



# La Voz de Esperanza

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## Editor

Gloria A. Ramírez

## Design

Elizandro Carrington

## Contributors

Greg Harman, Josie Méndez-Negrete

## La Voz Mail Collective

Rebecca G. Aguirre, Carlos Anchando, Dudley Brooks, Janie Castillo, Elisabeth Delgado, Juan Díaz, Charlie Esperiqueta, Mary Esperiqueta, Mildred Hilbrich, Debi Jiggitts-Hall, Gina Lee, Ray McDonald, Maria J. Medellín, Angie Merla, Josie M. Merla, Lucy & Ray Pérez, Pete Porter, María Reed, Blanca Rivera, Mary A. Rodríguez, Rachel Navarro Sandoval, Eugenia Silva, Roger Singler, Michele Sleighel, Lillian Stevens, Rebeca Velas, Helen Villarreal, Tomas Ybarra-Frausto

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- We advocate for a wide variety of social, economic & environmental justice issues.
- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

## La Voz de Esperanza

is a publication of

**Esperanza Peace & Justice Center**

922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212

210.228.0201 • fax 1.877.327.5902

[www.esperanzacenter.org](http://www.esperanzacenter.org)

Inquiries/Articles can be sent to:

[lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org)

Articles due by the 8th of each month

## Policy Statements

\* We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.

\* All letters in response to Esperanza activities or articles in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

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A tsunami of walls and fences are crashing and crushing immigrants as they try to reach any country in Europe that will accept them. Many are fleeing the war in Syria—but not all. Some are from Afghanistan, Iraq and other Middle Eastern nations. And, no one is talking about the refugees from the Congo and other parts of Africa. Nor are they

talking about the millions of people already in refugee camps throughout the world, waiting.

How much money to throw at “the problem”—how many refugees to accept (quotas), if any? Where to place the refugees in the meantime and whose responsibility is that? All of these are questions being bandied about. And accusations are being flung from one leader to another, one country to another about “moral imperialism.” In other words, the attitude of “You are oppressing me by making me feel guilty that I don’t want to help out these human beings” is the plaintive cry of countries that are putting up barriers and holding on tightly to themselves afraid to share their wealth, their resources, their compassion.

Why not help? If the money, the land, the resources are there—why not help? Most of the refugees come with intelligence and skills that could prove to be an asset to any country. The answer is: Fear. Fear of the other—the other race, the other religion, another way of being. Fear of losing what we have, fear of losing control. Fear drives the tsunami of fences, barbed wire and razor sharp walls that go up. When will all this stop? Who will step forward to embrace and welcome a brother, a sister, a child. Who?

This issue of La Voz de Esperanza continues to delve into some of the illnesses of the Western hemisphere, most notably our treatment of youth of color and why this continues to occur at the hands of police and state-sanctioned forces. On August 9, 2014, an 18-year-old black man, Michael Brown, was fatally shot by Darren Wilson, a white policeman with the Ferguson Police Department which set off days of protests and rioting giving impetus to the Black Lives Matter movement. On September 26, 2014 forty-three students from the Ayotzinapa Normal School in Mexico went missing, kidnapped by state authorities after they traveled to the city of Iguala to protest educational reforms. To date, these types of injustices continue to happen both in Mexico and the U.S. Ten years ago, Hurricane Katrina happened? Did the poor and the black community receive just treatment then? No. The list goes on. All we can do here in La Voz is to provide information and analysis on some of these injustices. And we can ask questions. Please continue to send in articles to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org)

## DEADLINES to remember!

**October 1st:** Applications due for Peace Market/ Mercado de Paz. See [esperanza.org](http://esperanza.org) for applications and send apps to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org).

**October 5th:** Last day to submit Calaveras, Calavera artwork and literary ofrendas for the November Voz. Send to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org)



**ATTENTION VOZ READERS:** If you have a mailing address correction please send it to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org). If you want to be removed from the La Voz mailing list, for whatever reason, please let us know. La Voz is provided as a courtesy to people on the mailing list of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. **The subscription rate is \$35 per year (\$100 for institutions).** The cost of producing and mailing La Voz has substantially increased and we need your help to keep it afloat. To help, send in your subscriptions, sign up as a monthly donor, or send in a donation to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Thank you. -GAR

**VOZ VISION STATEMENT:** La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.