

September 7, 2006

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Jewish Groups Rally Today for Immigration Reform

*Task Force on Comprehensive Immigration Reform brings together 20
local & national organizations*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A task force of Jewish organizations from around the country will rally today in support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The rally will be held on the Mall in Washington and will begin at 4:00 PM EDT. The Jewish Task Force on Comprehensive Immigration Reform, convened by the Jewish Funds for Justice (JFSJ) and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), comprises 20 national and local Jewish organizations.

The task force, which formed in June, supports Comprehensive Immigration Reform that creates opportunities for earned legalization for immigrants already living in America; establishes an orderly process for the future flow of immigrants to the United States; protects immigrant workers from exploitation; supports family reunification; and ensures that humanitarian workers are not criminalized for providing services to undocumented immigrants. The group also advocates for protections for asylum seekers and refugees; access by immigrants to public services and benefits; wage protections and workplace rights for immigrants; and the prevention of hate crimes against immigrants.

“Jewish Funds for Justice has supported justice for immigrants for years through grants to the very community based immigrant groups where the current movement had its genesis,” said Simon Greer, president of JFSJ. “This task force represents our next step in engaging American Jews in support for immigrants during this period of misplaced anti-immigrant sentiment.”

Gideon Aronoff, president of HIAS, adds: “There is a broad consensus in the Jewish community on the issue of immigration reform. As an immigrant community, we remember the difficulty of being newcomers in the United States, and have a responsibility to ensure the welfare of today’s immigrants.”

Beyond participating in today's immigration rally, the task force has launched a postcard campaign through which American Jews are sending Rosh Hashanah greetings to Members of Congress, wishing them a "sweet new year" and asking that Congress make this year a "sweet" one for immigrants. The task force is also coordinating a week-long "phone call blitz" in support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

In addition to JFSJ and HIAS, members of the task force are: American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League, Avodah: The Jewish Service Corps, JCRC-Tucson, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Jewish Community Action, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Jewish Labor Committee, Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, Jews United for Justice, National Council of Jewish Women, Progressive Jewish Alliance, Religious Action Center, Shalom Center, UJA Federation-New York, United Jewish Communities, and Workmen's Circle.

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