



SEMINAR FOUR: DECENT WORK FOR UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

13 November 2020

9:00 - 10:30 PST / 12:00 - 13:30 EST / 17:00 – 18:30 GMT

Chair: Kathy Coll, University of San Francisco

Speakers: Karen Cocq, Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, Canada

Don Flynn, previously Migrant Rights Network, UK

Leticia Ishibashi, Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX), UK

Liliana Keith, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migration (PICUM)

Elene Lam, Butterfly, Canada

Dolores Modern, Latin American Women's Rights Service, UK

Lisa Moore, Domestic Workers Alliance, USA

DISCUSSION THEMES

1) How have you built political consensus for your campaigns on decent work for those with precarious status – what narratives you worked/not worked at different government levels, or in different spaces

2) How can we counter ideas about precarious workers as illegitimate/not deserving of work-place rights?

3) What can be done at the city-level to ensure decent working conditions for those with precarious status? (or if you have worked at other levels please feel free to include here)

4) How has COVID revealed and/or exacerbated tensions for campaigning for work based rights?

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BIOGRAPHIES

Karen Cocq

Karen is Campaigns Coordinator for the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change. She has been active in migrant justice, workers' rights, and anti-poverty organizing for almost two decades. The Migrant Workers Alliance for Change (MWAC) provides direct support to the self-organization of migrant workers - specifically farm workers, care workers and current and former migrant students - in order to build workers' power to self-advocate and collectively organize for change. MWAC is also a coalition of migrant worker groups and organizations that support migrant workers, including unions, legal clinics, community groups and researchers. The coalition fights for justice and dignity for migrant workers by amplifying migrant worker demands and campaigns for policy and legislative change.

Don Flynn

Don Flynn was the director of Migrants' Rights Network (MRN), a network of civil society organisations working to support the rights of migrants. He helped found MRN after 30 years' work on migration issues in law centres and as a policy officer at the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and an immigration caseworker in London. He also chaired the UK Race and Equality Network (UKREN) and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

Liliana Keith

Liliana joined PICUM in 2011 where she is a senior advocacy officer focusing on labour rights. She has been involved in work to advance migrants' rights since 2009, including through community development and funding. She has an academic background in international and European migration law and policy and anthropology.

Elene Lam

Elene Lam has been involved in the sex workers' movement for more than 15 years and she co-founded Butterfly after moving to Canada from Hong Kong in 2014. Butterfly is a support network for Asian and migrant sex workers to address the unique challenges they face working in Canada – particularly within the context new anti-sex work legislation that criminalises the purchase of sex, advertising sexual services, and communicating in public.

Dolores Modern

Dolores Modern is Policy and Communications Coordinator on Employment Rights at the Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS). She has a background in Political Science, Human Rights and Modern Slavery, and over

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10 years of experience working in the women's sector. LAWRS is a feminist and human rights organisation led by and for Latin American migrant women in the UK. LAWRS supports women and girls facing violence, exploitation and trafficking, and those enduring difficult living and working conditions in low-paid jobs and facing barriers to social protection.

Lisa Moore

Lisa has been organizing for low-wage worker power for over 20 years. She currently serves as Senior Field Director at the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), the nation's leading voice for fairness for the more than 2.5 million nannies, housecleaners and home care workers in the United States. Lisa oversees the alliance's work to build domestic workers' collective power by growing a mass base of individual members and over 70 local chapters and affiliate organizations, and by aligning that base around a shared strategy and vision for the sector. Her work includes initiatives to seed and strengthen local organizing, development of political education programs, digital organizing efforts to recruit and engage members at scale, and the construction of leadership pipelines and systems for worker democracy. As a member of NDWA's strategic leadership team, she co-designs a coordinated set of strategies to raise standards for the sector, including legislative campaigns, innovation and culture change work. Prior to her current role, she served as the Organizing and Program Director for NDWA's gender and immigration campaign, where she coordinated a diverse national network to fight for the rights and dignity of immigrant women, children, families and communities. She began organizing in the mid-1990s at Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA), an NDWA affiliate in the San Francisco Bay Area. As MUA's Co-Director, she built programs and practices for the organization's membership of low-wage migrant women to powerfully lead, both in external campaign work and in the internal operations of their own organization. A dedicated community-builder, Lisa spent a number of years co-developing and coordinating a vibrant café and organizing space in Vancouver, Canada. Now, as a parent, she learns every day by supporting her child to grow and lead, with purpose and love

