CELEBRATING
10TH ANNIVERSARY
NOVEMBER 6, 7-9, 2014
CHICAGO, IL

A Transnational Vision, Rooted In Latin American And Caribbean Migrant Communities

Una Visión Transnacional, con Raíces en la Comunidad Migrante Latinoamericana y Caribeña

nalacc.org
Jenner & Block salutes NALACC on 10 years of providing social, economic and cultural justice to Latin American and Caribbean immigrants in the United States.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

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UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

MAJOR SUPPORTERS OF THE NALACC 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND CONFERENCE

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Oscar Chacón

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...and the generous support of anonymous donors
The Latin American and Latino Studies Program welcomes NALACC to UIC and congratulates the Alliance on its 10th Anniversary!

We are now accepting applications to our M.A. program in Latin American and Latino Studies. Interested prospective students are invited to attend our M.A. Open House on Tuesday, November 25, from 4.00pm—6.00pm. For inquiries, please contact the Director of Graduate Studies, Prof. Javier Villa-Flores at javier@uic.edu.

The Master of Arts in Latin American and Latino Studies offers an interdisciplinary perspective to the study of both Latin American societies and Latinos living in the United States. The program trains students to reflect on and engage social issues of historical and contemporary importance such as globalization, immigration, belonging and equality, and also questions related to identity including race, culture, nationality, and gender. Students gain additional experience in research and policy writing through a unique community based internship. Thus the main goal of the MA is that students learn a series of specialized skills that place them on a solid career path, in both academic and non-academic settings.

Chicago is a unique city to study these issues. Over a million Latin Americans and Latinos live in the Chicago metropolitan area. Almost every Latin American nationality is represented. Ties with home countries are strong and there are numerous cultural and advocacy organizations.

Our program is also a member of the Inter-University Program on Latino Research which offers a series of learning and professional opportunities to students.

For more information visit our web page at http://lals.uic.edu
Or call our main office at: 312.996.2445

"The Latin American and Latino Studies Masters Program has developed my knowledge by instilling the importance of maintaining a bridge between academia and the community. The faculty has been incredibly attentive and instrumental in creating such a powerful experience."

- Cynthia Brito, M.A. Class of 2012
November 2014

Dear Friends,

Ten years ago, in early 2004, a small group of immigrant leaders gathered in Washington, DC with a shoestring budget and a big dream: to create a national network that could lift up the voices of Latin American and Caribbean immigrant communities. We shared a conviction that Latino immigrants needed a space that could capture and communicate the unique experiences, needs and proposals of the Latino immigrant community in the United States.

After that first meeting, many of us felt energized but apprehensive. Could we really make it happen? In May, a larger group returned to Washington, bringing ideas and proposals from community groups around the country. By June 2004, the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC) was born. Our slogan captures the essence of this founding spirit: “A Transnational Vision Rooted in Latin American and Caribbean Migrant Communities.”

As we celebrate our 10th Anniversary, we have much to be proud of and celebrate. We take our top-quality leadership-training program to the towns and cities where our members live and work. We produce serious analysis of the policy issues that directly affect our members. We bring the perspectives of migrant communities to policy arenas where the voices of migrants are often conspicuously absent. We convened the very first Migrant Community Summit of the Americas in 2007. Our relationships with partners in Latin America have since deepened to the point where we are seen as a credible, honest broker by governments and civil society organizations across Mexico and Central America.

But perhaps NALACC’s greatest accomplishment over the past decade is how faithfully we have preserved and advanced our mission to build the power of the Latino immigrant community in the U.S. so we can be influential and authentic authors of our lives both here and in our countries of origin. Our achievement is measured by the continued interest, participation and commitment of our member organizations. Our leaders affirm that NALACC is truly an organization of, by and for the Latino immigrant community.

Thank you for helping us celebrate our 10th birthday, and for sharing your creativity and ideas that will guide us into the decades to come.

Sincerely yours,

Claudia Lucero
President

Oscar Chacon
Executive Director

National Alliance of Latin American & Caribbean Communities (NALACC)
1638 S. Blue Island Ave. Chicago, IL 60608 - 1-877-683-2908 - E-mail: info@nalacc.org • www.nalacc.org
Twitter: @NALACC_ORG • F8: facebook.com/nalacc2004
¿Qué Pasa Mr. Bush?

