

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S STRIKE USA



*IWS is an anticapitalist feminist network in the US and around the world that emerged through organizing for a coordinated day of action on March 8, 2017. In 2018, IWS chapters in Argentina, the Spanish State, Poland, Italy, the UK, the US, among many other countries, are calling once again for a women's strike on March 8. Our organizing process in 2018 is oriented towards building a coalition among radical caucuses within unions, worker centers, cooperatives, socialist groups, grass-root feminist, social justice, immigrant rights and community organizations.*

## A Global Strike for a Global City

On March 8th: A Global Strike for a Global City: What We Want, What We Struggle For: Our demands for this year

New York City is often called the “center of the world”, the multicultural and multiethnic city, the city that never sleeps, the big apple loved by tourists and filmmakers. But a different reality hides behind the glitter and the glamour. It is the reality of the exploited labor of millions of immigrant workers and of their persecution by ICE. It is the reality of police brutality against people of color. It is the reality of the constant neoliberal attack against the city's social services and its transportation system. And the reality of gentrification and of skyrocketing housing costs. The brunt of these

**International Women's Strike NYC** — In the spirit of a renewed radicalism, solidarity and internationalism, the International Women's Strike NYC is part of a national organizing center by and for women who have been marginalized and silenced by decades of neoliberalism directed towards the 99% of women: working women inside and outside of the home, women of color, Native women, disabled women, immigrant women, Muslim women, lesbian, cis, queer and trans women.

We see our efforts as part of a new international feminist movement that organizes resistance against decades long economic inequality, criminalization and policing, racial and sexual violence, and imperial wars abroad.

We aim to build relationships of solidarity between diverse organizations of women, and all those who seek to build a global feminist, working class movement.

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**On March 8<sup>th</sup>  
YES, WE STRIKE!**

**1 Hour Work Stoppage 4 – 5 pm**

**Rally at Washington Square Park 5 pm**

**March 6 pm**

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cutbacks unsurprisingly falls mainly upon low wage working women and women of color.

But New York is also a city with a long history of struggles and resistance. Not by chance the State has tried everything to tie the hands of those who cannot longer put up with the situation as it is. Even though NYC has one of the highest rate of labor unionization in the country, unions are tied down by non-strike clauses that make it extremely difficult to fight back. Employers also do whatever they can to stop unionization in key sectors of the city's economy. As a result, New York's service industry rely on the cheap labor of workers, especially women and immigrants, who have no labor rights, no benefits, and no job security.

Economic insecurity, lack of social services, police brutality, ICE raids and deportations are the fertile soil of gender-based violence

against cis and trans women, women of color and working class women, against lesbians and non-binary people. Against this institutionalized gender-based violence, solidarity is our main weapon. It is our labor that makes this city go on. Our labor is what hides behind the glamour of skyscrapers' lights. But our labor is also our power: the power to shut it down.

As an organized response to these conditions and riding on a wave of women's strikes from Poland to Argentina, the International Women's Strike emerged through the process of planning for March 8th, 2017, the first internationally coordinated day of action from below in many years. This year, the IWS-NYC collective is working to articulate already existing organized struggles through an anticapitalist feminist coalition.

With the power of this organized collective force, **on March 8th, International Women's Day, NYC women and allies will strike. We will stop work—both paid and unpaid—for one hour, from 4pm to 5pm.** We will strike, rally and march in solidarity with hundreds of thousands of women striking and protesting around the world. We will strike because we do not rely on the Democratic Party: we know that only our struggles and our resistance can really address our needs.

We will unite our many struggles and campaigns in a common day of protest, led by working class, immigrant, and poor women, by women of color, Muslim women, sex workers, lesbians, trans, and non binary people: all those who have no other power, but their own paid and unpaid labor, and their ability to act collectively.

We will strike for reproductive justice, including unrestricted access to safe and free abortion and the end of forced sterilizations. We demand that New York State decriminalizes abortion by taking it out of the penal code and bringing state law in line with Roe v. Wade after 45 years of being unconstitutional. We demand the passing of the Reproductive Health Act, which will set a precedent for the rest of the country. We will strike against gender-based violence in homes and workplaces, in prisons and detention centers. We demand justice for Anne Chambers in her fight against NYPD and the officers that sexually assaulted her.

We will strike for labor rights: for the recognition of women's unpaid work outside the workplace, for \$15 minimum wage, for equal pay, for the right to unionize and to collective bargaining, against wage theft, and for fully paid family and sick leave.

