



# TAKE ACTION: HUMAN RIGHTS FROM FIELD TO FORK



**"Every time we sit at a table at night or in the morning to enjoy the fruits and grain and vegetables from our good earth, remember that they come from the work of men and women and children who have been exploited for generations ... too often we don't pay attention, we don't stop to think that, even in this day and age, injustice remains an invisible ingredient in much of the food that we eat."**

— Cesar Chavez, United Farm Workers Co-Founder

## Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Supermarket Campaign

By leveraging its high-volume purchasing power, the U.S. supermarket industry plays an active role in farmworker exploitation. This Thanksgiving, drop off a letter to the manager of **Trader Joe's**, **Ahold (Stop & Shop and Giant)**, **Kroger** (also owns **Ralph's**) or **Publix**, asking the company to support fair wages and working conditions for farmworkers who harvest their tomatoes. For a sample letter and information on the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers'** Campaign for Fair Food, please visit [www.ciw-online.org/tools](http://www.ciw-online.org/tools).



## Healthy Families Act - Paid Sick Days

The **Restaurant Opportunities Centers United** recently published a report based on over 4,000 surveys of restaurant workers nationally that found that 87% of restaurant workers do not receive paid sick days and 63% of restaurant workers go to work sick. You and/or your congregation can help by calling your Member of Congress and asking them to support the Healthy Families Act HR 2460 or SB 1152. The Healthy Families Act would provide all private sector workers with a total of 7 paid sick days per year. [www.rocunited.org](http://www.rocunited.org).

## National Day of Action against Wage Theft

**Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ)** is organizing a day of action on November 18 in more than 50 cities across the nation to highlight the ongoing crisis of wage theft and the need for vigorous local, county, state, and federal initiatives to stop it. Workers who have had their legal wages stolen will struggle to put turkey on their tables this year. Organize your own event and coordinate with IWJ or join an existing event. Contact IWJ Public Policy Director Ted Smukler at [tsmukler@iwj.org](mailto:tsmukler@iwj.org) or 773-728-8400, ext. 39. [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org).

## Leafleting Action to Support Turkey-Processing Workers

On November 18 in Chicago, the **Center for New Community (CNC)** will hand out leaflets at grocery stores and in religious communities to provide data on turkey processing workers' plight and industry shortfalls. In a season of Thanksgiving, they will offer an analysis of current injustices in the food system and a vision of a system that honors the human rights of food workers and provides equal access to high-quality food. Contact CNC Field Organizer Charlotte Williams for more information and to sign up to participate: [charlotte@newcomm.org](mailto:charlotte@newcomm.org), 773-266-0319, ext. 18. [www.newcomm.org](http://www.newcomm.org).

## "Know Your Rights" for Workers of Big Box Stores

The **United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1500** in the New York City metropolitan area is in the midst of a campaign to inform workers at big box stores like **Wal-Mart** and **Target** about their labor rights, including overtime pay and minimum wage standards. The union also has an active campaign at Best Yet stores, where workers are interested in organizing. These stores range from the east end of Long Island all the way to Harlem. Contact Organizer Diana Robinson at [drobinson11208@aol.com](mailto:drobinson11208@aol.com) or 516-492-5280 to sign up for the union's informational leafletings. [www.ufcw1500.org](http://www.ufcw1500.org).

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