

# N C H R

National Coalition for Haitian Rights • 275 Seventh Avenue • New York, NY • 10001 • Tel: (212) 337-0005 w Fax: (212) 337-0028

March 12, 1998

## March on Washington

### Nationwide Conference Call -- Urgent Reply Needed

NCHR will be facilitating a share the cost conference call on **Friday March 13 at 4:00 PM EST**. We encourage all organizations who will attend the March 23 rally in Washington D.C. to call in so that we may all coordinate our efforts and make this event a success.

In order to participate in the conference call you must call NCHR at 212/337-0005 extension 11 no later than **1:00 PM EST FRIDAY MARCH 13**.

#### AGENDA

- 1 Mobilization effort in each region
- 2 Who is the coordinator or contact person from each region
- 3 Rally arrival time, location and departure time
- 4 Agenda for rally (speakers ect.)
- 5 Press outreach before rally  
Press outreach after rally  
Press outreach during the rally
- 6 Legal advisors
- 7 Marshals

# National Immigration Forum

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## FAX MEMORANDUM

March 12, 1998

To: Haitian Working Group

Fr: Jocelyn MaCalla  
Christina Foley

Re: **Reminder of "Share the Cost" Conference Call Thursday, March 19, at 4:00p.m. (Eastern Time); Please Comment on Invitations to Nationwide Call and Sign-on Letter**

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Please call Qamar Abdi, (202) 544-0004 ext. 43, if you do not receive 7 pages

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### CONFERENCE CALL REMINDER

The next Haitian Working Group conference call will be Thursday, March 19, at 4:00p.m. (Eastern Time). If you have information that you would like to have disseminated to the working group between conference calls, please fax it to Christina Foley at the Forum (202/544-1905).

**To get on the call, dial (703) 736-7308 and ask for the National Immigration Forum conference call. The confirmation number for the call is 790095.**

**To join the call you must have an account code.** Please call Qamar Abdi at (202)544-0004 ext. 43 by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, to get an account code or if you have forgotten your code. You will not be permitted on the call without a code.

### INVITATIONS FOR NATIONWIDE CALL

On the last working group call, the group discussed having a nationwide conference call to update the broader network. Please fax (202/544-1905) or email ([cfoley@immigrationforum.org](mailto:cfoley@immigrationforum.org)) to Christina Foley at the Forum folks you feel should be invited to be on the call. A date was not set, although the discussion was to hold the call around April 3 as a follow-up to the Senate Immigration Subcommittee mark-up.

### SIGN-ON LETTER

Attached is the Haitian sign-on letter that was disseminated to the working group and to Forum members. If you have not signed on, please do so as soon as possible. **To sign onto the letter, call Tara Young (202) 544-0004 ext. 42 with your organizational name and a phone number by March 25th.** In order to coordinate our outreach



efforts, please contact Rick Swartz at (202) 328-1313 if there are any national organizations who have not signed on that you feel should be contacted to do so. The following national organizations have been contacted: IRSA, LIRS, USCC, Leadership Conference for Civil Right, ACLU, Cuban American Foundation, AJC, CJF, and NAPALC.

**Note:** As requested on yesterday's call, attached is a list of the members of this working group.

**Draft Sign-on Letter to Senate to Support S. 1504, Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1997**

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

The undersigned organizations and individuals are writing to urge you to co-sponsor and support S. 1504, the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1997.

Enactment of S. 1504 is in the national interest and consistent with American traditions of equitable treatment and protection of the persecuted and oppressed. The Haitian refugees protected by S. 1504 are already in the United States, and many were admitted after the INS determined that they had demonstrated credible fear of persecution. These temporarily-protected Haitians are now in a legal limbo, similar to that in which Central Americans and others found themselves in prior to passage of the *Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act* (NACARA) last year. This bill would provide similar relief to that already provided for Nicaraguans and Cubans.

The number of Haitians who will benefit from this legislation, according to INS estimates, is fewer than 40,000—a much smaller number than the number of Nicaraguans and Cubans who were granted relief under NACARA.

There is significant precedent for providing to Haitians the relief which S. 1504 accords. Congress enacted similar legislation in 1957 for Hungarians; in 1966 for Cubans; in 1977 for Indochinese; in 1992 for Chinese students; in 1996 for Poles and Hungarians; and in 1997 for Nicaraguans and Cubans.

The limited number of Haitians protected under S. 1504 have contributed greatly to the communities in the United States in which they now live. Many have married, had children who are U.S. citizens, started businesses and served in the military. In Miami, New York, Boston, Chicago, and many other areas where Haitians reside, state and local officials from both parties support enactment of S. 1504.

S. 1504 has been co-sponsored on a bi-partisan basis by Senators Mack, Graham, Abraham, Kennedy, and others. We urge you to join them as co-sponsors and to support the bill when it is before you.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Association of Jews from the Former USSR  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
American Jesuit Conference, Office of Social Ministries  
Catholic Charities, USA



Church World Service, Immigration, and Refugee Program  
Cuban American National Council, Inc.  
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)  
International Human Rights Law Clinic  
National Council of La Raza  
National Immigration Forum  
National Ministries, American Baptist Churches, USA  
Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
Travelers Aid  
United Methodist Committee on Relief  
United Methodist General Board of Church and Society

Local Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Austin  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, New Orleans  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New York, New York  
Catholic Charities Immigrant Services, Honolulu  
Catholic Charities Immigration Counseling Services, Dallas  
Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigrant Services in San Diego, San Diego  
Catholic Social Services Immigration Program, Philadelphia  
Central American Refugee Center, New York  
Church of Brethren; New Windsor, Massachusetts  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, Los Angeles  
Freedom House, Detroit  
Greater Boston Catholic Charities, Refugee, and Immigration Services,  
Haiti Advocacy, Inc., Washington, DC  
Haitian American Civic Association, Boston  
Haitian Lawyers Leadership, Stanford  
Houston Dominican Sisters, Houston  
Illinois Coalition for Immigration and Refugee Protection, Chicago  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center, San Francisco  
Interfaith Community Services, New York  
International Institute of Boston, Boston  
International Institute of Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
International Institute of Rhode Island, Inc., Providence  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, San Francisco  
Liberty Center for Immigration, New York  
Linking Action, Commitment, and Education for Solidarity (LACES), San Jose  
Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, Fargo  
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota, Sioux Falls  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), Boston  
New Jersey Immigration Policy Network, Inc., Newark  
New York Association for New Americans (NYANA), New York  
Northwest Immigration Rights Project, Seattle

Riverside Language Program, New York  
Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) , Portland  
Summerville, Massachusetts  
Texas Immigration and Refugee Coalition, Dallas  
The Central American Resource Center (CARCEN), San Francisco  
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