We will strike for the NY Health Act, to provide universal healthcare; to extend universal childcare for the ages of 0–3; for

funds to public schools and for free higher education; for adequate funding for our public transportation system, which is so essential to the lives and wellbeing of the working people of this city. We will also strike for the right to housing and against the continuous displacement of women of color from working-class neighborhoods due to increases in rent and racialized gentrification.

We will strike for the rights of immigrant women: we demand paths to citizenship, full access to public services and labor rights for undocumented immigrants; we demand that ICE stops the persecution and detention of immigrant people, and that it stays out of the courts, for their presence pushes immigrant women suffering from abuse and violence at home or in the workplace to stay silent. We demand an end to the targeting of immigrants rights activists for surveillance and deportation. We support sanctuary cities and campaigns for cooperative economics, which allow undocumented women to work in conditions of basic human dignity.

We will strike against the criminalization of working class people, institutionalized racism and white supremacy prevalent in this city: against broken windows policies, police brutality, mass incarceration, and the privatization of prisons and detention centers. We will strike for prison abolition and divestment. We demand an elected civilian review board, whose offers genuine oversight and recourse to victims of police abuse.

We know that the policies that attack our rights and conditions of life are connected to the exploitative and militarist policies that the United States carries or supports abroad. This is why, we will strike in NYC, the beating heart of global capitalism, to oppose any increase on the military budget and demand an end to imperial wars abroad, from Syria to Yemen; the blood soaked global “drug wars”, from Mexico to the Philippines; and colonialism from Puerto Rico to Palestine. We will strike for the self-determination of peoples around the world, and against the US covert crackdown of both democratically elected governments and movements for radical social change in the global south, from Honduras and Venezuela to Egypt.

We will strike against the global north extractivist economic policies in non-industrialized countries, from uneven trade-agreements; appropriation of indigenous land and natural resources; to the the imposition of structural adjustments by the IMF and the World Bank and the perpetuation of dependency via debt.

**New York is a global city. On March 8th, we will have a global strike.**

## How to participate on March 8th

❶ Wherever possible, help to create a broad women's strike social coalition. For details on local organizing, check [womenstrikeus.org](http://womenstrikeus.org). If there's no meeting yet for your town, help call one! ❷ Organize or participate in local marches, demonstrations and walkouts. ❸ Organize or participate in picket lines and direct actions of civil disobedience. This can also be organized in support of already existing campaigns or labor negotiations or controversies, especially if involving working women. ❹ Organize a strike in your workplace. If you have a union, get it on board; if you don't, assess with your coworkers whether it is possible to organize a walkout without jeopardizing your job or discuss how to engage in actions short of strike. ❺ Find creative ways of making the strike visible in the spaces you inhabit and sustain (household, paid work place, community and public spaces): put up signs indicating what the women's strike is fighting for; mark spaces with signs on the of labor performed in them, who does it and under what conditions; place a banner in your building in support of affordable housing and against gentrification. ❻ When possible, leave domestic and care work.

Otherwise, organize ways of socializing it: have co-workers, classmates, neighbors, or household members take care of the commons together in a fair way; prepare food collectively; explore socializing child care for the day. ❼ Experiment with ways of making visible the labor you and other women perform in different spaces: perform collectively work that is usually done behind closed doors, in common spaces; gather multiple working tools in one single visible space; hang out clothes in the open. ❽ Organize discussions with family members, neighbors, friends and coworkers about what is a women's strike and why it is necessary. ❾ Get your coworkers, friends, family and neighbors who support the strike to show it on their body by wearing red clothes or ribbon. ⓫ Make the one hour strike visible through media. Text five of your friends at 4:00 pm letting them know we are striking and why, and ask them to do the same. Repost all of IWS-NYC messages in facebook, instagram and twitter during that hour.

*Contact us at [internationalwomenstrikenyc@gmail.com](mailto:internationalwomenstrikenyc@gmail.com) for more information and organizing help.*

### GATHERING THE STRUGGLES OF WORKING WOMEN ACROSS THE WORLD

## International Women's Strike Forum: We Strike!

Excerpts from *Left Voice*: “On January 28, [the International Women's Strike -New York held a kickoff panel calling for an anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist feminism of the 99%](#)” by [Tatiana Cozzarelli](#)

On January 20, on the anniversary of his inauguration and for the second year in a row, hundreds of thousands of women across the country took to the streets to fight for women's rights and against Trump. As was to be expected from a President who brags about sexual assault, it has been a year of attacks against women, as well as other sectors of oppressed people. It has also been the year of #MeToo, where for the past several months, denunciations of sexual violence directed at Hollywood and the political elite brought attention to this epidemic.

