inclusive society in communities on a local, regional and national level. APALC is one of the nation's leading experts on issues of importance to the Asian American community including: affirmative action, anti-Asian violence prevention/race relations, census, immigrant rights, immigration, language access and voting rights. [www.napalc.org/](http://www.napalc.org/).
  - **National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)**  
This national organization is composed of local coalitions and immigrant, refugee, community, religious, civil rights and labor organizations and activists. It serves as a forum to share information and analysis, to educate communities and the general public and to develop and coordinate plans of action on important immigrant and refugee issues. NNIRR offers a quarterly newsletter in addition to a number of written and audio resources. [www.nnirr.org/](http://www.nnirr.org/).
  - **National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children**  
This newly established center is dedicated to assisting the over 5,000 refugee and immigrant children who arrive alone in this country every year; the center engages the legal community to enlist, train and mentor *pro bono* attorneys and volunteers to assist these children who are often the victims of trafficking, abuse, persecution and domestic violence. [www.refugees.org](http://www.refugees.org).
  - **National Employment Law Project (NELP)**  
The National Employment Law Project (NELP) has advocated for over 30 years on behalf of low-wage workers, the poor, the unemployed, and other groups that face significant barriers to employment and government systems of support. Several common themes connect NELP's work: ensuring that employment laws cover all workers; supporting worker organizing and alliance-building among key constituent groups working with low-wage workers; helping workers stay connected to jobs and employment benefits; and expanding employment laws to meet the needs of workers and families in changing economic conditions. [www.nelp.org/](http://www.nelp.org/).
  - **National Immigration Law Center (NILC)**  
NILC is a national support center whose mission is to protect and promote the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their family members. NILC staff specialize in immigration law and the employment and public benefit rights of immigrants. The Center conducts policy analysis and impact litigation and provides publications, technical advice and training to a broad constituency of legal aid agencies, community groups and *pro bono* attorneys. [www.nilc.org/](http://www.nilc.org/).
  - **Padres Unidos/Jovenes Unidos**  
With roots in the struggle for educational justice, Padres has evolved into a multi-issue organization that is led by people of color who fight for educational equity, student rights and justice for immigrants. Out of the struggles for educational justice, Jovenes Unidos has emerged, the youth initiative of Padres Unidos. Both

- Padres and Jovenes Unidos challenge the root cause of discrimination, racism and inequity by exposing the economic, social and institutional basis for injustice as well as developing effective strategies and tactics to change it. Parents and students are empowered to organize, develop new leadership and realize meaningful change. [www.padresunidos.org](http://www.padresunidos.org).
- **Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)**  
TIRRC is a statewide, immigrant and refugee-led collaboration whose mission is to empower immigrants and refugees throughout Tennessee to develop a unified voice, defend their rights, and create an atmosphere in which they are viewed as positive contributors to the state. [www.tnimmigrant.org/](http://www.tnimmigrant.org/).
  - **Tenants and Workers' Support Committee (TWSC)**  
The Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee is a democratically-controlled, grassroots organization committed to winning social and economic justice and power for the people of Northern Virginia – Latinos/as, African Americans, tenants, immigrants, workers, women, youth and low-income people. TWSC focuses on access to healthcare, living wage, public education among others. [www.twsc.org/](http://www.twsc.org/).
  - **The Immigrant Voting Project**  
The Immigrant Voting Project is a resource network dedicated to promoting discussion about the practice of allowing immigrants to vote in local elections -- often referred to as "resident voting" -- as an innovative way to promote civic participation and responsibility among incipient Americans and better educate and prepare them for eventual citizenship; to give voice to one of the last disenfranchised segments of the population; and to increase government accountability in communities with large immigrant populations. [www.immigrantvoting.org](http://www.immigrantvoting.org).
  - **The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)**  
MALDEF's mission is to foster sound public policies, laws and programs to safeguard the civil rights of the 40 million Latinos living in the United States and to empower the Latino community to fully participate in our society. MALDEF focuses on employment, education, immigration, political access, language, and public resource equity issues. [www.maldef.org/](http://www.maldef.org/).