



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY

PRESS ADVISORY

IN ITS ANNUAL OCTOBER COLLOQUIUM FOR 2011 DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND IMMIGRATION POLICY

Washington, D.C. October 8, 2011 — Dialogue on Diversity presents its final policy program of 2011 on with agenda topics are two of those having special claim on the concerns of Dialogue friends and supporters. “The essential aim of Dialogue on Diversity,” says **Ma. Cristina Caballero**, its President and head of the Colloquium planning effort, “through its yearly cycle of public policy programs, is to enrich the understanding of its friends and members on the moral, economic, and social effects of American society’s ills and the policy developments that might in some measure remedy them, and in particular through the discussions in prospect with the lineup of expert speakers awaiting our attendees at this year’s October colloquium.”

The first of the Colloquium’s dual issues is the problem of domestic abuse, which lurks as a threat to the women of households across the country – not those of any single ethnicity or economic class, but a deadly plague of violence and domestic disruption, random and pervasive. The second of the day’s topics is Immigration, its economics, its effects on the everyday lives of immigrant communities, and the likelihood of legislative action for reform.

- WHERE: U.S. Capitol Visitors’ Center, Capitol Hill, Congressional North Meeting Room
- WHEN: Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Women entrepreneurs and professionals, staff of local Latino and other civil society and public sector agencies concerned with the DV and Immigration topics, and all persons concerned with policy developments on these key public issues.
- How to Register: visit www.dialogueondiversity.org, for registration form. Free and open to the public.

Speakers first analyze the alarming list of mental and physical harms inflicted by family members on one another. At the center of concern are the pained choices that come to face women and others who find themselves targets of these abuses, calculating whether they will be up to making it on their own, psychologically and economically, and the what sources of support they might find in familial and friendship groups and in a variety of community organizations. Among these are Washington’s **AYUDA**, represented in the Colloquium by its new Executive Director, **Jaime Farrant**; **Clínica del Pueblo**, with **Suyanna Linhares Barker** (also concerned with interrelated issues of immigration); the D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence and its Director, **Karma Cottman**; **Break the Cycle**, with **Juley Fulcher**, its Director for Policy; The Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resources Project and staff attorney **Jessica Li**; **Mary’s Center**, represented by **Karla Ramos**; and many others. Featured speakers on the Domestic Violence topic include well-known broadcaster **Claudia Campos**, **The Family Place**, and **Mary J. Vazquez**, **Innovative Consultants International**. Experienced legal staff, those who work with Courts in a range of local jurisdictions, discuss the form of legal response to the incidents of family abuse and the parties, abuser and abused, coming before them.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva of Arizona headlines the midday/lunch session with remarks on the legislative prospects for immigration reform. **Mayor Vincent R. Gray** is invited to outline the programs of the D.C. Government on Washington’s immigrant women in the face of domestic violence concerns. **Roxana Olivas**, Director of the D.C. Mayor’s Office of Latino Affairs, which is joining with Dialogue on Diversity in this program, outlines the heavy load of her agency’s work on both DV and Immigration. A representative of the **White House Office on Violence Against Women** will describe the vigorous Administration efforts on the Domestic Violence front.

The Immigration topic is the signature issue of the Dialogue as it explores the riches of diversity and their challenges to our morals and political instincts as a people indeed founded in diversity – but infected by spasms of xenophobia in all the expected, and in a few of the unexpected, places. **Felicia Escobar**, Senior Policy Advisor

for Immigration at the White House Domestic Policy Council, discusses the legislative prospects and the essential policy aims on immigration reform, highlighting the Administration's overriding concerns on this issue. Speakers, among them experts from the **Center for Global Development**, a Washington think tank, analyze the economics of the immigration phenomenon and the potentially vast enlargement of global product achievable through freer inter-country flows of labor resources. As for the everyday effects of the present immigration system on immigrant communities, **WEAVE**, **La Clínica del Pueblo**, the **NCLR Immigration Policy Department**, **SAFE, Inc.** will present carefully researched accounts of the residents and their often wrenching experiences.

Sponsoring organizations include the D.C. Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, Southwest Airlines, NCLR, Neighborhood Works, WEAVE, La Clínica del Pueblo, AYUDA, Mary's Center, White House Office on Violence Against Women. Press: CapitalWirePR, Washington Hispanic, and others.

ABOUT DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY: Founded in 1991, Dialogue on Diversity is a national network of women entrepreneurs and professionals, actively promoting constructive dialogue among Latino and other ethnic and cultural communities, with especial emphasis on their economic viability through entrepreneurship. America's minority entrepreneurs are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. economy. They promise to be the backbone of American economic strength in the 21st Century. Dialogue on Diversity's cycle of public policy conferences and its annual entrepreneurship programs both celebrate and advance that promise. Dialogue on Diversity is a §501(c)(3) organization (Contributions are tax-deductible).

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