On January 7, your announcement about immigration policy reform sparked hope within Latino immigrant communities, because it recognized our contributions to the U.S. economy and because it highlighted the urgent need to fix the current inadequate system. Since then, however, I haven't heard much from you. I write to urge you to use your leadership to push for the passage of comprehensive immigration reform policies with a clear path to legal permanent residency and citizenship. In the short term, I urge you to support and enact the DREAM Act and the AgJOBS Bill, as initial steps towards comprehensive immigration policy reform. The Latino immigrant community is weary of empty promises. We expect concrete actions that respond to our interests.

Very truly yours,

Signature:

An Initiative of the National Alliance of Latin American & Caribbean Communities (NALACC)

NATIONALLY COORDINATED ACTIONS AND CAMPAIGNS FOR OVER TEN YEARS

LIFTING LATINO VOICES
Sharing Our Stories

✔ Halt Deportations Now
✔ Keep our Families Together
✔ Fair Access to Citizenship

MR. PRESIDENT, USE THE POWER OF THE PEN

HALT DEPORTATIONS NOW!

Follow on: or, visit us at NALACC.ORG
Mr. President, Use the Power of the Pen

"Dear President Obama,

Every day, immigrant families are torn apart by aggressive immigration enforcement, while Congress fails to act on immigration reform. You have the power to keep families together and set the tone for common-sense immigration policies.

You have said you will use your "power of the pen," when Congress can’t or won’t take action on critical issues. We call on you to provide immediate relief from deportation to hardworking immigrants who are living, working and raising families here in the United States, and who contribute to making our nation stronger."

thepowerofthepen.net
FEDECMI / CASA MICHOACAN FELICITAN A NALACC EN SU 10º ANIVERSARIO

"Abriendo Fronteras, Uniendo Comunidades"

Casa Michoacan se ubica en el Medio Oeste
1629 S. Desiccante., Chicago, IL 60601
FEDECMI USA
711 N. Elm St., Suite 800
michacanusa.com
THE AMERICAS: Challenges and Opportunities Across Borders. We Rise And Fall Together

November 6, 2014 - Chicago IL
UIC Student Center East Building 605 - 750 S. Halsted St, Chicago IL, 60607

07:30 – 8:30 Breakfast
08:30 – 09:00 Registration
09:00 – 09:30 Welcome
   Claudia Lucero, President, NALACC
   Martin Castro, President, Castro Synergies; Board Member, Chicago Community Trust
   Amalia Pallares, Director, Latin American and Latino Studies Program, UIC
09:30 – 10:45 Opening Panel: Understanding the challenges in our region.
   Moderator: Oscar Chacón
   Speakers:
   Oscar Martínez, Journalist and Author of the Book "The Beast";
   Leslie Velez, Senior Protection Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
   Carlos Heredia, Professor, Department of International Studies, Center for Research
   and Teaching in Economics (CIDE), Mexico City;
   Barbara Ransby, Professor, History, Gender and Women’s Studies, and African American Studies, UIC
11:00 – 12:30 Deepening our Understanding of the Challenges. Working Discussions
   A small number of “discussion sparkers” will kick off this facilitated dialogue among
   participants. There will be five working groups, each one focusing on one of the following
   themes. The goal of the session is to build on the information provided in the panel, sup-
   plemented by the knowledge and experiences of all participants in order to reach a better
   understanding of shared challenges.
   • Jobs, inequality and creating opportunity
   • The state of violence and insecurity
   • Environment, natural disasters and climate change
   • Racism, gender discrimination and other forms of exclusion
   • Civic participation in a transnational context
12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH
13:45 – 15:00 Imagining solutions to our regional challenges
   Moderator: Patricia Montes
   Speakers:
   Miguel Huezo Mixco, Manager of Knowledge Products, United Nations
   Development Program, El Salvador;
   María Elena Letona, Executive Director, Neighbor to Neighbor, Boston;
   Axela Romero, Director, Red Mesoamericana Mujer, Salud y Familia, Mexico;
   Jesús García, Cook County Commissioner, Chicago
15:15 - 16:45 Imagining solutions and actions steps. Working Discussion
   Breaking into the same thematic groups, participants will be asked to brainstorm ways to
   overcome the challenges discussed in the morning sessions. This moderated exercise will
   engage all participants in articulating areas for collaboration and coordination, and identify
   opportunities for driving change.
17:00 – 18.00 Final Plenary: Conclusions and Recommendations
   Moderator: Oscar Chacón
   The event will close with a special recognition presented to Heartland Alliance.
18:30 – 19:30 After the event, Activist and Singer-Songwriter Karla Lara will entertain
   at the Latino Cultural Center
Panelist Biographies

Axela Romero
With over 10 years of professional experience as a trainer, coordinator, evaluator, and consultant for government Institutions, organizations, and civic networks, this Mexican feminist is the new Executive Secretary of the IM-Defenders. Ms. Romero received her Law degree from UNAM and has specialized in areas of sexual and reproductive rights, Gender and HIV, Gender and Migration in Public Policy and Advocacy from a citizen approach. She also has several publications on issues of women, young people in sexual and reproductive rights, HIV, gender-sensitive and rights over public life.