However, the fact that hundreds of thousands took the streets for two years in a row against Trump and his misogyny demonstrates that far from passively accepting the Trump era and its' attacks, there is a will to demonstrate against it. However, it is not enough to be anti-Trump — we need a women's movement that has a clear and independent way forward.

So, on 8 March we will strike against mass incarceration, police violence and border controls, against white supremacy and the beating drums of US imperialist wars, against poverty and the

hidden structural violence that closes our schools and our hospitals, poisons our water and food and denies us reproductive justice. And we will strike for labor rights, equal rights for all immigrants, equal pay and a living wage, because sexual violence in the workplace is allowed to fester when we lack these means of collective defense.” This political stance differentiates the “Feminism of the 99%” from the “Power to the Polls” feminism we saw two weeks ago.

In New York City, about a hundred people came out on a Sunday for the International Women's Strike kickoff event. The panel included a diverse group of women who discussed imperialism, labor struggles, sexual violence, police violence and the need to build a feminism that fights against all forms of violence against working class and oppressed people. Their talks summed up the “Feminism of the 99%.”

Speakers included: **Jeanette Vizguerra**, named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People, long time labor and immigrant rights organizer who sought refuge in a Denver church avoiding deportation and winning her right to stay; **Chaumtoli Huq**, human rights lawyer and founder of Law@themargins; **Sarah Jaffe**, independent journalist; **Lamis Deek**, human rights lawyer and activist for Palestine; **María Inés Orjuela**, a housekeeper at the newly organized Hilton Hotel in Stamford, CT and member of Unite Here Local 217; **Suzanne Adely**, a human rights lawyer and organizer in the Arab-American community; **Natalie Matos** and **Ximena Bustamante** from IWS-NYC and IWS national.

# Solidarity Is Our Weapon!

SPOTLIGHTS ON COALITION PARTNERS

*There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.*

— Audre Lorde

## You cannot deport a movement!

NEW SANCTUARY COALITION

**Jeanette Vizguerra** was named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People after she sought refuge in a church in Denver and won her right to stay in the United States. Among others, Jeannette founded the New Sanctuary Coalition, an interfaith network of congregations, organizations, and individuals, standing publicly in solidarity with families and communities resisting detention and deportation in order to stay together. We recognize that unjust global and systemic economic relationships and racism form the basis of the injustices that affect immigrants. We seek reform of United States immigration laws to promote fairness, social and economic justice.

Since its inception in 2007, the New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC has grown from a half-dozen congregations to a Citywide Movement, working in coalition with NYC's major immigrant organizations to reform immigration enforcement practices and policies, both locally and nationally, with a special focus on preserving family unity. Unlike other faith-based immigration reform advocacy groups, the Coalition operates at the congregational, grassroots level, and focuses its efforts on reform of current detention and deportation practices, both nationally and in the NYC area.

In discussing her struggle at the Forum she said, "I speak without hairs on my tongue, as we say in Mexico. I send this message to President Trump: I am not afraid. This system wants to oppress us and silence us, but that won't happen."

"The last five days have been a nightmare for me, the government took my husband away from me and for a time no one would tell me where he was. When we learned he was taken to an immigration prison over a thousand miles away, I was both heartbroken and outraged. They never should have taken him away from his community in the first place, and I will not rest until he is free."

— **Amy Gottlieb**, wife of New Sanctuary Coalition Executive Director Ravi Ragbir, one of several immigration leaders targeted

for deportation by ICE in recent days. Jean Montreuil, a co-founder of the New Sanctuary Coalition, was deported to Haiti on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

"We will call for action in our places of worship, in the streets, and in the courts until we receive justice for Ravi, Jean, and all others who face this inhumane system. As people of faith, we must stand united against the targeting of our immigrant rights leaders."

— *New Sanctuary Coalition Co-Chair* **Rev. Kaji Dousa**, Senior Pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church.

