

Migrant Justice

migrantjustice.net; 802-658-6770; vtmfsp@gmail.com (formerly VT Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project) Project)

Educator Resources



Lesson Plans

Study Guide to Accompany our documentary film Silenced Voices to help educators organize discussions and lessons after showing the film:

[http://vtmfsp.org/resources - ed](http://vtmfsp.org/resources-ed)

VT Feed and the Farm to School Initiative have some great ready to go lessons for teachers on Vermont agriculture, farming, and food systems:

<http://www.vtfeed.org/tools>

Rethinking Schools has a variety of excellent resources to help educators organize units around migration and globalization available:

[http://vtmfsp.org/resources - ed](http://vtmfsp.org/resources-ed)

BRIDGE: Building a Race and Immigration Dialogue in the Global Economy. A Popular Education Resource for Immigrant and Refugee Community Organizers:

<http://www.nnirr.org/~nnirrorg/drupal/node/54>

These resources help educators engage students and communities about the relationships between Vermont food systems and migrant farm workers. In addition, resources highlight relations between immigration, globalization, and food---issues that impact all corners of the globe. **Resources updated and available at:**

[http://migrantjustice.net/resources - ed](http://migrantjustice.net/resources-ed)

Online

Check out Migrant Justice updates, audio, video and "in the news" sections:

<http://migrantjustice.net>

Migrant Justice farm worker leaders produce a newsletter in Spanish. The newsletter 'Nadando Contra La Corriente' (Swimming Against the Current) provides real life stories of interest that can be used in Spanish classes:

<http://vtmfsp.org/node/30#ed>

The Golden Cage is an on-line photo exhibit and audio interview that highlights the voices and stories of both farmers and migrant farmworkers:

<http://goldencageproject.org/>

Milking It! Small Farmers and International Trade is an educational resource by Oxfam that compares the lives of two dairy farmers in very different countries. How are they affected by international trade rules? Who makes these rules, and what can we do to change them?

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/milking_it/milkingit/

More resources available at <http://www.migrantjustice.net/resources#ed>

We are currently organizing and expanding our resources available for educators. Have you used one of our resources or found your own? Share your story with us at vtmfsp@gmail.com

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Literary Books

Return to Sender is a novel by Vermont author Julia Alvarez that tells the story of how a Mexican migrant families' struggle to make ends meet lands them on a Vermont dairy farm also struggling to make ends meet. This is a great book for middle school classes and is available in English and Spanish (good for high school and university students). There is also a study guide to help teachers plan lessons below. Check out the blog of Lincoln Community School teacher Alice Leeds who read the book and created a play about it: <http://return-to-sender.juliaalvarez.com/>
<http://www.lincolncs.org/5-6-grade-blog/2010/2/10/return-to-sender.html>

Without a Farmhouse Near by Deborah Rawson is a great book to help understand the struggles of maintaining family dairy farms in Vermont. Although the book was published in the 1989 it foreshadows why so many Vermont dairy farmers came to rely on migrant labor just 10 years after the book was written. <http://www.drml.org/deborah.htm>

Luis Alberto Urrea's books including Across the Wire and the Devil's Highway are highly recommended reading for teachers looking to creatively engage border and immigration issues: <http://www.luisurrea.com/books>

Ruben Martinez's Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant trail is a must read for those looking at the complexities of migration, identity, and transnational communities: <http://www.uh.edu/cwp/faculty/martinez.htm>

Documentaries

Silenced Voices by the Migrant Justice documents a Chiapas community coming to terms with the death of a young farm worker who was killed in a tragic accident on a VT dairy farm. The film highlights the complex interdependencies between 2 communities: <http://vtfmsp.org/donate>

Under the Cloak of Darkness is an on-line documentary film that documents the life of Vermont's migrant farm workers and dairy farmers. <http://bjornjackson.com/>

Warning: Border Under Construction is a VT made documentary that explores the reorganization and regulation of life on the VT/Canada border and its repercussions for ordinary people. <http://www.borderunderconstruction.com/index.htm>

This award winning audio documentary series from David Somerstein from North Country Public Radio documents a trip a group of Northern New York Dairy Farmers made to Mexico to better understand from where their employees were migrating. <http://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/farmtofarm.php>

UPROOTED: Refugees of the Global Economy is a compelling documentary about how the global economy has forced people to leave their home countries. http://www.nnirr.org/get/get_video.html

The Roots of Migration is an on-line documentary film that explores the important question: why do so many people migrate to the United States from Mexico and what are the impacts on communities in Mexico? <http://www.witnessforpeace.org/article.php?id=758>

These on-line PBS NOW Videos document the Coalition of Immokalee Workers from Florida who have waged successful struggles against modern day slavery: <http://www.pbs.org/now/youramerica/videos.html?i=2>;
<http://www.pbs.org/now/society/ciw.html>