



Hate Free Zone Washington

For Immediate Release

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National and Local Experts Speak At Community Immigration Forum on February 7

Event details current state of immigration reform and urges communities to participate

Seattle, WA – On February 7, 2006 at 5:30 PM, Hate Free Zone Washington will sponsor a community forum on immigration reform. Local and national speakers will address the need for comprehensive immigration reform that includes a clear path to citizenship, family reunification, justice on the job and civil rights and liberties, as well as providing perspectives on the current heated national debate on immigration reform. In addition, speakers will discuss both federal and state legislation that threatens our rights. Community members will be able to engage in a question and answer session and strategize for the future. The two-hour forum will be held at the Rainier Valley Cultural Center, 3515 S. Alaska St. Seattle, WA 98118.

"While President Bush's State of the Union address last night touched on the need to reform our broken immigration system, we were deeply disappointed that he did not offer clear leadership on the essential components of successful immigration reform that are consistent with American traditions and values," stated Pramila Jayapal, Executive Director of Hate Free Zone Washington. "This immigration forum is to make sure we all understand what is happening to our rights with past and pending legislation and to encourage all of us—immigrant and nonimmigrant—to take a part in shaping our future."

Speakers at the forum will touch on a number of issues including: a summary of the state of current immigration legislation and specific impacts on a number of communities; a discussion of local and national anti-immigrant ballot initiatives; examples of successful organizing strategies from other parts of the country; and a call to action to people of faith to engage in fighting for immigrant rights. Organizers anticipate the audience will include a wide variety of immigrant and non-immigrant participants.

Speakers will be available for press interviews before and after the event and include:

- **Ellen Buchman**, National Director of Field Operations, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (based in Washington, DC)
- **Robert Gibbs**, immigration attorney, Gibbs-Houston-Pauw
- **Eun Sook Lee**, Executive Director, National Korean American Service and Educational Consortium, Inc. (NAKASEC) (based in California)
- **Magdaleno Rose-Avila**, Executive Director, Northwest Immigrants Rights Project
- **Hilary Stern**, Executive Director, Casa Latina
- **Angela Ying**, Founding Pastor, Bethany United Church of Christ
- Moderated by **Pramila Jayapal**, Executive Director, Hate Free Zone WA

Hate Free Zone Washington exists to uphold the fundamental principles of democracy and justice. For more information on HFZ, go to www.hatefreezone.org.

