

SENDING MONEY HOME: TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZING ON REMITTANCES

A training for community groups, organizers and advocates

**Monday, December 11, 2006
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Registration Required: www.nedap.org or (212) 680-5100, ext. 209

The **Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP)** and the **Transnational Institute for Grassroots Research and Action (TIGRA)** invite you to a training about money transfers (remittances) and financial justice organizing in immigrant communities. The training will provide participants with: (a) an understanding of how the money transfer industry works; (b) tools to educate and organize community members, including a new popular education curriculum about migration, remittances and economic development; and (c) information about how to get involved in emerging campaigns around remittances, including an industry accountability campaign.

Remittances & Economic Justice: Migrant workers worldwide sent an unprecedented \$250 billion in money transfers, or remittances, in 2005. In the U.S., more than 70% of immigrants send remittances, while fewer than 50% have bank accounts. The phenomenon of remittances represents a crucial economic justice issue, affecting immigrants across ethnicities, countries of origin and income levels.

Groups throughout the country are increasingly organizing around the issue of remittances. Many have come together through TIGRA to press for accountable practices and community reinvestment by money transfer companies. Remittances also serve as a springboard to addressing broader issues of immigrants' financial services access and economic inclusion.

Sending remittances is an individual act. But if seen as a collective practice, it can be transformed into economic power that can be of service to families and communities.

ABOUT THE TRAINING

The training will be led by Francis Calpotura, founder and director of TIGRA, and Deyanira Del Rio, project director at NEDAP. Guest speakers include Manuel Orozco, director of the Remittances and Development Program at the Inter-American Dialogue.

Participants at the training will receive:

- Six-part popular education curriculum, in Spanish and English, about remittances, migration and economic development;
- Information about legislative policies and industry trends affecting remittances, and how groups can get involved;
- Presentation on the TIGRA-led money transmitter accountability campaign;
- Color maps and research on financial services in immigrant neighborhoods; and
- Immigrants' rights brochures on banking, remittances and related topics.

Draft Agenda – December 11, 2006

- 12:00 – 12:30 pm Lunch & Introductions
- 12:30 – 1:00 pm Overview of TIGRA Campaign:
Significance of Remittances as an Organizing Nexus
- 1:00 – 2:30 pm Exercises from Popular Education Curriculum:
“Looking at the Remittances Industry with a Justice Lens” and
“Third World Debt and Remittances”
- 2:30 – 2:45 pm Break
- 2:45 – 3:45 pm Perspectives on Remittances and the Money Transfer Industry
- 3:45 – 4:30 pm Campaign Development Scenario: How do you balance the
necessity of sending money home with the power of collective
action? The case of Western Union.
- 4:30 – 5:00 pm Menu of Ways to Join the Campaign

\$25 per person. Fee will be waived for groups that are unable to pay.
To register or for more information: www.nedap.org or (212) 680-5100, ext. 209.

Training Location:

The New York Immigration Coalition
137-139 West 25th Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY (between 6th Ave and 7th Ave)
Subway: C, E, F, N, R, 1 or 9 to 23rd Street stop in Manhattan

The Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP) is a resource center that works with local groups to promote economic justice in New York City’s low income neighborhoods and communities of color. NEDAP’s Immigrant Financial Justice Project promotes immigrants’ rights in financial services, and supports community groups organizing around remittances, banking access, fair lending and related issues.

www.nedap.org

The Transnational Institute for Grassroots Research and Action (TIGRA) is a project that promotes financial justice through the economic power of immigrants. In partnership with community and ethnic associations, TIGRA is organizing immigrant neighborhoods to press for accountability in the remittances industry, including lower fees, greater transparency, and community investments. TIGRA considers the system of remittances as the next frontier of economic justice work that links domestic and global issues.

www.transnationalaction.org