

WHAT SHOULD AMERICAN WORKERS DO ABOUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION?

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1. We should welcome our working class brothers and sisters from Mexico and other lands if they wish to come and live in the United States. Welcome them to join us in fighting for a better, more equal and democratic United States. Welcome them in joining our strikes and struggles against our plutocracy. Support them when they join us in this struggle, by standing with them against government goons who threaten "uppity" illegal workers with arrest and deportation.

By the same token, we should treat illegal immigrants no differently from any other worker. If they scab on our strikes or any other struggles, we should treat them like scabs. We should judge people according to which side they take in the class war, not according to whether our plutocracy gives them "legal" status or "citizen" status.

2. We should spread the word to the American working class that the reason so many Mexicans come to work and live in the United States is largely because the American ruling plutocracy **FORCES THEM TO**.

The plutocracy deliberately created illegal immigration as part of their bi-partisan push to use NAFTA to pit American and Mexican working people against each other. It worked like this. First, as part of the NAFTA deal imposed on Mexico, Mexico had to abolish the clause in its constitution (from its revolution in 1917) that gave peasants rights to the land. Second, NAFTA made it possible for American agri-business to flood Mexico with corn that was super-cheap due to U.S. government agricultural subsidies. The intended result was that nearly two million [according to CBS Evening News, July 1, 2006] Mexican peasant farmers were driven out of business and driven off the land, with no way to make a living and support their families other than by migrating north.

3. We should ignore whether a fellow worker is a citizen, a legal immigrant or an illegal immigrant.

Being legal isn't necessarily good and being illegal isn't necessarily bad. Acting in solidarity with fellow workers by going on a sympathy strike is illegal. Most of the things bosses do to screw workers are legal. Hell, if it posed any real threat to our plutocracy's power, wealth and privileges it would be illegal for citizens to vote. Legal or not, the only way to make a better world is with good old fashioned working class solidarity across all borders.

4. We should spread the word: capitalist immigration laws are designed by and for the very rich, to destroy international working class solidarity by discriminating against foreign-born workers one way or another. The problem is that working people are not running the show, and we should solve this problem at its root, with revolution in the United States and Mexico and elsewhere.