



STUDENT/FARMWORKER ALLIANCE

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WHO WE ARE & HOW WE ROLL



The Student/Farmworker Alliance (SFA) is a national network of students and young people organizing to uproot exploitation in the fields and build a food system based on justice, respect and dignity for farmworkers. We work in alliance with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a farmworker-led human rights organization that has been at the forefront of combating workplace abuses, such as sexual harassment and modern slavery, in U.S. agriculture for over 25 years.

BORN IN ACTION

Our work in partnership with farmworkers began in 2000, during the CIW's historic 234-mile March for Dignity, Dialogue and a Fair Wage in

Florida, which provided the opportunity for students from several Florida colleges to learn about and directly participate in the movement to end "sweatshops in the fields." Since then, SFA has grown to a national network powering a resurgent farmworker solidarity movement, organizing around the CIW's Campaign for Fair Food.

Together with farmworkers, hundreds of thousands of students and young people across the country have played a critical role in securing Fair Food Agreements with over a dozen of the world's largest food corporations, including McDonald's, Aramark and Walmart, harnessing their purchasing power to finally put an end to generations of exploitation and poverty wages in the \$650 million Florida tomato industry. Through these victories in the Campaign for Fair Food, after nearly two decades of hard-fought organizing with consumer allies, the CIW launched the Fair Food Program in 2011.

Within a few short years, the Fair Food Program has radically transformed working conditions for tens of thousands of farmworkers and has been recognized internationally for its unique success. Today, the Program extends to eight states and three crops.

SFA HAS BEEN A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND 14 OF THE LARGEST VICTORIES AGAINST CORPORATE GREED THAT OUR GENERATION HAS SEEN, AND WE'RE ONLY GETTING STARTED.

EDUCATION

SFA facilitates educational activities, such as workshops and speaking tours, where students and farmworkers can come together in an exchange of knowledge and experience, cultivating a critical analysis that reveals the intersections between people on opposite ends of the food system.



LEADERSHIP

In all aspects of our work, SFA focuses heavily on developing the political education, skills and confidence of students and young people around the country so they can have the right tools and analysis to organize for longterm social change around a broad array of issues on campus and in their local communities.



OUR ORGANIZING PHILOSOPHY

SFA is a decentralized network of diverse organizations and individuals whose actions are unified by the following principles:

I. We work with – not for – farmworkers.

Only farmworkers can speak for themselves. SFA is dedicated to working with farmworkers for change but we will not act on their behalf, instead we take our lead from farmworkers themselves, whose daily experience of working in the fields puts them in the best position to build movements to change abusive conditions. In turn, we take responsibility for organizing our communities to understand – and act on – our role in the national movement for Fair Food.

Our struggles are not the same but they converge. Both farmworkers and young consumers are objectified by the corporate food industry: farmworkers are seen as tractors that harvest raw materials cheaply while youth are seen as mouths that obediently consume branded, unsustainable products. In an increasingly polarized global economy— where the growing concentration of wealth and corporate power threatens nearly everyone —it is imperative that we unite in common struggles and create meaningful solidarity with one another.

II. WE HAVE A POWERFUL VOICE IN WORKING WITH FARMWORKERS FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE.

Students have a powerful voice on our campuses and can hold our educational institutions accountable for who they chose to do business with. And consumers have a powerful voice with corporations that profit from worker exploitation. Historically, young people we have been creative and forceful catalysts for change, and today young people are at the forefront of movements throughout the world confronting climate change, white supremacy and other injustices.

III. WE ORGANIZE TO BUILD LONG-TERM MOVEMENTS FOR COLLECTIVE LIBERATION.

As a network comprised of people with diverse backgrounds and experiences, we strive to keep a focus on collective liberation at the forefront of our work so that we do not reproduce patterns of oppression. Our work is essential to building effective social movements that can win systemic changes while creating the world we envision.



Today, students play an indispensable role in breaking the resistance of corporate holdouts, like Wendy's and Publix, that stand in the way of the Fair Food Program expanding its unparalleled human rights protections to more workers across the country. Reach out to learn how you can plug into the national Campaign for Fair Food. Join SFA today!