Oscar A. Chacon
Oscar Chacon serves currently as Executive Director of the National Alliance of Latin American & Caribbean Communities (NALACC). Until December, 2006, Mr. Chacon served as director of Enlaces América, a project of the Chicago-based Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights. Mr. Chacón served for most of the 1990’s as executive director of Centro Presente, Inc., in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr. Chacón served for many years as president of the Salvadoran American National Network (SANN). Mr. Chacon is a frequent lecturer in national and international conferences, as well as a media spokesperson on Latino immigrant issues in the U.S.

M. Elena Letona, PhD.
A native of El Salvador, Ms. Letona has close to 30 years of experience working in and serving the non-profit sector as a volunteer, organizer, activist, administrator, manager, and director. Her areas of expertise include program development, implementation and evaluation; community organizing, leadership development, and organizational development. For 10 years, Ms. Letona directed Centro Presente, a member-driven, state-wide organization dedicated to achieving the self-determination of the Central and Latin American immigrant community of Massachusetts. She is co-founder of the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC). She has served on numerous non-profit boards and was a Hyams Foundation Trustee. Currently, Ms. Letona directs Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts, a membership organization of low-income and people of color. Its mission is to achieve economic and environmental justice through community organizing, leadership development, legislative advocacy, voter empowerment and movement building.
**Miguel Huezo Mixco**
Writer and Director of Products of Knowledge, the United Nations Program for Development (PNUD), El Salvador. Mr. Huezo is a specialist on topics of culture and development. He is the author of investigations: Un pie aquí y otro allá (A foot here and another there). Los migrantes y la crisis de la identidad salvadoreña (The migrants and the Salvadoran identity crisis) (2009), and Migraciones, cultura y ciudadanía (Migrations, culture, and citizenship) (2006), among others. Between 1999 and 2003 he maintained a biweekly column in the newspaper La Prensa Gráfica, de El Salvador (The Graphic Press, El Salvador). Since 2014 he writes a blog called “El Amigo Imaginario” (The Imaginary Friend) in the digital newspaper El Faro. His most recent work is the novel Camino de hormigas (Path of the ants), published by the editorial Icaria in 2014.

**Leslie E. Vélez**
Leslie E. Velez is the Senior Protection Officer at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Regional Office in Washington, D.C. Leslie serves as the head of the U.S. Protection Unit which focuses on ensuring meaningful access to asylum in the U.S. for individuals with fear of return, advancing the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied and separated children, women and children affected by conflict, victims of human trafficking, and persons deprived of nationality. Prior to joining UNHCR, Leslie was the director for access to justice at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. She chaired the first national unaccompanied children’s conference in 2005, served on the advisory committee of the International Detention Coalition, chaired the DWN Alternatives to Detention Working Group, and has authored and contributed to various reports and studies in these areas. She received a L.L.M. (International Human Rights) from the University of Oxford, Kellogg College, J.D. from The Catholic University of America School of Law, and her B.A. in Political Science (Latin American Politics) from the University of Texas (El Paso).

**Oscar Martínez**
A 31 year old Salvadoran journalist, Mr. Martínez was the coordinator of the project “El Camino” and currently is the project coordinator of “Sala Negra” both of which are part of the newspaper El Faro.net, which is dedicated to serious journalism on various topics such as migration in Mexico, violence, and organized crime in Central America. He is the author of the book Crónicas Los Migrantes Que No Importan (Icaria, 2010; Sur Plus, 2012) translated as The Beast (Verso Books 2013). This book was named one of the best books of 2013 by Financial Times and The Economist. He has published in English in the New York Times, the Nation, and The New Republic. In 2008 in Mexico he received the National Cultural Prize for Journalism (Premio Nacional de Periodismo Cultural Fernando Benítez), which was given at the International Book Fair in Guadalajara (Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara). This award is part of the National Award for Human Rights by the University José Simeón Cañas in El Salvador (Nacional de Derechos Humanos por la Universidad José Simeón Cañas). He is also a member of the team that won the award of investigative journalism given by the Institute of Press and Society in 2003. He has covered stories in Colombia, Mexico, Central America, the United States, and Iraq.

