

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW CENTER FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW
4TH HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES**

Resource Page: THE NEW AMERICANS¹

For hundreds of years, immigrants have been coming to the United States in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Famine, war, unemployment, and persecution force people to leave behind their homes while dramatic tales of “streets paved with gold” entice people to come experience the American Dream. Once here, the unexpected challenges immigrants face upon arrival are often devastating enough to force them to return to their home countries. Since September 11th, 2001, US immigration policy has changed rapidly and often with harsh consequences for immigrants. The immigration process has become much more hostile and inaccessible, and the regulations for those seeking asylum quite limited. ***To learn more about resources for immigrants you can visit the following websites:***

Ayuda Inc.: www.ayudainc.org

An area legal service provider, it offers assistance for low-income immigrant populations.

Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE) Inc.: www.weaveincorp.org

This non-profit holistic service provider offers assistance to battered immigrant women in the Washington area.

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: www.nnirr.org

The organization serves as a forum to share information and analysis, to educate communities and the general public, and to develop and coordinate plans of action on important immigrant and refugee issues.

Capital Area Immigrants Rights (CAIR) Coalition: www.caricoalition.org

A non-profit organization addressing the needs of Washington-area immigrants by bringing together community groups, pro bono attorneys, volunteers and immigrants to work for a fair and humane immigration policy.

ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project: <http://archive.aclu.org/issues/immigrant/hmir.html>

The ACLU/ IRP works to defend the civil and constitutional rights of immigrants through a comprehensive program of impact litigation and public education.

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services: www.bcis.gov

Former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) site, this section provides information to introduce the new Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The National Immigration Law Center (NILC): www.nilc.org

The Center conducts policy analysis and impact litigation and provides publications, technical advice, and trainings to a broad constituency of legal aid agencies, community groups, and **pro bono** attorneys.

Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights: www.lchr.org

Advocates for fair immigration policies and organizes pro bono attorneys for asylum cases.

The Tahirih Justice Center: www.tahirih.org

A non-profit organization in Northern VA which provides pro bono legal representation to immigrant and refugee women and girls fleeing gender-based persecution.

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