

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER

ORGANIZING IMMIGRANT WORKERS

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The basic tenet of the *population education model* is to train individuals based on their own experience. Organizing materials developed under this model communicate ideas and messages while keeping in the forefront the audience to which these points are being made.



Ideally, immigrant workers should be organized by employing the population education approach. While immigrant workers share most of the concerns that native-born workers in the U.S. have (e.g. safe workplace conditions), the context from which they may approach problems, solutions, and strategies may differ based on their experience in their home country, their experience in the U.S. as an immigrant, etc.

The following curriculum, “Joining Together: A Lesson in Solidarity” was developed by the organizers of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. It adopts the population education model to help educate immigrant workers on the benefits of unionizing. This curriculum is excerpted from an education guide entitled, “A Freedom School on Wheels: Training for Education Facilitators.” Other segments of this guide include:

(1) suggested films and videos that depict particular immigrant issues; (2) a curriculum on the history of race, immigration, and citizenship; and (3) a curriculum on civic participation. If you would like a copy of these documents, or for other popular education materials developed for immigrant audiences, please contact Anita Sinha at sinha@nilc.org.



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