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External Resources

Butterfly: Sign the petition: Stop the harms of anti-trafficking initiatives and policy <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTQjaeBKPATTm6Ya4bwIptJQV6FVqxA7NM5KHv3hpxt2HiA/viewform>

Butterfly: How are Asian and migrant workers in spas, holistic centres, massage parlours and the sex industry affected by the COVID-19 pandemic? https://576a91ec-4a76-459b-8d05-4ebbf42a0a7e.filesusr.com/ugd/5bd754_bacd2f6ecc7b49ebb3614a8aef3c0f5f.pdf

Butterfly: How Anti-Trafficking Investigations and Policies Harm Migrant Sex Workers https://576a91ec-4a76-459b-8d05-4ebbf42a0a7e.filesusr.com/ugd/5bd754_bbd71c0235c740e3a7d444956d95236b.pdf

Butterfly: Survey on Toronto Holistic Practitioners' Experiences https://576a91ec-4a76-459b-8d05-4ebbf42a0a7e.filesusr.com/ugd/5bd754_6d780ceba3cb4f6c-85de4d3e9e0b7475.pdf

Migrants Rights Network <https://migrantrights.ca/>

National Domestic Workers Alliance #Careforall campaign: <https://ndwa2020.domesticworkers.org/vote/care-for-all/>

Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migration A worker is a worker <https://picum.org/aworkerisaworker/> report <https://picum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/A-Worker-is-a-Worker-full-doc.pdf>

Sex Work Law Reform <http://sexworklawreform.com/>

Sex Work is Real Work <http://maggiestoronto.ca/uploads/File/SexWork-FEATURE-from-Shameless-Issue-19-FINAL.pdf>

Status for All Campaign: <https://migrantrights.ca/status-for-all/>

Trabajadores Unidos Workers United <https://www.sfsanctuary.org/>

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About the series:

Sanctuary: What's Next? is a pioneering online seminar series taking place in November 2020. The overall aim is to take stock of and reinvigorate urban strategies of resistance to national and sub-national anti-migrant policies. Speakers include activists, advocates, NGOs, frontline workers and municipal government officials across pioneering sanctuary cities in the USA, Canada, and Europe.

The series will provide a platform to draw connections between the political economy of cities, the security practices at the heart of contemporary racial and colonial capitalism and the migration apparatus. In paying close attention to the messaging, practices, and tactics enacted by these organisers, there is much to learn about both the nature of the contemporary capitalist security state as well as how it might be possible to contest it.

The organising team:

Sanctuary: What's Next? An International Forum For, With and By Undocumented Migrants is convened by Dr Rachel Humphris (Queen Mary University of London), Graham Hudson (Ryerson University) and Kathy Coll (University of San Francisco).

It is part of the project 'Welcoming Cities? Understanding Sanctuary in Securitized States' funded by The Leverhulme Trust, UK.

The series has been organised in partnership with:

Angela Chan, Asian Law Caucus

<https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/members/angela-chan/>

Kathleen Coll, University of San Francisco

<https://www.usfca.edu/faculty/kathleen-coll>

Graham Hudson, Ryerson University Toronto

<https://www.ryerson.ca/criminology/about-us/faculty-staff/faculty/hudson-graham/>

Rachel Humphris, Queen Mary, University of London

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/politics/staff/profiles/humphrisrachel-.html>

Syed Hussan, Migrant Workers Alliance for Change

[@hussansk](https://www.hussansk.com)

Peter Mancina, University of Oxford

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/people/peter-mancina>

Mac Scott, Carranza LLP

<https://www.carranza.on.ca/our-people/bio/macdonald-scott>