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Centro Hermanas Mirabal de Derechos Humanos

Centro Juvenil Generando Dignidad

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Protecting Migrant Rights Across Borders

Formerly Global Workers Justice Alliance



Business is global. People are global. Justice should be global too.

Policy Advocacy

Ensuring fair policies for migrants is critical to advancing justice across borders. A priority this year was to shed light on the obscure and abusive temporary foreign worker visa system by:

Conducting a congressional staff briefing with partner organizations, Polaris and the Economic Policy Institute, to illuminate the problems temporary visa workers face during their stay in the US and in their countries of origin during the recruitment process

Demonstrating how greater transparency in the recruitment supply chain can help prevent human trafficking

Emphasizing the importance of the Visa Transparency Anti-Trafficking Act of 2016 as a necessary tool to create a standardized reporting system across nonimmigrant visa categories that authorize work and requiring that this information be made public

Increasing usage of Visas, Inc. and our online Visa Pages — now indispensable resources for policymakers and advocates

South of the border, Justice in Motion has made inroads to affect policy by:

Partnering with governments in Guatemala and two state governments in Mexico to reduce recruitment visa fraud and increase prosecutions when migrants fall victim to these schemes

Publishing Recruitment Rules: Countries of Employment to serve as a training tool for governments and advocates to enhance their understanding of foreign recruiters' rules of engagement in their territory

Providing training for various governments and allies so that they can more effectively protect the migrants in their region

Publishing Recruitment Rules: Countries of Origin, a comparative study that shows what protections exist in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua for migrants who are being recruited to work abroad

Hosting events to facilitate the implementation of standardized norms across the region that would prevent foreign employers from recruiting from countries with lesser protections or enforcement

Education

Education and awareness are instrumental in preventing exploitation.

To ensure that the Defender Network, US advocates, government partners, and allies are equipped to handle cross-border legal actions and prevent recruitment abuse and fraud, we conducted online and in-person trainings on the following topics:

- New H-2B visa regulations
- Recruitment rules in the US, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua
- · Canadian temporary worker programs
- Labor trafficking victim identification

To enhance the expertise of US attorneys who take on these challenging transnational cases, we trained more than 100 lawvers and advocates on:

- The challenges of transnational litigation
- · Best practices for transferring money to clients in Mexico
- J-1 visa data
- · Recruitment laws and regulations in the region

We also extended trainings to an international audience for the first time, sharing what we have learned in our region about recruitment to help find global solutions for these issues.

To empower migrants to avoid abuse through education, Defender Network members achieved positive results training more than 600 migrants on:

- How to avoid recruitment abuse and fraud
- Knowing basic labor rights before going to work in the US
- What to do if they have suffered violations to their rights

This was the final year of a three-year US State Department funded project, "Enhancing Victim Identification & Increasing Victims' Access to Services." This project filled a large programmatic gap in Mexico — the need to expand and improve the identification of victims and increase their access to available resources and services. Many victims have gone unidentified, which only emboldens human traffickers to intensify their dirty work. As part of this project, Defender Network members in the Mexican states of Chiapas, Puebla, and Tabasco:

- Conducted trainings for local government agencies on human trafficking and best practices for victim identification
- Built a localized referral network of service providers for survivors