## Women Unionizing Labor At Hilton Hotel

UNITE HERE LOCAL 217

**María Inés Orjuela**, a hotel worker who recently struggled for and won the right to unionize at the Hilton Hotel. She is now a member of Unite Here Local 217. Ines spoke about the **long hours** and arduous work that breaks the backs of the overwhelmingly female housekeeping staff. She described the struggle to unionize at her hotel, where the Hilton hired Cruz and Associates, well known union busting firm to try to convince workers to vote against the union. Despite the Hilton's attempts to deter the workers, **only 5 voted against unionization**. *Now the Hilton workers are struggling for a contract. Hilton has now hired Jackson Lewis, another well known workplace law firm to stonewall negotiations. She said, "We are a hotel that is united. The women are united and with the men in the hotel; we are like a chain. To have a strike, to have a union, you have to be like a chain — very strong and united."*

The Stamford hotel organizing drive has focused on organizing non-union workers through hyper democratic, and hypermilitant unionism. It is using a very staff-light/member-heavy model to attempt to organize the city's hotel industry. The existing members of Unite Here Local 217 have been asked to vote on nearly every union matter and have been pushed to aggressively fight every shop floor issue; through the tight organization built through that internal program these members have accepted responsibility to organize non-union workers. Out of this program emerged the Stamford Hilton organizing drive, almost entirely led by rank-and-file members from other Unite Here Local 217 workplaces. It is being touted as an alternative organizing model to the business unionism that characterizes much of American unionism. All organizing, communications, and logistics are being handled by rank-and-file members or non-union hotel workers.

WORKING WOMEN'S VOICES JOINING THE STRUGGLE

## International Women's Strike Interview Project: Worker Centers And Cooperatives

In this project, IWS-NYC members perform interviews with women organizers from worker centers and cooperatives as part of a process of militant knowledge coproduction. We are particularly interested in unpacking the conditions that both enable and limit autonomous labor organizing and self determination, as well as the way in which feminist and class struggle co-constitute each other. Ultimately, we would like to address the ways in which both interviewers and interviewees practice — and envision the possibilities for — collective action, as a way of transforming the conditions of the working majority. In particular, of those that experience the most acute forms of exploitation and dispossession: women, immigrants, and low wage workers.

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Tenemos que crear una red de mujeres y hacer la revolución. | *Translation:* We have to create a women's network and make the revolution.

— **Nai\***, New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)  
*Interview by Nekane Garcia*

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¿Cómo definimos la libertad? ¿Cómo definimos la liberación colectiva? Si es definida por el opresor, por la policía o por el gobierno, eso no es ni libertad ni liberación. Creo que nosotras, las personas de color, tenemos todos los medios para liberarnos a nosotras mismas. | *Translation:* How do we define freedom? How do we define collective liberation? If it's defined by the oppressor, by the police, or by the government, that's not freedom or liberation. I think our people, our people of color, we have everything and all the means to liberate ourselves.

— **Cynthia Chavez**, Brandworkers  
*Interview by Josephine Chumpitaz*

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A las mujeres trabajadoras migrantes las invito a luchar, a que no tengan miedo... La lucha sigue. | *Translation:* I invite all women migrant workers to fight. Do not be afraid ... the struggle must go on.

— **Heleodora**, Street Vendors Project  
*Interview by Daniela Robles*

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Hay que unirnos y luchar, no nos van a botar de este país, aquí está nuestra vida. | *Translation:* We have to unite and fight; they cannot kick us out of this country, our lives are here.

— **Elizabeth\***, Golden Steps Elder Care Cooperative  
*Interview by Jimena Vergara*

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Es muy importante que las mujeres que migran sepan que no están solas y que, a través de estos proyectos, se va construyendo comunidad. | *Translation:* It's very important for immigrant women to know they are not alone and that through these projects you can build community.

— **Erika Gonzalez**, Worker's Justice Project & Eco-cleaning Coop  
*Interview by Jimena Vergara*

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**Read the full interviews** at [publicseminar.org/author/iwsnyc/](http://publicseminar.org/author/iwsnyc/)

*Available in English and Spanish. Some organizations included: Street Vendors Project, Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC), Retail Action Project (RAP), Brandworkers, DRUM, Laundry Workers Center, Workers Justice Project, New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), Worker Center Federation, Eco-cleaning Coop, Beyond Care Coop, Golden Steps Coop, Si se puede cleaning Coop, Pa'lante cleaning Coop.*

