

Immigration

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3 **WHEREAS** women and children are more than half of the almost 12 million
4 undocumented immigrants in the US;

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6 **WHEREAS** immigrant women are the most vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and
7 human rights violations and face particular challenges due to inequalities between men
8 and women, while having the additional responsibilities of family and home;

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10 **WHEREAS** immigrant women often come to the U.S. to be domestic workers or
11 caregivers, are subject to exploitation, work for substandard wages, and may have to
12 leave their own children behind to be raised by relatives;

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14 **WHEREAS** immigrant women and their children not only face language, cultural and
15 community isolation and live at the margins of society without documents, but also
16 suffer as victims of family and sexual violence and have little or no resources to get help
17 including language and culturally sensitive counseling and services; and

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19 **WHEREAS** the current discussion in the U.S. Congress and in many cities with large
20 immigrant populations is filled with racist and hate-filled calls for making felons out of
21 undocumented immigrants, building more prisons, walls and electric fences, and
22 promoting vigilante tactics;

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24 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Democratic Party of Washington State urge
25 the Washington congressional delegation to institute fair and just immigration reform
26 that recognizes human and civil rights; and

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28 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
29 Central Committee urges the Washington State Congressional Delegation to introduce
30 legislation to create a path to permanent residency and citizenship, including a
31 reasonable timetable, for undocumented immigrants who want to remain in the United
32 States, including men, women and children and especially those who do not work
33 outside of the home; promote reunification of families, provisions to improve wages
34 and working conditions of immigrant workers to protect them from exploitation,
35 preserving the provisions addressing violence against immigrant women and families
36 in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and a more efficient system to process
37 those eligible to work and seek permanent residency/citizenship, one that excludes the
38 building of prisons and border fences and walls.

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41 Submitted by the San Juan County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
42 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/22/2008)

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44 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
45 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.
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47 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
48 2008 meeting in Spokane.