**Carlos Heredia**
Professor, Department of International Studies, Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE), Mexico City. Carlos Heredia is a researcher at the Center for Economic Research in Mexico City (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, CIDE) and has been a resident fellow at the Center for Inter-American Studies and Projects of the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, ITAM) in Mexico City. He is an economist and a former member of the Chamber of Deputies in Mexico’s 57th Congress. Heredia has worked for over 25 years with Mexican, U.S., and Canadian development NGO’s on various issues related to international trade, banking, and immigration. He has taught at both ITAM and Tec de Monterrey, writes a weekly column for the Tampico edition of Milenio, as well as for the Mexico City daily El Centro, and is a frequent commentator in the Mexican media.

**Dr. Barbara Ransby**
Barbara Ransby is an historian, writer, and longtime political activist. Ransby has published dozens of articles and essays in popular and scholarly venues. She is most notably the author of an award-winning biography of civil rights activist Ella Baker, entitled Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision, (University of North Carolina, 2003). Barbara is currently working on two major research projects: a study of African American feminist organizations in the 1970s, and a political biography of Eslanda Cardozo Goode Robeson. She serves on the editorial board of the London-based journal, Race and Class, and a number of non-profit civic and media organizations. Professor Ransby received a BA in History from Columbia University and an MA and PhD in History from the University of Michigan.

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**Jesus “Chuy” Garcia**
Jesus “Chuy” Garcia serves as Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle’s Floor Leader. As Cook County Commissioner, he Chairs the Real Estate & Business & Economic Development Committee. Mr. Garcia is a dynamic and progressive leader who has fought to improve the lives of persons residing in the southwest side of Chicago and the neighboring Cicero community. In 1992, he became the first-ever Mexican-American elected to the Illinois Senate, where he served two terms and pushed forward a broad range of legislation to benefit working families. In 2011, he championed an ordinance that made Cook County the first local government entity in the United States to end compliance with Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer requests. Mr. Garcia earned a B.A. in Political Science and a Master’s degree in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has received many distinctions and awards for his advocacy for social justice, including the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs 2012 Rabbi Robert J. Marx Social Justice Award, Mexican Government Premio Othli, and the Jazz Institute of Chicago 2013 Timum Black Community Service Award.
Nearly everyone agrees that US Immigration policy is both obsolete and broken. Yet despite this, we seem no closer to meaningful reform that we were ten years ago when NALACC was founded. Congress remains stagnated, and mired in a framework that criminalizes migrants and migration. Immigrant communities, in our case those from Mexico and other Latin American countries, had high hopes for action on the part of the Obama Administration, buoyed by the positive action the President took to providing temporary relief for some young immigrants who arrived as children. Sadly, the single most important legacy by the Obama Administration so far is the unprecedented number of people deported in the past six years.

It did not have to be this way. The Obama Administration has always had the legal power to modify the way in which current immigration law is enforced, yet the administration has continued to pursue an aggressive approach, resulting in the deportation of more than two million people whose only infraction to the law, in the majority of cases, had been to reside and work in the U.S. without an immigrant visa or a work permit. Over 90% of those individuals were Mexican and other Latin Americans. In the short term, it is urgent to keep pressing the Obama Administration to do what is right when it comes to Immigration policy enforcement. If President Obama uses the full extent of his executive authority, millions of immigrant families could be provided with administrative relief, and a work permit. Millions of children, many of them U.S. citizens, could be spared the constant fear of being separated from their parents. Administrative action could also set the tone for renewed action in Congress. Campaigns such as “The Power of the Pen,” must continue in full force until the President is positively persuaded to do what is morally right and long overdue.

Of course, even the best administrative immigration relief measures do not change the law. US Immigration policy continues to be as out of date and inadequate as it was before President Obama entered the White House. As NALACC has consistently pointed out since 2006, the current strategy for promoting immigration policy reform suffers from two serious flaws. The first is conceptual: in overlooking the notion that immigrants are “criminals” and “law breakers” who have to be punished (pay large fines, be denied equal rights under the law, detained for long periods of time, deported without legal recourse, etc.), it unwittingly reinforces the very anti-immigrant narrative that continues to stymie efforts toward reform. Proponents of the strategy have argued that these concessions were key to garnering bi-partisan support. That notion of give and take is intellectually appealing, but has not played out in practice. To the contrary, reform efforts that emphasize punitive measures have reinforced efforts by racist and xenophobic elements to paint immigrants in a negative light in the popular imagination. Efforts at reform have also misread the power dynamic in Congress, and consistently over-estimated the pressure that can be brought to bear on elected officials. Although the power of the Latino electorate is clearly growing, it is often misunderstood and misrepresented. The Latino voting block remains concentrated in certain geographic areas. This reality, combined with decades of gerrymandered electoral districts, makes it difficult to punish incumbents who push an anti-immigrant agenda, or to reward politicians who may support sensible reform measures. Going forward, we must articulate a strategy based on the reality of the country as it is, and not as one might wish it were.

