



2012

Year At-A-Glance

Global Workers Require Global Justice



Our Program Areas

- Global Workers Defender Network
- Cross-Border Education
- Transnational Legal Action
- Global Advocacy





Griselda Vega facilitates a session for Mexican Defenders learning U.S. labor laws & legal strategies



Preparing our Defenders to reach and educate migrant workers about their rights under U.S. laws.



Building Capacity:

The Global Workers Defender Network

- In 2012, Global Workers **expanded our Defender Network in Mexico**. Ten new organizations joined, including the Women’s Network of Bajío, and Mirabal Sisters Center for Human Rights, giving us a total of seventeen Defender organizations in eleven states.
- Our Defender Network is also **growing in Central America**. We held our first national forum in Guatemala, bringing together a dozen of advocates to strategize. We also reached dozens more migrant advocates in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Our Executive Director, Cathleen Caron, has spearheaded this effort, in preparation for a ‘New Defender Training’ in early 2013.
- We strengthened our network by **training over a dozen new advocates** within current Defender groups. By doing so, we helped them to increase their ability to engage in transnational legal action.

Aroldo Palacios represents the Defender Network at our first Guatemala Temporary Worker Forum in February 2012.



Promoting Migrant’s Rights: Cross-Border Education

- Through the Jornaleros/SAFE project in Mexico, **we helped to educate hundreds of temporary agricultural workers**. Through an extensive outreach campaign, we helped migrants better understand their rights and the resources available to them.
- Global Workers held the **first-ever Temporary Worker Forum in Guatemala**. We educated over one hundred workers, advocates and government officials about guestworker programs and migrants’ rights under U.S., Canadian, and Mexican laws.
- In Guatemala, we **worked with U.S. embassy officials** to reduce abuses of migrants. Led by two of our Defenders – Aroldo Palacios and Waldemar Barrera, the U.S. embassy increased their impact ten-fold in educating Guatemalans to avoid visa fraud.
- We launched the pilot phase of our **innovative Radionovela campaign**. We will reach hundreds of thousands of migrants and their families, to teach them their rights under U.S. labor laws.



Andrea Ventura's family won a life-changing case, collecting over \$200,000 USD, thanks to the Global Workers Defender Network.

Winning Portable Justice:

Transnational Legal Action



- In 2012, we continued to provide invaluable legal support, **positively impacting hundreds of transnational migrants and their family members.** As our outreach and education work grows, we expect even greater collaboration with U.S. advocates and home-country Defenders to increase migrants' access to portable justice.
- **We aided a Guatemalan worker to win his job back** after he was unjustly fired by a Canadian employer. Our Defender, Cristián Otzin worked with Canadian labor lawyers to ensure that the worker could provide testimony remotely – setting an important precedent at the Canadian Labor Court in Quebec.
- Global Workers **helped a widow and her family collect over \$200,000 USD.** Andrea Ventura lost her husband and father of their children to a fatal accident while he was working in the U.S. Thanks to Defender Aroldo Palacios, the family was able to process a seemingly endless amount of legal forms so that they could receive this life-changing settlement.

Strengthening Migrant Rights:

Global Advocacy

- Global Workers released its groundbreaking report, ***Visas, Inc.***, an exposé about the U.S. temporary worker visa programs. The report received critical acclaim for the first in-depth look at this system. As the U.S. Congress begins to revisit immigration reform, we will use *Visas, Inc.* to inform needed policy changes.
- We successfully advocated with the **Guatemalan government** to halt the approval of an abusive recruiter. Inspired by these actions, there was a groundbreaking Congressional hearing, exposing the unscrupulous practices of recruiters seeking migrant workers.
- We launched our initiative **seeking enforcement of migrants' rights under Article 28 of Mexican Labor Law.** At our press launch, over 200 advocates worldwide tuned into our event, streamed live online. To build on our success, we'll bring together partners in government and civil society to strategize to utilize this provision.

Businesses are global.
Workers are global.
Justice is not.



Executive Director, Cathleen Caron, and *Visas, Inc.* author, Ashwini Sukthankar at the Economic Policy Institute for the release of the *Visas, Inc.* report, June 2012.



Mexico Program Director, Griselda Vega at the Jornaleros-SAFE report release and press conference in Mexico City, November 2012.



Meeting with the Ventura family, who sought portable justice after the children's father was killed while working in the United States.

Join us to win greater justice in 2013!

Your tax-deductible donation will make a big difference and help us to reduce the abuse and exploitation of migrant workers & their families.

To make a donation, please send a check to:

Global Workers Justice Alliance
789 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY, 11238

www.globalworkers.org

Or **visit our website and click "DONATE"** at the top of our homepage to make a secure donation via PayPal.

Thank you.

Global Workers Justice Alliance (Global Workers) combats worker exploitation by promoting portable justice for transnational migrants through a cross-border network of advocates and resources. Global Workers believes that portable justice, the right and ability of migrants to access justice in the country of employment even after they have departed, is a key yet under-utilized mechanism to reduce the exploitation of today's global migrants.

Workers should not have to check their legal rights at the border.