

1 Racist co-workers

At my first job, when we lived in Georgia, I was harassed and called names. All my co-workers were white and they constantly harassed and abused me and called me names. My manager did nothing about it because he was racist, too. I don't know why I put up with it for so long. It was emotionally draining and I was suspended twice because of false accusations by my co-workers. **Abdi, 32, Washington**

When I worked in a dairy, two of my co-workers were harassing me. I told the boss and he said he would rather lose one worker than two, so I could quit but he wasn't firing both of them. **Maria, 27, Idaho**

2 You work and don't get paid

I work for people who come to a day labor center to hire people. Sometimes people don't pay us for our labor, even if they hire us through the day labor center, which is there to protect workers from being exploited.

Gustavo, 52, Washington

3 The Sanctuary Movement

In the early 80's, thousands of refugees from Central America came to the US, fleeing political repression and human rights violations. The US government, despite the role it played in supporting the repressive governments they were fleeing, tried to shut these refugees out. Churches, congregations, and temples around the country began advocating for refugees, providing them with social services, and offering sanctuary. The churches were successful in changing US policy and getting refugee and asylee status for tens of thousands of refugees.

Today, as the fight for comprehensive immigration reform grinds on, churches, congregations and temples are forming a new sanctuary movement. They are offering services and sanctuary to undocumented immigrants threatened by ICE raids and other enforcement activities. (For more information go to: www.newsanctuarymovement.org)

4 The Dream Act

The Dream Act (S.774 and H.R. 1275) is a bill that would provide undocumented students with a path to citizenship and lift federal regulations that prevent some states from letting undocumented students pay the lower state resident tuition. In October there was a cloture vote in the Senate (a vote to quit talking about the bill and vote on the merits) but there were not enough votes in favor to cut off the debate so it died. The chances that it will come up again this year are slim.

Stories from In Our Own Voices: The hardest part about being an immigrant is that when you finish high school you can't go to college because your parents don't make enough to send you, and you can't qualify for loans or scholarships if you don't have a green card. If you have the highest GPA in your school, it's worthless. **Panracio, 31, Oregon**

5 You were exposed to Pesticides

We work under the sun on a beet farm, and we come into contact with a lot of chemicals. My husband developed allergies from working with chemicals on another farm, and the doctor told him not to work with chemicals anymore. He has to work, though, and he will keep doing this job. **Veronica, 33, Idaho**

I work in the fields in Yakima. They do not give us breaks, water, or bathrooms. Sometimes they spray pesticides in the fields next to us and the wind blows it on us. We have no protective gear. Other times they make us enter fields where the pesticides have been sprayed. **Antonio, Washington**

6 You bought a house

As the housing market heated up in recent years, mortgage lenders and real estate agents began marketing to undocumented people. They eliminated barriers like requiring borrowers to have a social security number. Following the recent ICE raids on workplaces, there have been many stories of families losing the equity they had built in their homes when the household income disappeared and their houses were foreclosed on.

Stories from In Our Own Voices: When you go out you're always looking over your shoulder. You're always thinking, 'I may not come back to my house.' **Pilar, 37, Washington**