The end goal, shared by most, if not all pro-immigrant advocates, is to equip the nation with a truly functional, effective, efficient and humane immigration policy capable of serving us well into the 21st Century. The question is how to get there. As NALACC and many other organizations have pointed out, the best way to move forward in our current reality may be through a gradual or incremental approach. Rather than putting all our eggs in one basket, we should try to make changes that will improve peoples’ lives whenever and wherever we can, while continuing to advocate for all the elements of immigration policies that express the best values of American inclusiveness and opportunity. It is also crucial to understand the powerful transformative role that immigrants themselves can play when it comes to changing public perception of immigration. Organized immigrant communities must be strengthened and put at the center of a new legislative strategy, supported by a much stronger and decentralized public education campaign. New alliances must be built, particularly among immigrant-led organizations and other sectors in society such as communities of faith, organized labor, business entities, students, schools, and others. Finally, immigration policy reform must be situated in the realities of global economics and a growing interdependence among nations. Human mobility in the 21st Century cannot possibly be managed in a responsible manner, unless it is done multi-laterally, and under principles intended to promote common well-being across borders. This will require an evaluation and re-direction of U.S. foreign policy, particularly our bilateral and multilateral financial support, towards development paradigms that advance human development standards. Regional and global cooperation mechanisms will have to be creatively adapted or created anew in order to ensure that these measures are environmentally responsible and sustainable.

The road ahead for immigration policy reform is a long one, and the finish line is not in sight. But there is enormous opportunity to make limited-scope changes, along the way to our broader policy goals. The accumulation of these small victories over time will bring us closer to the noble ideal of an entirely new set of policies protecting immigrant rights and managing immigration in a humane way, that is also rooted in the economic and social realities of the 21st century. How soon and how significantly we make progress will depend on our collective ability to identify shared interests and build common cause among different stakeholders. In doing so, we can break through the current state of divisiveness and polarization that has frustrated smart and visionary policy making in the past few decades, including in the area of immigration policy. Organized immigrant communities who come together within and around NALACC, as one collective voice, remain willing and able to be partners in moving forward a true change agenda in the U.S. and in our countries of origin.
The National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC) was founded in 2004 by a group of visionary leaders who understood the connections between what goes on in the United States, and what goes on in our countries of origin. They also understood the need to work towards new paradigms for shared prosperity and sustainability. NALACC founders were convinced that immigrant communities from Latin America and the Caribbean residing in the U.S. shared the same deep sense of responsibility towards their adoptive homeland, as they do towards their loved ones left behind in countries of origin.

NALACC’s motto, “A transnational vision rooted in Latin American and Caribbean migrant communities,” has inspired the work of this Alliance since 2004. As we reach our 10th anniversary, this basic idea continues to resonate for immigrant communities, and for anyone interested in building a more democratic, more equitable and more sustainable future for all of us who live in this interdependent region.

As we consider the future of our Alliance, it is clear to us that we must look outward to build stronger connections throughout the region with social, economic and political sectors who share our dream of more prosperous, more equitable, more secure, inclusive, and sustainable communities, both within and across borders. We must also look inward, to make common cause with people of faith and communities of color who are deeply affected by the same dynamics of economic inequality, racism, and exclusion faced by communities across the hemisphere.

The region we live in has been deeply affected by human mobility over the past four decades. In light of current demographic, social, cultural and political trends, it is only foreseeable that the close interdependence among peoples in this region will continue and deepen. Continuing as we have in the past with silos for “domestic” and “international” problems is a recipe for disaster. For all of us to prosper, we must embrace the notion of transnational or intermestic (international and domestic) policy solutions.

For too long, we have denied the reality of interdependence, and in doing so we have become ineffective and wasteful. We are missing opportunities to lift up children, protect rights, and create opportunities. The future does not have to bring more of the same.

The world has truly become a village, and the region we live in, even more so. We must dare to promote justice, human rights and functional democracies throughout that village. We must dare to think creatively, to reach out across town, and across borders for the good ideas that we can share and grow. Organized immigrant communities remain eager and ready to be full partners in building a better world for everyone.

