



## Organizing Labor: An Immigration Perspective

Over the summer, ICE conducted raids across seven poultry plants in Mississippi, resulting in the arrest of over 600 workers and leaving young children without their parents. The workers at one plant had recently won a \$3.75 million settlement in a sexual harassment case. The Mississippi raids underscore what immigrant workers and organizers have known all along, workers rights are immigrant rights. At this plenary session our panel will talk specifically about the intersection of immigration and the labor movement and how workers and organizers in the South are fighting back against exploitation, union busting, stolen wages, immigration raids, and family separation.

Following the panel discussion, there will be a short musical performance by members of the Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble. The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble's songs and music was born out of the struggle of organizing African American workers in the "Black Belt" region of North Carolina and the South. More than twenty two workers, at various times, have participated in this dynamic cultural workers organization. Recruited from workplace and community struggles, they have captured in music oppressed peoples' and the working class' history of community and workplace struggles.

**Neidi Dominguez** is the National Strategic Campaign Coordinator and Assistant to the General President for the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT). Neidi is a long-time labor and immigrants' rights organizer. She co-directed the CLEAN Carwash campaign in Los Angeles, California, which successfully unionized hundreds of carwash workers in Los Angeles County and changed working conditions for thousands of low-wage immigrant workers. She was also a key leader in the campaign to win Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

**Leticia Zavala** was born in Zacapu, Michoacan. At the age of 6 her family migrated to the United States and immediately started following the migrant stream from Florida to Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania. In her teenage years she became a member of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, FLOC as her family was working on a union farm. Under the migrant education foundation, she obtained a scholarship that helped her pay her way to college and she graduated with a bachelor's degree with a major in Sociology from Florida Southern College. After college she got a call to return to the fields as an organizer and she joined ranks of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee once again. Since then she has worked with immigrant communities in Mexico and North Carolina pushing to improve working and living conditions of agricultural workers. In 2017 Leticia was elected on the executive board of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee and is a member of Colectivo Binacional de Mujeres Migrantes, and part of the immigrant advisory council for the city of Zacapu, Michoacan. She has received Mexicanas Mujeres de Valor recognition under Governor Enrique Pena Nieto and Televisa.

**Jaribu Hill** is Founder and Executive Director of the Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights (the Center). She is a human rights attorney, veteran community organizer, international human rights spokesperson, and a frequent writer and commentator on these themes. Hill is the founder of the Fannie Lou Hamer Roundtable and CUNY Law School's Mississippi Project. After Katrina, Jaribu and the Mississippi Workers' Center established the Southern Relief Fund / Witness Delegation, to provide support for victims of Katrina. As former director of the Southern Regional Office of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Hill won an important judgment against the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. She has coordinated cutting edge litigation in the areas of housing as a human right and racially hostile work environments. The Center currently represents a "MeToo" survivor in the Mississippi Delta.