

Let the values of our faiths lead the way  
to justice for immigrants and all workers

## IMMIGRATION FACTS

From *Working for a Better Life: A Profile of Immigrants in the New York State Economy*, Fiscal Policy Institute, 2007

**New York State has the second largest immigrant population (4 million) in the nation.**

**NYS has the nation's most diversified mix of immigrants, coming from all around the world.**

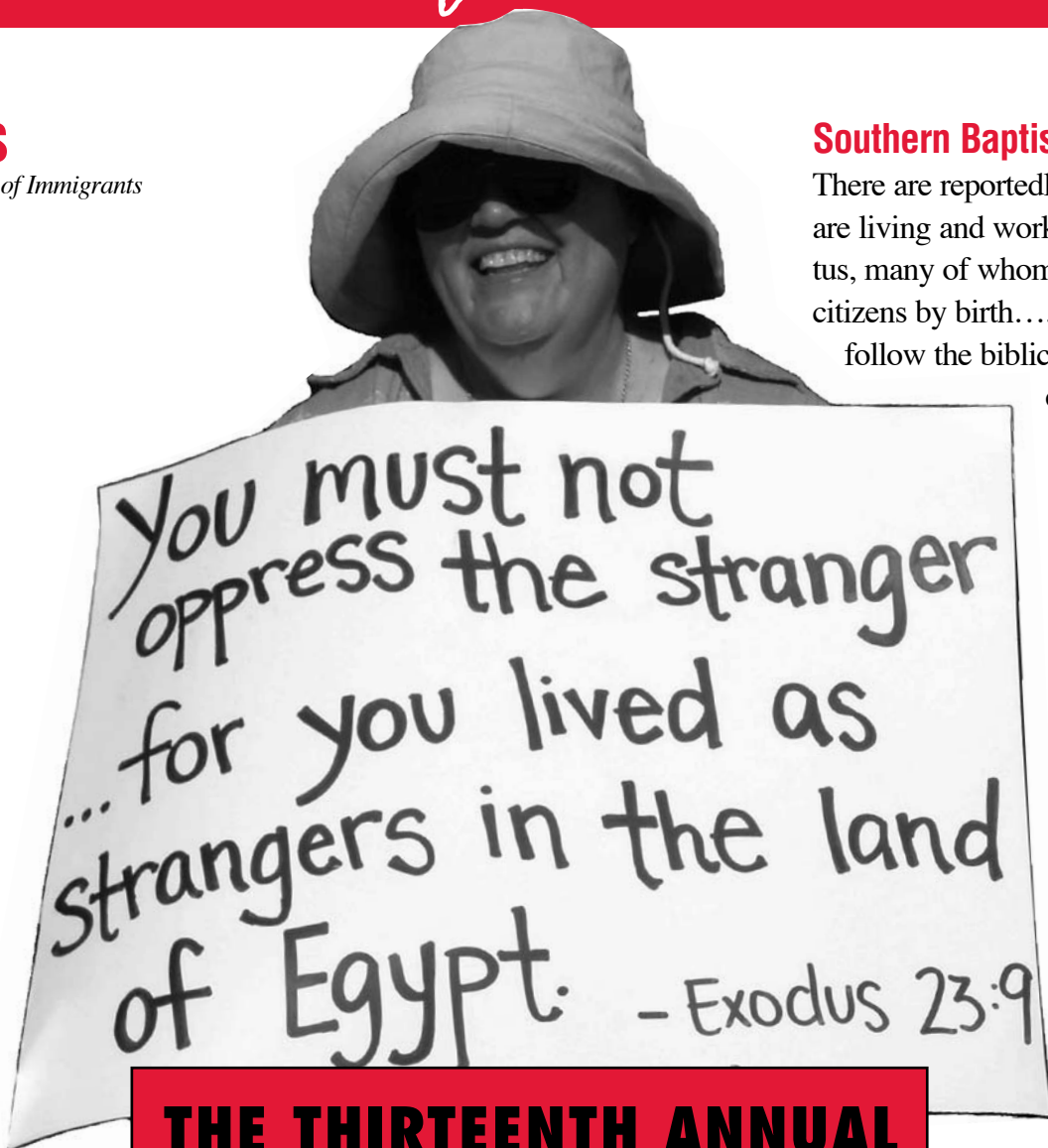
**Immigrants make up 21% of the state population with variations among regions: Upstate, 5% are foreign-born, 18% in the downstate suburbs and 37% in NYC.**

**The number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. is estimated at 10 million (29% of all U.S. immigrants), while an estimated 635,000 immigrants without legal status live in NYS, 16% of the state's immigrant population.**

### A Muslim Perspective

Prophet Muhammad, as Prophets Moses and Jesus (peace be upon them) before him did, taught that one is not a true believer until they love for others what they love for themselves. Our greatness as a country comes from our compassion towards our most vulnerable members....

An illegal person is still a human being. While no one should condone anyone breaking our laws, we have to realize that unless the economic hardship in their home countries and our increasing demand for cheap unskilled labor are resolved, we will continue hypocritically to feed this influx while dehumanizing its victims.



### Southern Baptist Convention

There are reportedly 12 million immigrants ... who are living and working in America without legal status, many of whom have children who are American citizens by birth.... We urge citizen Christians to follow the biblical principle of caring for the foreigners among us (Deut. 24:17-22) and the command of Christ to be a neighbor to those in need of assistance (Luke 10:30-37), regardless of their racial or ethnic background, country of origin or legal status.

### Unitarian Universalist Association

There are no easy answers, but the religious community is called to stand in solidarity with the oppressed.... We are also called to acknowledge that racism has blinded most Americans to what takes place in our own kitchens, workshops and fields. For our

nation to be whole, we must acknowledge that our lives of privilege are supported in thousands of ways by people whose labor is invisible and whose suffering is hidden.

### US Conference of Catholic Bishops

We... commit ourselves to continue to work at the national level to promote recognition of the human rights of all, regardless of their immigration status, and to advance fair and equitable legislation for refugees and prospective immigrants. ... For the Church in the US to walk in solidarity with newcomers to our country is to live out our catholicity as a Church.

### Union for Reform Judaism

We have long supported a fair and generous immigration policy. Our people were and continue to be immigrants to this nation. We have benefited from open doors and suffered when they were closed. .... As new legislation is proposed to confront issues raised by legal and illegal immigration, we support those efforts that compassionately seek to regulate and to aid newcomers to this land, but we oppose those that will unduly restrict immigration or burden the lives of legal immigrants.

**THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL  
40-HOUR  
FAST**

**FOR A MORAL  
SOLUTION**

**SPONSORED BY THE  
LABOR-RELIGION COALITION OF NYS**

**TUES. MARCH 4, 2008 AT 8 PM  
UNTIL THURS. MARCH 6 AT NOON**

**For information about the FAST, contact one of the following:**

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**MORE INFORMATION AT [www.labor-religion.org](http://www.labor-religion.org)**

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