The abrupt increase in immigrants from Central America in recent months, particularly unaccompanied children arriving at the U.S. southern border, has raised public awareness of the intertwined relationships among the countries of Central America, Mexico and the United States. But this vivid window into a humanitarian crisis is but the most recent expression of the dynamics that bind our futures together.
A Transnational Vision, Rooted in Latin American and Caribbean Migrant Communities

Una Visión Transnacional, con Raíces en la Comunidad Migrante Latinoamericana y Caribeña
SOMOS/WE ARE: Brilliant and beautiful | Creative and innovative | Perseverant and tenacious | Hard working and entrepreneurial | Spiritual, sensible and compassionate | Loving of our families and communities | Honest and loyal | Dreamers and doers | Courageous and Strong | Rooted in our communities, SOMOS NALACC.
Wishing NALACC a Happy 10th Anniversary Continued Success and in its future endeavors

Hector J. Rodriguez Attorney at Law

Charles M. Rodriguez Attorney at Law
Los próximos 10 años: Transformando nuestra presencia numérica en poder comunitario

Del 7 al 9 de noviembre, 2014
2014 –Student Center West, 828 S Wolcott St.
University of Illinois at Chicago

Viernes 7 de noviembre

8:00 Desayuno
8:30 AM Calentamiento: Reflexión sobre política de inmigración
9:30 - 11:30 AM Talleres/espacios de discusión simultáneos de capacitación y aprendizaje compartido: (se inscribe a UNO)
1. Jovenes—el liderazgo juvenil en NALACC
2. Como contar nuestros historias- una guía práctica al testimonio
4. Women’s Leadership development
12:00 - 1:30 PM Bienvenida y almuerzo:
1:45 pm – 3:30 pm Descubriendo nuestro poder- Reflexión sobre la ruta recorrida “El Río de la Vida de NALACC”
3:30 pm Plenaria: Aplicando las lecciones aprendidas a la construcción de poder
Oradora invitada: María Elena Letona
4:15 to 5:15 pm Informe Programático y Financiero del Año 2014
Moderadora: Claudia Lucero
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm Presentación de Libro: “Los Otros Dreamers”
7:00 – 11:00 pm Recepción/Fiesta Comunitaria - Casa Michoacán-1638 S. Blue Island

Sábado 8 de noviembre

8:30 AM Desayuno
9:00 – 10:00 AM Q&A con el Director Ejecutivo y Síntesis de Resultados de “Las Américas”
10:30 AM El Futuro de Nuestra Alianza: Visualizando Los Próximos 10, 15, 20 Años
12:00 - 1:00 PM Almuerzo y Foro de Candidatos para la mesa directiva de NALACC
1:30 PM Construyendo Nuestro Poder: más allá del mito de los números
Qué podemos hacer JUNTOS y INNOVADORES como alianza?
Grupos de Trabajo y Plenaria
4:45 PM Evaluación del Día / Anuncios
5:00 PM Tour de la Ciudad — terminando en Navy Pier. Noche libre.

Domingo 9 de noviembre, 2014

08:00 – 09:00 AM Desayuno
09:00 – 09:45 AM Informe de Junta Directiva
10:00 – 11:00 AM SOMOS Micro-Filantropos -NALACC membresias individuales
11:00 - 11:30 AM Elecciones de la Junta Directiva
12:00 – 12:30 PM Evaluación de la asamblea y clausura
Congratulations NALACC

on 10 years of building a more equitable and sustainable way of life for new Americans.
Felicitaciones a NALACC

por 10 años de hacer realidad una manera de alcanzar una vida más equitativa y sostenible para los nuevo Americanos.
The pictures of small children hanging desperately onto moving trains in Mexico or lying on the floor of overcrowded youth detention centers in Texas shocked the world this past summer. Even the most hardened cynics could not help but be moved by the faces of so many children in such desperate conditions. However, as time has passed, the issue has faded from public view. Sadly, this does not mean that the underlying problems driving the flight of children and families from the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have been addressed. Nor, have the measures for protection of these and other children and families improved.

Protect Children Across Borders and Address Root Causes of Migration

To the contrary, the United States continues to pursue measures such as family detention and expedited removal, even in the face of mounting evidence of negative consequences. Pressure has increased on Mexico to apprehend and deport more Central Americans. This measure is effective as a means of keeping the issue off the radar of the public in the US, but it does not contribute to protecting children and families from harm. At the same time, a recent visit to the US-Mexico border by human rights experts from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission found serious issues both with the way that Central American children and family’s cases were handled, as well as a near complete lack of screening for humanitarian protections for Mexican children apprehended at the border. With the recent disappearance of Mexican students in Guerrero, many activists fear that Mexican children fleeing violence are not receiving the protections they should have under national and international law.