## Cynthia Chavez Brandworkers

INTERVIEW BY JOSEPHINE CHUMPITAZ

I'm 24 and I was raised in Mexico and California. And then I moved here. I'm Mexican, Chicana. I started working when I was four years old back in Mexico. I started working in the field selling this fruit called pitayas to get my school supplies. I went to school two towns away, so I had to wake up earlier. All of this struggle just to get an education. It was really difficult for my mom to put food on the table for us. I worked in the fields, but I would also come back and cook for my siblings. I would cook for the brother that was older than me. My siblings come from domestic violence. My mom was sexually assaulted by her father and I was sexually assaulted. But after I opened up with other women, honestly these tears have happiness and healing. Because before I literally could not talk about my own story. The more you talk about it the more you find different women talking about the gender violence that they have faced. It's a domino effect. I think it's so important because it's liberating. It's a liberating form, but it's also about finding solidarity. When I was young my dad was killed in my house defending his land. My mom and I would harvest and sell corn. The male agriculturalists would get paid better for the corn. My mom, a couple of other people that were darker skinned, and other women that were selling the corn, they would get paid less even though it would be the same quality corn. I connected what I experienced to people organizing around me. As people of color we live in organized communities—watching each other's back with cops and this and that—but “organizing” is not the terminology. My mom sent me to the U.S. because I was the only one that had documents out of all my siblings. Like anyone else, I came for better life conditions for myself and my family. Before becoming organized, you kind of tend to be quieter—like not too bold or not too seen. I think that's part of the experience of being an immigrant. That's not a good thing because there are things that can be against you while you're in school and at work. When I was a street vendor I was chased down by a cop. Anyways, you try to be unnoticed.

I'm in the process of working on an actual platform. We used to have a woman leadership program. But we should not just be teaching our women how to be strong on the streets and in the workplace. We should also be teaching the men how to be male allies, how to talk about patriarchy and machismo. It's debunking and challenging patriarchy but also getting to the root of that. Because a lot of people think that this happens just with uneducated immigrant workers. No. It happens with people who have PhDs. I've been in different circles. Gender violence is deep and it's toxic and it's everywhere. Our main focus is uplifting the voice and leadership of immigrant woman, women of indigenous backgrounds, transgender people,

and people of color, making a safe place for these individuals. Because they're often so marginalized. These conversations about gender violence and how we deal with that at workplaces, it's very new. Which it should not be.

Right now we're working on the I-9 Tomcat workers' campaign, which is about undocumented workers who were fired at the Tomcat bakery during an I-9 audit by ICE in the factory. They were fired for not having documents. The main thing that they're demanding in the campaign is a fair severance pay for the many years of labor that they gave to this company. Another company that we have is Amy's Bread. These workers will be the first workers in the local food manufacturing industry, or even just in the labor industry right now in general, to themselves come up with their own workers' rights agreement, which would be similar to a union contract. They're fighting for a fair raise that is in the workers' justice agreement and also for meetings with their boss in how to have better working conditions. Also right now, through the gender justice initiative, we're trying to incorporate within the agreement to have a demand for something that states sexual harassment will not be tolerated inside the workplace. That's never included, even in union contracts.

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## Elizabeth\* Golden Steps Elder Care Coop

INTERVIEW BY JIMENA VERGARA

I arrived to this country for the first time in 2005. I was lucky to obtain a student visa in Ecuador, my country of origin. Not a work visa or student visa, but a tourist visa. In my country, I loved to study and it was an opportunity to learn English, and so I thought I'd take an English class in the U.S. My goal in coming to this country, like for so many, was to progress, get ahead, and have a better future. In those times, I was single and left all my family behind; my brothers are still in Ecuador. I did not have the intention to come and stay in the country, but shortly after arriving I met my spouse. I formed a family and since then I have not returned to my country, other than vacations to see what's left of it. Honestly, it's sometimes really difficult for me. I feel a bit nostalgic because my family is there and one never stops missing one's culture. I also think that my priorities are my daughter and my husband—the family I built here—but one never forgets one's roots.

It wasn't my intention, but I decided to stay with the luck of finding my husband and starting a family here. I got married, had a family—one daughter—and began to work. At first and for many years, my family in Ecuador depended on me financially: my father, mother, and a younger brother that was going to college. Since then my brother is an adult and takes care of himself and my parents have passed away. The only person that depends on me now is my

daughter, although in extraordinary situations (i.e. illnesses or emergencies) my family in Ecuador may call and see how I can help.

