

Human Rights Treatment of Immigrants

HR-5

With respect to the movement of people through the world, the Friends Committee on Legislation shares the long-range ideal of the Friends Committee on National Legislation—a world of open borders in which, through international cooperation, pressures for migration will be reduced by more equitable enjoyment of the world's resources and of human and civil rights. Meanwhile we recognize that the continued existence of borders and the will to control them create problems which must be conscientiously addressed. In general, any desire or effort to limit immigration must be balanced against the need to preserve the legal rights of all those affected by measures for control, citizens as well as non-citizens. We are moved above all by our conviction that the peoples of the world share a common humanity and must be treated accordingly.

Accordingly, FCL's policy with respect to the treatment of immigrants is as follows:

- a) We are a nation of immigrants. We recognize the continuing contributions of immigrants to our communities' economic and cultural well-being.
- b) Fair employment practices and fair labor laws as well as health and safety standards in the workplace should be enforced to prevent the exploitation of immigrant workers.
- c) Any measures to control the passage of persons and goods across our borders should be carried out by federal agencies with personnel trained to carry out their responsibilities with due regard for the rights of all with whom they deal. We oppose militarization of our borders and the use of the National Guard or state or local police to assist the Immigration and Naturalization Service or the Border Patrol.
- d) We support proper training and accountability of Border Patrol Personnel, as well as adequate recruiting standards. We support proposals for a federally sponsored Immigration Law Enforcement Oversight Commission as well as State Support of local efforts to establish civilian review boards to hear complaints of civil rights violations by enforcement agents.
- e) We oppose any attempt to impose on the California-Mexico boarder measures comparable to the El Paso-Cuidad Juarez blockade instituted in 1993, which has had serious negative effects on the civil rights, international relations, and economic conditions in the area.
- f) We oppose any law requiring the populace to carry national identification.
- g) We oppose the imposition of a border crossing fee as an unjustifiable burden on the many who daily cross the border and on the border economy.
- h) We believe that public services available to citizens, including education, health care, and access to public facilities, should be available to all residents without

regard to citizenship status, and that all should have a corresponding responsibility to pay taxes.

- i) We oppose any effort to amend the United States Constitution so as to deny citizenship to children born of undocumented residents.
- j) We oppose legislation which, in attempting to make life difficult for undocumented migrants, would adverse effects on legal residents. Examples would be requiring proof of legal status to establish eligibility for a driver's license, or depriving education and medical services.
- k) We oppose abridgement of the rights of asylum guaranteed by the United Nations Protocol on Refuges, ratified by the United States: Care must be taken that the expediting of asylum hearings not violate due process of law.
- l) States and local governments most impacted by immigration should receive reimbursement from the federal government.
- m) We support adequate resources to aid and teach people seeking naturalization.