The causes of this exodus of Central Americans, including the unprecedented number of minor children, are multiple and complex. Some factors have emerged relatively recently. Others are the result of long-term structural patterns of inequality and exclusion. The children who have left the region in recent years, are fleeing a situation of such quotidian violence that they fear for their lives on a daily basis. This acute problem is exacerbated by the decline in democratic oversight in government, and the systemic lack of social and economic opportunity or wellbeing for large sectors of the population. Unfortunately, US-supported security policies that have emphasized militarized responses to public security challenges, has only deepened the cycle of violence. In addition, the failure by US policy makers to pass a sensible immigration policy reform that would permit families to be reunified, has compounded the cycle of tragedy.

NALACC believes that the responsibility for an immediate humanitarian response to this human exodus, particularly young people traveling without their parents, should be shared among the countries of origin and transit, as well as the United States. The guiding principle should be protection and well-being. Sadly, US government officials have declared their intent to deport the majority of these children, along with the recent adult arrivals, as soon as possible, arguing that they have no legal recourse to protection. Organizations that work to protect children’s rights and human rights are working frantically to assert the legal rights to humanitarian protection that must be provided to migrant children, and to anyone in similar conditions of imminent danger. NALACC continues to affirm our unequivocal support for protection of people seeking refuge, especially children. Furthermore, in light of the numbers of people and children currently seeking humanitarian protection, it is practically impossible to ensure that every one of them will have access to competent legal representation. Therefore, in addition to making every effort to provide legal representation to everyone seeking protection, the U.S. government should consider a class wide measure of protection along the lines of humanitarian parole, deferred action or temporary protected status for this group of people. No one who fears for his or her life should be denied protection.

Moving beyond the immediate response, there is an urgent need for serious analysis of the confluence of factors that have made emigration, even under the current dangerous and precarious conditions, look like a better option for people from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and even Mexico, than remaining in their home countries. Violence and insecurity are severe and urgent problems, but they essentially lit the fuse under an already volatile powder keg of problems. If we do not address those underlying problems we should expect a repeat of this crisis in the near future.

Central American and Mexican Fact-Finding Delegations

Over the past three months, NALACC has sent three fact-finding delegations to Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, with a final delegation to Mexico in early October. The delegations were comprised of leaders of NALACC member organizations and carried out in collaboration with allies in the region. These delegations were made possible with the generous support of the CAMMINA consortium and the Ford Foundation. The preliminary results and recommendations from those delegations can be found at our website at www.nalacc.org.

Preliminary Findings and Recommendations from Fact-Finding Missions

1. Violence in the region is structural in nature, ongoing and is targeting children: Central America is and will re-
main very dangerous. Honduras is now the most violent country in the world, by far, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Homicide Report 2013. El Salvador and Honduras occupy the 4th and 5th spots in the same report, respectively. This violence is increasingly directed at children. Even schools are not considered safe spaces due to gang and organized crime pressures on children and teachers. The horrifying disappearance of students in Guerrero that has come to light recently is a stark reminder that some of these same patterns exist in parts of Mexico. As a result, conditions for safe return do not exist for many children and families. Although Central American countries and Mexico all have relatively strong policies on the books for protecting children, the delegation found a profound lack of institutional capacity to respond to the challenge of re-integrating children and families who have been forcibly removed from the United States or apprehended in transit in Mexico.

Recommendations based on this finding:

**Humanitarian protection comes first.** If we are to save lives, the United States cannot turn its back on these vulnerable individuals. The United States must use every available measure to protect the children and adults who have made their way here, and ensure that they are afforded all the humanitarian protections provided by US and international law.

**Keep existing legal protections and expand them.** This volatile situation with so many children’s lives at risk is not the time to dismantle protections such as the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. To the contrary, the President’s long-delayed promise of administrative relief from deportation should be expanded to respond to this challenge.

**Direct financial resources toward humanitarian protection measures.** Additional financial resources are urgently needed to ensure that children are treated humanely, represented in the legal system and reunited with family whenever possible. Here in the United States, we must guarantee legal representation for as many of these vulnerable children and adults. The responsibility for this resides both with the US and with the governments in the countries of origin of the children and families who have fled violence and insecurity.

Consider **class-wide legal protection:** While legal representation for everyone should be a goal, the reality is that many may not obtain legal counsel in time to stop deportation. Therefore, consideration should be given to issuing a class-wide protection program to ensure that no one is sent back to face violence or even death in their country of origin. Existing law allows for such a measure.

