

AID NW – Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest

Mission statement: We serve immigrants in detention in the Pacific Northwest through assistance, increased awareness, and advocacy. Learn more about AID NW or make donations at <http://aidnw.org/>.

NWIRP – Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

Mission statement: NWIRP promotes justice by defending and advancing the rights of immigrants through direct legal services, systemic advocacy, and community education. Learn more about NWIRP or make donations at <https://www.nwirp.org/>.

IMMIGRATION TERMS DEFINED

IMMIGRANT: A person who migrates to another country, usually for permanent residency.

REFUGEE: Generally, any person outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on the person’s race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT: An immigrant not having the authorization needed to enter, live in, or work in a country. These individuals are frequently referred to in a derogatory manner as an “illegal.”

LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT: Any person not a citizen of the United States who is living in the U.S. under legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant. Also known as “permanent resident alien,” “resident alien permit holder,” and “Green Card holder.”

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA): On June 15, 2012 the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the U. S. as children and meet several guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. They are also eligible for work authorization. Deferred action is a use of prosecutorial discretion to defer removal action against an individual for a certain period of time. Deferred action does not provide lawful status. The DACA program was rescinded on September 5, 2017.

THE DREAM ACT: (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors): A bill in Congress that would have granted legal status to certain undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U. S. as children and went to school there. Although several versions of the bill have been introduced in Congress since 2001, it has never passed. In the last few years, the term “DREAMer” has been used to describe young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children, who have lived and gone to school here, and who, in many cases, identify as American. Similar legislation is likely to be introduced by the end of 2017.

ICE: An abbreviation for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an agency of the Department of Homeland Security.

USCIS: An abbreviation for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, an agency of the Department of Homeland Security.

Terms (gratefully!) adapted from the Tacoma Community House HEAR US Project, the USCIS Glossary of Terms, and Anti-Defamation League Curriculum Resources.