

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## “PRINCIPLES FOR AN IMMIGRATION POLICY TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE AMERICAN MIDDLE CLASS”

### Before reading the report:

- Why should we talk about immigration?
- Should the American middle class care about the debate over immigration reform?
- How would a change in immigration policy affect an American middle-class family's life?
- Do you think immigrant workers and American middle-class workers have anything in common?
- What role do you think immigrants play in the economy?
- What do you think American workers think of immigrants?

### After reading the report:

- Are there any differences between what you thought of the role of immigrants in the economy before and after reading the report?
- Are there any popular assumptions about immigrants and the labor market that you think are untrue?
- What do you think the American middle class has at stake in the immigration debate?
- In what ways do both legal and undocumented immigrants contribute to the U.S. economy? What sectors of the economy are highly dependent on immigrant labor?
- Who benefits from immigrants' work and economic conditions?
- Who benefits from current immigration policies? Who is hurt by these immigration policies?
- Are there jobs that Americans won't do? How can we make jobs better?
- How does a two-tiered labor market undermine the middle class?
- Why is it important to secure effective rights in the workplace for undocumented immigrants?
- What are the barriers to solidarity between immigrants and native middle-class workers?
- What would an immigration policy look like that would strengthen and expand America's middle class?

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### **After reading a sample analysis of legislation in the report appendix:**

- What would this legislation do?
- Does this piece of legislation match your vision for progressive immigration policy?
- Why or why not?

### **Next steps:**

- How can we get more Americans talking about immigration reform?
- Are there any ways in which Americans and immigrants could work together to advance a common goal?
- Who/what frames immigrants as a threat to the economy? Do you see this idea influencing your community?
- What would it take to educate the public about the reality?
- Do you know any other people or groups that would be interested in having this discussion?
- What can you do in your daily life to implement what you've learned?