2. **Family Deportation from the United States is increasing and the locus of apprehension and deportation of Central American Migrants has shifted to Mexico.** Although unaccompanied children are moving slowly through the system, an increasing number of families have begun to be deported from the United States, particularly to Honduras. That pattern is expected to grow in the coming months if the Obama Administration adheres to its plan for swift deportations. As Mexico steps up efforts to interdict and return Central American migrants, several busloads per week of children and families are being returned into three countries visited from Mexico. An additional, almost invisible problem is that of Mexican children: unlike Central Americans, they are given only a cursory screening by border patrol and immediately returned to Mexico, making it very difficult to determine if children who might have qualified for protection are simply falling through the cracks. Once deported, the protections for returnees are weak or non-existent. The facilities for receiving and re-integrating children and families are clearly inadequate to the magnitude of the task. None of these countries have programs in place to deal with the medium to long-term challenges of social and economic reintegration of deportees.

**Recommendations based on this finding.**

**Institutional Capacity Urgently Needed:** The delegation found a lack of institutional capacity to respond to the challenge of re-integrating children and families who have been forcibly removed from the United States or apprehended in transit in Mexico. Immediate measures must be taken to protect and support these returned migrants in Central America, and in Mexico. Leverage civil society expertise. Responses to this challenge must include the civil society and faith based actors who have been most active in working directly with children. There is expertise in the region and we should leverage it. Central American governments should acknowledge the expertise of several civil society organizations in this area, should empower them and follow their lead to ensure the best possible outcomes.

**Prevent further militarization.** The need for resources for protection should not be used as a pretext for
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en su 10th aniversario
y su Director Ejecutivo
Oscar A Chacón
por ser un Líder incansable en la lucha pro-inmigrantes.

Su familia
Antonio y Rita Chacón
Marielena, Guillermo y Yanira Chacón
using US resources to push more weapons into this already volatile region. Rather, the US and the governments of the region should look to the examples of Costa Rice and even Nicaragua, where, despite similar poverty statistics, police forces are accountable to civil, local authorities. In the case of Costa Rica, emigration rates are dramatically lower than the rest of its neighbors.

3. The causes of the exodus of children and families are complex and interlinked, meaning no simplistic solutions. There are at least three inter-linked causes to this problem, and if we don’t address them all, we should expect to repeat the crisis of earlier this summer in short order. Those problems are all structural in nature: inequality that drives profound and on-going poverty; structural violence that pervades all aspects of society, which is exacerbated by corruption and ineffective judicial systems; and the desperation of long-separated families, driven by outdated and family unfriendly US immigration policies and systems.

Recommendations based on this finding:
Shift from militarization to community-based models for public safety: Deep changes are needed to address the problems that underpin the exodus of children and families. New models of public safety, based on the respect of human rights and true community policing should be put into practice to replace repressive public safety approaches that have only engendered more violence.

Invest in social development and reduced inequality: Central American governments should be supported in a major new initiative aimed at elevating social development indexes in each of their countries. One place to start is revamping of public education policies to transform schools into a keystone of community development. Broad access to health care, as well as dignified housing could form the building blocks for transforming Central American countries into places where people want to stay, raise their families and prosper. As a corollary, countries in the region should invest in creating opportunities for decent jobs and reducing the wage gap with the United States.

Revisit domestic and international cooperation resources: Governments often plead poverty in response to pressures to implement of protections and re-integration programs. A serious examination of the use of existing domestic and international cooperation resources should be undertaken, with an eye toward prioritizing long-term investments in opportunity and well-being, as well as citizen oversight and accountability structures for government.

Modernize Taxation and Fiscal Policies: The current situation underscores the need to modernize taxation and fiscal policies to ensure that the necessary resources are raised and are put into the service of raising social and economic living standards. By not wasting this crisis, Central American governments and the international community can help the region to function much more effectively in the global economy.

Fix Outdated Migration Policies: The geographic region comprised by the Central American nations, Caribbean nations, Mexico and the United States has become ever-more more integrated and interdependent. However, existing legal frameworks to regulate human mobility remain grossly outdated. Laws regulating migration within this region must be modernized in a way in which human rights are respected, and in which the economic and social wellbeing for all citizens in this region is reconciled with realistic and flexible migration policies. In the case of the US, the Congress must understand the need to modernize its laws in a mutually beneficial way, including immigration law. Until the US Congress does this, the President should use his executive authority to remedy the obvious flaws in implementing existing laws.
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