

THE COALITION FOR JUSTICE IN THE MAQUILADORAS

The Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras (CJM) is an international, nonprofit, non-governmental organization committed to democratic processes and coordination. CJM is composed of organizations and individuals in Mexico, the United States, Canada and other countries strategically linked to the struggle to defend workers' rights in the maquiladora industry in Mexico. CJM has members in Latin America and the Caribbean, as other regions as well. Members represent organizations from faith, labor rights, environmental justice, community-based, women's' rights and immigrants' rights groups, as well as other sectors. Our goal is to work together to guarantee equality of opportunity for all, while being sensitive to the diverse cultures involved in CJM, as well as the need for pluralistic representation, and respect for the autonomy of CJM member groups.

Fundamental to CJM's mission is a commitment to improve working conditions and living standards for workers in the maquiladora industry. We strive in a coordinated and multi-disciplinary way for a better quality of life, sustainable development, social justice, human rights and environmental justice in communities.

Our actions are carried out wherever maquiladora companies and multinational corporations violate workers' rights or impact negatively the right of communities to protect and safeguard their environment. We place special emphasis on defending the rights of women in the maquiladoras who suffer discrimination, humiliation, and sexual harassment. CJM will support workers' struggles on the shop floor and in the community.

Our activities consist of organizing, educating and consciousness raising, promoting self-reliance and solidarity among men and women workers and their communities, as well as exerting pressure on corporations, with the following objectives:

- 1. To raise salaries so as to achieve greater economic and social justice;*
- 2. To improve and monitor the enforcement of occupational health and safety standards in the maquiladoras;*
- 3. To promote and strengthen democratic workers' organizations and the enforcements of core labor standards, including the right to freedom of association;*
- 4. To establish measures for the protection and restoration of the environment so as to improve the quality of life in communities where maquiladora plants are operating;*
- 5. To defend the rights of women workers, guaranteeing access to employment without discrimination, health, reproductive health, equity in the workplace, and equality in all aspects of life.*
- 6. To pressure maquiladora companies and multi-national corporations, using all appropriate means, to adopt socially responsible operating standards in order to ensure a healthy environment inside maquiladora plants and within communities, and a higher quality of life for the workers.*