

IMMIGRATION 10 MYTHS



Myth #1 FACT :

Immigrants take American jobs
Corporations relocating in pursuit of cheap, vulnerable workers are the real job stealers. States with high immigrant populations have lower unemployment rates.

Myth #2 FACT :

Unions oppose immigration because it harms the working class
"Politicians who scapegoat and demonize immigrants and unions have no place in our halls of power, and they can expect to hear from our members in the streets and at the polls."
– AFL-CIO Executive Council Statement
July 30, 2015

Myth #3 FACT :

Immigrants are a drain on the economy
Immigrants are more likely to pay taxes than they are to use public services. The majority of immigrants, being of prime working age and ineligible for many public services, contribute more to the public sector than they use.

Myth #4 FACT :

The rules apply to everyone, so new immigrants need to follow them just as immigrants in the past did
"The rules" generally refer to conditions permitting open immigration of white Europeans from 1880-World War I. "The rules" have always been different for people of color, regardless of whether they were African, Asian, or from Central and Latin America.

Myth #5 FACT :

The country is being overrun by illegal immigrants
Only 5% of all workers in the US are unauthorized migrants; they constitute 19% of workers in agriculture, 13% in construction, 9% of workers in leisure/hospitality industries and 6% of manufacturing workers.

Myth #6 FACT :

The United States has a generous refugee policy
The vast majority of the 3 million refugees admitted to the US since 1945 have been from just three countries: Cuba, Viet Nam and the Soviet Union. For the US, "refugee" has meant "refugee from communism," not refugee from war, devastation or repression.

Myth #7 FACT :

Today's immigrants are not learning English and bilingual education just adds to the problem
Today's Spanish-speaking immigrants are learning English as quickly as earlier generations of European immigrants, but they are also retaining their native language more than Europeans did. Research shows that developing academic skills in students' native language supports their acquiring English.

Myth #8 FACT :

The American public opposes immigration
Despite fearmongering, scapegoating and threats of a "really great wall" on the part of some politicians, 2015 polling confirms that a solid majority of Americans believe that immigrants strengthen our country rather than being a burden or threat.

Myth #9 FACT :

Immigrants threaten our nation with terrorist attacks
The causes of terrorism are complex, but there is no evidence that increased immigration increases terrorism, and there is ample evidence that undocumented immigrants are less likely to commit an act of mass violence or terrorism than are US citizens.

Myth #10 FACT :

If people break our laws by immigrating illegally, they are criminals and should be deported
Immigrants "break the law" because the law does not grant equal rights to all. Undocumented immigrants do not cause harm or even potential harm; they commit victimless "crimes" because of who they are.

