

**Arab, African, Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian (AAMEMSA) Immigrant Rights Coalition:**

**Arab Resource and Organizing Center**

[www.araborganizing.org](http://www.araborganizing.org) | 415-861-7444

*Services: Legal services and empowerment skills*

**Alliance of South Asians Taking Action**

[www.asata.org](http://www.asata.org)

*Services: Education and community organizing*

**Omid Advocates**

[www.omidadvocates.org](http://www.omidadvocates.org) | 510-705-8637

*Services: immigration and refugee legal services, mental health services.*

**African Advocacy Network**

[www.africanadvocacynetwork.org](http://www.africanadvocacynetwork.org) | 415-503-1032

*Services: Legal services, housing referrals, ESL, computer literacy, case management, advocacy, arts and culture*

**Narika**

[www.narika.org](http://www.narika.org) | 1-800-215-7308

*Services: family law and immigration, counseling, shelters, healthcare providers*

**Somali Community Services**

[www.somalicsc.org](http://www.somalicsc.org) | (206) 431-3536

*Services: Job assistance, interpretation, mediation, immigration services, and legal and medical referrals.*



# AAMEMSA Immigrant Rights Coalition

**Arab, African, Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian (AAMEMSA) Immigrant Rights Coalition** is a multi-ethnic collaboration seeking to build migrant solidarity around the promotion and defense of our communities' civil and human rights. We strive to bring AAMEMSA voices to the Immigrant Rights movement.

# IMMIGRATION ISSUES AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

In the post-9/11 climate of Islamophobia, AAMEMSA communities continue to be targets of racial profiling, harrassment, unfair immigration and refugee policies, and civil rights violations. We are diverse communities sharing common experiences. We are coming together and raising our collective voices to address these issues.

## **Women facing domestic violence or other forms of abuse and exploitation**

The Violence Against Women's Act law was enacted first in 1995. It gives women who are married to USCs or LPRs and are victims of domestic violence the right to self petition for permanent residency. It is a wonderful tool that has given thousands of immigrant survivors the right to residency. However, there are challenges related to processing time and getting work permits.

## **No-Fly List**

The no-fly list has the names of 8000 to 10000 individuals who have been prohibited by the US to board flights that stop over or that fly over US airspace. No one knows for sure how individuals are placed on the No-Fly list, nor whether they are on it until they attempt to actually travel by air. Some reports have said that one of the methods used to determine whether individuals should be placed on no-fly lists is credit scores. Many of the individuals placed on the no-fly list are LPR's and US Citizens. Most of those individuals, however, are either of AMEMSA origin or have lived in an AMEMSA country.

## **"Material Support" Exclusion and Background Checks bars to asylum seekers and refugees in the United States**

The 1951 Refugee Convention and its Protocol explicitly exclude from protection persons who have committed a range of serious crimes. The Refugee Convention also allows a country to expel a refugee who poses a danger to its security. But since September 11, 2001, thousands of refugees who pose no threat to the United States have had their applications for asylum, permanent residence, and family reunification denied or delayed due to the provisions of U.S. immigration law that were intended to protect United States against terrorism.

## **Family Reunification**

## **Asylum seekers and Refugees**