

# *National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights*

## 2009 Policy Priorities

The *National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights* (NCIWR) is comprised of over 40 grassroots and national advocacy organizations working together to defend and promote equality for all immigrant women and their families living and working in the United States.

We respectfully urge the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress to consider the following policy recommendations that promote fair and non-discriminatory comprehensive immigration reform that advances reproductive and economic justice for immigrant women and their families, and puts a stop on cruel and inhumane raids and detention that tears families apart.

NCIWR strongly urges that an equitable immigration policy for all immigrants, especially women and families **must**:

- **Provide a Just Path to Permanent Residency and Citizenship** that allows immigrant women to obtain work permits, to travel internationally and access higher education and federal financial aid. Immigrant women must have viable options that will permit them to be full contributors in the U.S. workforce and societal landscape.
- **Remove the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine mandate** implemented by the U.S. Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
  - Urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to retract HPV vaccine as a required vaccination for immigrant women and girls.
- **Support family-centered immigration policies** that promote family unity and respect the rights of persons of color, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender immigrants and their partners;
  - Support the Uniting American Families Act.
  - Support policies that do not separate families through raids, detention centers and immigration backlogs.
  - Support policies that require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to provide adequate access to reproductive health services to all immigrant women.
- **Eliminate the five-year bar on all public benefits** and restore access to public benefits for immigrant women and families.

The *National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights* believes that a fair, just and humane immigration policy will benefit all of us who live and work in the United States.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like further information: Jenny L. Jourdain ([jenny@latinainstitute.org](mailto:jenny@latinainstitute.org); 202/393.8580) or Priscilla Huang ([phuang@napawf.org](mailto:phuang@napawf.org); 301/270.4440)

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