



## **NATIONAL FARM WORKER MINISTRY EMBRACES HARVEST WITHOUT VIOLENCE**

Women deserve better than violence and harassment.

The National Farm Worker Ministry embraces the *Harvest without Violence* efforts of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Even as new awareness of the sexual harassment of women is surfacing in media workplaces, the political arena and employment settings around the country, farm worker women have lived under the reality and threat of this violence for decades. We are outraged by the abuse, assault, intimidation, harassment and rape experienced by farm worker women.

In migrant labor camps we have listened to the stories of farm worker women about being violated by their coworkers and threatened with deportation if they do not provide sexual favors for their supervisors. In other settings we have met women dressing like male workers so as not to attract attention and heard women share painful stories of abuse and violence. These are some of the reasons we support the Coalition of Immokalee's Fair Food Program. This "worker-driven social responsibility" model of organizing provides farm worker to farm worker training that includes a protocol for addressing sexual harassment and violence.

The National Farm Worker Ministry joins the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in standing with farm workers to eliminate violence by supporting the *Harvest without Violence* focus of the Fair Food Program. We call on all our member organizations, supporting organizations and people of conscience to join us in endorsing *Harvest without Violence*, to raise awareness of this terrible problem and to work to promote the Fair Food Program.

The National Farm Worker Ministry is a faith-based organization committed to justice for and the empowerment of farm workers since 1971. NFWM educates, equips and mobilizes member organizations and other faith communities, groups and individuals to support farm worker led efforts to improve their living and working conditions.

Statement adopted by the National Farm Worker Ministry board, January 2018