



# IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

When the government has the power to deny legal rights and due process to one group of people, it puts all our rights in danger. Upholding the rights of the politically disenfranchised is vital. Since the Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights and civil liberties of every person in this country, the ACLU has always dedicated itself to protecting and advancing the rights of immigrants. From the "Red Scare" of the 1920s—which saw then-Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer illegally detain and deport immigrants based on their political views—to the current day, we have been at the forefront of almost every major legal struggle on behalf of immigrants. In fact, the ACLU now conducts the largest litigation program in the United States dedicated to enforcing the constitutional rights of immigrants.

## Fighting for the DREAM

You are not welcome here!

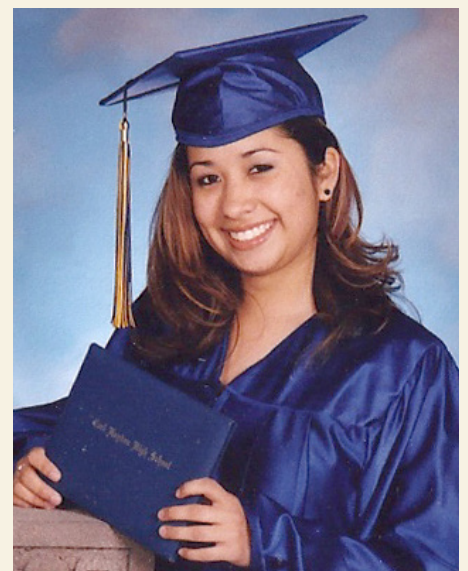
That's the message Arizona gave Dulce Matuz when it refused to give her a driver's license.

The talented young woman was on the road to success. She'd arrived in the United States as a teenager, and excelled academically, winning awards in robotics competitions and a scholarship to go to college, where she graduated with an electrical engineering degree. She qualified under a federal government program to live and work in the United States.

But then Arizona threw a roadblock in her path.

As part of a larger effort to push immigrants out of the state by enacting discriminatory housing ordinances, employment measures, and other laws, Arizona denies driver's licenses to immigrants like Dulce even though they are authorized to live and work here. For these DREAMers (young adults who were brought to the United States as children without documentation), it is nearly impossible to do daily activities like buying groceries, attending school, or maintaining a job without a driver's license.

Dulce—now the president of the Arizona DREAM Act Coalition—is not someone we want to push out of the country. DREAMers like her make the nation stronger, smarter, and more vibrant. The ACLU is working to defeat Arizona's license ban—as we have already done in Alabama, Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, and Wyoming.



**DREAMer Dulce Matuz is authorized to live and work in the United States, but the state of Arizona refuses to give her a driver's license.**

# Stemming the Tide of Intolerance

It's a harrowing time in America for anyone who appears "foreign."

In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the most hotly disputed part of SB 1070, Arizona's anti-immigrant law—the "show me your papers" section that requires police to check the immigration status of anyone whom they suspect is undocumented. This provision invites police to go with their gut, where they routinely associate "potentially undocumented" with "having dark skin"—even though it's illegal discrimination to equate the two.

The Court's reinstatement of this provision has thus cleared the way for rampant, unconstitutional racial profiling to go into effect in Arizona, Georgia, and South Carolina. And it's emboldened other states to launch similarly dangerous anti-immigrant measures.

The ACLU is working with our state affiliates to document on-the-ground abuses arising from these racist laws. We're monitoring violations to prove that local police have unlawfully detained people based on the color of their skin and we're developing new litigation to expose and stop them. We're also creating tools to help empower targeted immigrants, such as a cell phone app that will allow drivers to send complaints about illegal traffic stops instantly to the ACLU.

At the same time, we are working to improve immigration laws on Capitol Hill and we're beating back new anti-immigrant measures in states and localities. In the courts, in Congress, and in the media—we are on the front lines to protect immigrants' rights.

## Our Work to Protect Immigrants' Rights

- The ACLU's very first exposé was published in 1920 to publicize the U.S. Justice Department's illegal crackdown on immigrants under Attorney General Palmer.
- The ACLU challenged the government's internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, resulting in two landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases. History has vindicated the ACLU's losses in both cases, which are now considered among the Supreme Court's worst decisions.
- In 1991, the ACLU helped secure new asylum decisions for more than 250,000 Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees wrongly denied refugee status.
- *Deportation by Default*, a July 2010 report from the ACLU and Human Rights Watch, exposed the due process failures facing immigrants with mental disabilities—failures that have even resulted in the deportation of U.S. citizens.
- The ACLU won a lawsuit challenging the government's years-long detention of immigrants without a bond hearing to determine whether they should be locked up in the first place—a ruling that impacts over 1,000 immigrants per day.
- In 2013, the ACLU ensured that no new state or local anti-immigrant "SB 1070 copycat" laws were enacted and also struck down harmful provisions and laws in Alabama, Arizona, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas.



The ACLU's *Estamos Unidos* (We Are United) mobile campaign covered 9,000 miles, distributing "Know Your Rights" materials in 17 states, including every state that enacted anti-immigrant laws and those with large Latino populations. (Photo: Kira Stackhouse)