In my family, as in all Ecuadorian families, women play a very important role. Above all, my mother especially was an important support system and played the roles of mother and father at the same time; even though my father was present, my mother was the one with the vision of the future for us. I am the only woman within my siblings and my mother never thought I would be the one to leave the country. Women in my country play an important role, firstly within the family and then in society. Now women don't just play the role of housewife — condemned to washing, cooking, and ironing — like in the times of our grandparents. Nowadays women are professional and actively participate in the economy of a country.

When my daughter started school, I searched for work and started my English course again. Since then, I continue to grow and study the language. In that time I learned about Golden Steps: a cooperative that is in charge of care work for seniors, which worked well for me because I already had experience in that field and enjoyed it. Senior care-work implies having certain qualities: patience, respect, the ability to communicate with the families and doctors, and to learn to listen. I already have four years with Golden Steps: I was treasurer, secretary, and now I am president. It's a different kind of work because of the type of services we provide and because we are the business owners. We are an organization made up of Central and South Americans and Caribbeans, and we have plenty of benefits because we operate under contract. We prepare ourselves to provide great service: we learn first aid and we receive training in client care through the Alzheimer's Association. So we are constantly training to provide great services

I have a lot of experience as a caregiver. I've had clients that are blind, and have Alzheimer's and diabetes. Everyone is different; you have to learn their background — how active is this person, what are their history and tastes. Did they paint, use makeup, exercise? From these questions we can figure out how to implement the activities they previously enjoyed into their daily lives currently. We try to emulate their lives in their prime. That's what we offer, as opposed to big agencies.

It has been difficult to pave our road because our competitors are big agencies with Medicare and big medical insurances companies, but we offer personalized services. Our group is small: we are thirteen and we now have seven women that are in a probationary period, but they are preparing themselves. Those months are in order to get capacitated and gain the necessary training. We have three women that are receiving CNA training. Some are about to get their driver's license, since we've lost a lot of work for not having a license. It's common for our clients to ask for assistance on getting to Long Island and Staten Island, or sometimes the client has a car and will

ask if we have a license and if we can drive to the supermarket or whatever it may be. We have received financial support from some entities and with those funds we are able to better prepare ourselves and get certification; we do what we can best do. We offer training for our specialized personnel. Sometimes trainings are eight hours, sometimes they are thirty hours with a certificate. We also have support from Cornell University on Nutrition and Health, in order for us to have a more integral way to help our clients. That helps us determine that their diet is adequate for their health issues. Sometimes we take on that role in order to suggest to them what to eat, but our work goes beyond that. Sometimes we are psychologists or counselors. Providing care for someone is mostly about listening to them. More than anything, seniors like to talk; they speak about their lives and repeat themselves pretty often, and it is in our obligation to listen with interest to their stories and respect their ideas. That's a difference with us—if you don't like the client you leave; attention can be impersonal with an agency. Often, people confuse agencies and the cooperative; the cooperative movement is gaining strength. Within the organization that we are a part of there are lots of cooperatives for childcare, cleaning services, pet care, and construction. There's a lot of everything. In Golden Steps we're all women, but we want to incorporate men because there are clients that only want male care workers to take care of them, depending on their religion or culture. We organize as follows: we have a leadership committee that is made up of a president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. We are four. We also have a publicity committee that is in charge of events and organizes where we flyer and what sort of publicity we need. We also have an office committee, which in reality is comprised of the people that answer the phones when our organization is closed on weekends or holidays. The office partners are the ones with a better understanding of English. We've only had one Spanish-speaking client; in general the people that look for us are Anglo. On top of working with elders, I am the president of the coop. We've had a lot of conflicts because on top of being a mother, you're a wife, and you work on the necessary tasks for your cooperative. There are moments that the stress is too much and we want to turn in the towel, but everything's an issue organizing ourselves. We meet once a month and there we speak about clients, events, the training we require, legal situations (though thankfully we have none), and statute changes—because we all have rights and obligations.

We have to unite and fight; they won't kick us out of the country, this is where our lives are and we will fight for it. We have seen cases of mothers that are anguished and daughters that have cried because they are worried that their mothers will get deported because of the current administration. I always tell them that they shouldn't be scared. Our children motivate us. I always tell migrant mothers: do not get paralyzed, seek information, get closer to organizations and the community.

*\*Names have been changed.*