



MOBILIZE the
IMMIGRANT **VOTE**

**Making NEW AMERICAN
VOICES count**

2015

MEETING THE MOMENT, BUILDING A MOVEMENT

As 2015 began, we regrouped like many allies in the immigrant and refugee rights sector. Comprehensive immigration reform, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) were once again delayed. At the same time, the Movement for Black Lives and Black liberation gained momentum and power. Further afield, the lives of tens of thousands of families in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, were upended by global migrant and refugee crises, extremism, and terrorism.

Concurrently, preparations for the 2016 presidential election were set in motion. Candidates took positions on global and local issues of the day – income inequality, health care, criminal justice, racial justice, immigrant and refugee rights, reproductive justice, and trans rights – our issues. Clear that **we can only win by leading with our values and vision for the future our communities want and deserve** we set to work.

Our work in 2015 sought to answer three questions about meeting this political moment:

- How do we relate to the powerful social movements of our time, particularly the Movement for Black Lives, and create the necessary connections for us to stand together and build power with each other?
- How do we lead with love and vision in the face of rising anti-migrant and anti-refugee attitudes in the US and abroad?
- How do we connect the battle for hearts and minds in our wider culture to the fight for policy wins on the electoral battlefield?

As the Mobilize the Immigrant Vote Alliance wrestled with these questions through experimentation and bold leaps, we transformed who we are and how we work. We are proud to highlight the collective achievements of MIV Alliance members, partners, and supporters.



Northern California Make It Fair press event, Oakland

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2016, we will unveil a new strategic framework that joins our civic engagement campaigns with cultural strategy as well as a renewed theory of change that charts a political path towards a just California for everyone.

The MIV Alliance's 2016 highlights:

Expand our scale to speak to 75,000

New American voters during the June primaries and November general elections in historically conservative areas through MIV campaigns and as an anchor in the Million Voters Project

Customize our in-culture and in-language values-based narrative to our diverse communities about critical issues like fair pay, tax reform, and criminal justice

Launch the *Until We Are All Free Declaration of Unity* written by acclaimed Zimbabwean author NoViolet Bulawayo as well as a racial justice curriculum

Train hundreds of organizers and leaders on the connections between immigrant and refugee rights, racial justice, and criminal justice

mivcalifornia.org

WHAT DO WE DO?

The Mobilize the Immigrant Vote (MIV) Alliance advances the broader movement for social justice by building immigrant and refugee voting power in California. Through MIV, community-based organizations working with New American immigrant and refugee communities of color mobilize their constituents to vote; link these efforts with ongoing community organizing; and shape the debate on immigration and key issues through cultural strategy.

MIV launched in 2004 as the first-ever multi-ethnic, immigrant-led coalition building electoral capacity of community-based organizations in California. Mobilize the Immigrant Vote is a non-partisan charitable organization and is affiliated with the MIV Action Fund.

2015 IMPACT & HIGHLIGHTS



Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles phone bankers, Los Angeles

We continued engaging our New American constituencies through a two-pronged **Keeping Families Together and Thriving** campaign.

MIV Alliance members spoke to over 20,500 New American immigrant and refugee voters in Amharic, Chinese, Korean, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and English in 15 counties across California.

- As a Steering Committee member of [Make It Fair](#), we built support for reforming Proposition 13 to make big businesses pay their fair share in property taxes and increase investment in quality public services. We identified 8,600 New American voters in support of Make It Fair and reached 2.8 million New Americans in ethnic press
- We kept our communities engaged around comprehensive immigration reform as a critical issue for the 2016 elections. We identified over 6,650 New American voters in support of the President's executive action to protect immigrant families from deportation. We reached over 12 million New Americans in ethnic media
- We conducted our first coordinated voter registration effort in 8 languages, partnering with 15 groups, schools, and community centers

We launched [Until We Are All Free](#) together with **CultureStrike** to create a new story of solidarity, transformation, and freedom; challenge the racially biased criminal justice and immigration system; and cultivate public will and imagination for a more just and inclusive society. At the October 2015 launch:

- 30+ organizations and 15 artists built relationship and understanding of the intersection of mass deportation, detention, and incarceration
- With the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), we piloted four training workshops connecting immigrant and refugee rights, racial justice, and mass incarceration
- We reached 500,000+ people on social media, radio, and ethnic media about our vision of a world beyond borders and bars thanks to All Free communications champions including artists, Courage Campaign, Favianna Rodriguez, Jeff Chang, Van Jones, and Ella Baker Center



Until We Are All Free Action, Oakland. Photo by Jesus Iñiguez / CultureStrike

PARTNERS

- African Communities Together (ACT)
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice - LA (Advancing Justice-LA)
- California Partnership (CAP)
- Chinese Progressive Association (CPA)
- Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
- Communities for a New California Education Fund (CNCEF)
- Filipino Advocates for Justice (FAJ)
- Korean Resource Center (KRC)
- Mid-City Community Advocacy Network (Mid City CAN)
- Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)
- Pomona Economic Opportunity Center (PEOC)
- Services Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)
- United Taxi Workers of San Diego (UTWSD)