

# Community Education

Since the farmworker population is transitory and isolated, the Farmworker Unit makes an active effort to provide information about legal rights through radio, newspaper, skits and visits to community gathering places. The Farmworker Unit also educates churches, students, and social action organizations about farmworker legal issues.

## Witness for Justice

Volunteers with the program accompany Legal Services' outreach teams on visits to migrant labor camps, where they observe and participate in the sharing of information about legal rights to migrant farmworkers.

WFJ volunteers have the opportunity to make a connection with workers on an individual basis, reducing the level of isolation that migrants feel from the community.

# Contact Us!

We provide educational resources

- Educational articles about farmworkers & farmworkers' rights
- Know Your Rights Booklets & Training Manuals
  - H-2A workers' rights
- Poultry and hog workers' rights
  - NC Farmworkers' rights
  - Forestry workers' rights
- Brochures

We are also available for presentations and trainings!

## Stay in Touch



224 South Dawson St.  
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farmworkerunit  
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# Farmworker Unit



NORTH CAROLINA  
**LEGAL AID**

**1(800)777-5869**



## *Farmworkers in North Carolina*

Farmworkers live and work along the margins of society. They face great barriers in exercising these rights that include the seasonality of agricultural work, lack of economic resources, language barriers, strict control from their employer, and physical isolation.

In NC vital crops that sustain the agricultural economy of the state, are handpicked, cut, processed, and harvested by migrant and seasonal farmworkers. NC has more foreign temporary agricultural workers with the H-2A visa program than any state in the country.



## *Farmworker Unit Initiatives*

Legal representation of farmworkers and their families, including but not limited to:

Recovering unpaid wages, redressing violations of health & safety standards on the job and in housing, and obtaining medical attention and compensation for workers injured on the job. Addressing violations of H-2A workers' contracts. Redressing retaliation against workers do seek to assert their rights; and obtaining both damages and other civil relief and immigration status for victims of forced labor trafficking

Outreach to migrant labor camps. Staff members conduct regular outreach visits during the growing and harvesting seasons to isolated farmworkers. They inform workers about their rights and how to exercise them.



## *Common Violations*

- Employers make unlawful deductions, reducing their wages below minimum wage, or paying their workers for fewer hours than they actually worked.
- Employers spray pesticides while workers are in the field or send workers into fields before it is safe to enter
- Employers don't provide drinking water, hand washing or bathroom facilities in the fields in violation of NC safety standards
- Employers provide substandard housing
- Employers intimidate or retaliate against workers who make a complaint, seek medical assistance, or consult with a lawyer

