



Poli-Migra Wedding

Toolkit

Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN)
www.seirn.org



Background:

The Poli-Migra Wedding was created in 2011, and was featured for the first time at a rally in Tallahassee, FL on March 17th 2011, as part of the We Are Florida Campaign. This wedding was created with the help of Vickie Mena (Gainesville), Jonathan Luna (FLIC), Ana Rodriguez (Lake Worth) and other very creative folks. Also in 2011, the wedding took place in Boston to fight the Secure Communities (SCOMM) Program in Massachusetts. Most recently, the wedding resurfaced in Raleigh, NC on July 13 as part of the Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN) Conference as a way to highlight the negative impact these type of programs have in North Carolina and other states in the Southeast.

The Poli-Migra Wedding and march for the 2012 SEIRN Conference was planned and organized by Ada Volkmer (Coalicion de Organizaciones Latino Americanas, NC), Raul Gamez (Student Action with Farmworkers, NC) and Nayely Perez-Huerta (SEIRN) with the help of other amazing organizers. Some changes and additions were made to the original script in order to include new ideas.

We hope this “Poli-Migra Wedding Toolkit” will be of good use to your organization/group when planning the next Poli-Migra Wedding at your city. If you have any questions please contact nayely@tnimmigrant.org or call 919-341-9796.

Thank you to Isabel Vinent from Florida Immigrant Coalition and other compañer@s from We Are Florida for the inspiration and support.

For pictures, please visit our Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/SoutheastImmigrantRightsNetwork>

To watch a video visit: <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=391128897615875>



Picture by: Steve Pavey

Script:

As people are gathered for the ceremony, the Best man shouts “Abran paso! Abran Paso!” as he walks in with the bride holding his arm.

[Priest starts the ceremony]

Priest: We are gathered here today for the coming together of this forced and lucrative marriage of the Police and Immigration & Customs Enforcement, or ICE, to destroy our __[state]__ families, but more importantly, serve to profit our Best Man (GEO) and Maid of Honor (CCA).



Picture by: Ingrid Cruz

Although marriages are usually a joyous occasion, this union proves that that is not always the case. This union will ultimately hold to undermine the safety and security that I am supposed to care about, including victims and witnesses of crimes, who will refuse to come forward once this marriage is final. Years of police investment in our community will be destroyed by this marriage.

Estamos aquí reunidos para ser testigos de este matrimonio que aunque sea forzado es uno que es lucrativo; entre la policía local y el Departamento de Inmigración y Aduanas. Mejor Conocido como ICE, para destruir nuestras familias en __[estado]__ y todo el sureste, pero aun más importante que nuestros invitados de honor, GEO y CCA tendrán unas ganancias impresionantes. Aunque las bodas comúnmente son eventos de júbilo; esta unión demuestra que no siempre es así. Al final esta unión será usada para menospreciar el bienestar y seguridad que debería de estar en mi interés, incluyendo víctimas y testigos de crímenes quienes se negarán a hablar una vez y el matrimonio se halla completado. Años de inversión policiaca en nuestras comunidades serán destruidos con ésta unión.

We have special guests that will like to say a few words of discouragement: *Tenemos unos invitados especiales con unas palabras desalentadoras!*

Speaker #1: Speaks about the experience of his/her community with 287 (g) or/and S-Comm

Priest: Let's listen to our second lecture. *Escuchemos la segunda lectura*

Speaker #2: Could highlight the profit of detention centers and/or the criminalization of our communities.

Handcuff exchange

ICE: These handcuffs represent my commitment of continuing to waste taxpayers' money on a program that has never worked [gives handcuffs to Sheriff] *Estas esposas representan mi compromiso de continuar malgastando los impuestos de los contribuyentes en un programa que no funciona.*

Sheriff: I accept the handcuffs and I commit to continuing to promote programs that do not work. *Acepto las esposas y me comprometo a seguir promoviendo los programas que no funcionan*

The vows

Priest [to Police]: Do you solemnly swear to be forced into this marriage, which will undermine our communities, force you to work for less pay, and require costly trainings at the taxpayer's expense to implement... *Juras solemnemente que estas siendo forzado a este matrimonio, que menospreciará nuestras comunidades, ser forzado a trabajar por menos pago, y participar en capacitaciones al costo de los impuestos de los contribuyentes.*

Police: I do / *Si, acepto*

Priest [to ICE]: Do you solemnly swear to shirk your responsibility to the people by forcing local law enforcement to do your job, while completely disregarding the safety and security of North Carolinians... *Juras solemnemente eludir tu responsabilidad hacia el pueblo al forzar a policías locales a que hagan tu trabajado, mientras ignoras por completo la seguridad y salud de la gente de [estado].*

ICE: I do / *Si, acepto*

Priest: Then by the power that I hold over the people of __[state]__, and if there are no objections to this union, I now pronounce __[state]__, the “Show me your Papers” state. [At this point the Bridesmaid and the best man place the lazo in the couple and someone interrupts the wedding] Por el poder otorgado sobre la gente de __[estado]__ y si no hay objeción a este matrimonio... Declaro __[estado]__ el estado de “Muestrame tus Papeles”.

Person stopping the wedding: Stop!! This wedding cannot allowed (please see a sample speech below)...This person destroys the lazo and the union.

[Community members celebrates that they were able to stop the wedding]

Speech by Gregorio Morales, Comité Popular Somos Raleigh

Picture by: Steve Pavey

No, alto! Detenganse! Esta boda no puede realizarse. La migra y la policia no se pueden casar porque son hermanos. Son hijos del mismo sistema opresor que nos mantiene marginados. Porque el fruto de esta union seria más oido racial, más dolor y más intolerancia para nuestra comunidad.

Porque las consecuencias inmediatas serian separacion de familias, despseracion y miedo. No podemos permitirlo, tenemos que levantar la voz y luchar por nuestros derechos. No podemos dejar que la policia se convierta en el brazo ejecutor de la migra. Porque la migra ya de por si es el brazo ejecutor de un sistema disfuncional, de politicas erroneas, y de leyes injustas.

Tenemos que unirnos para exigir un trato mas humano y justo, con igualdad de oportunidades y libertad de pensamiento.

Me pregutnaras con que razon exigimos todo esto. Lo exigimos con la razon que nos da el derecho universal de ser, de existir, de buscar nuestro lugar, de emigrar. Lo exigimos con el derecho que nos da entender que somos el producto de tratatods comerciales, arreglos y acuerdos entre politicos y poderosos, que no tomaron en cuenta al pueblo y solo favorecieron a un grupo determinado. Estos tratados comerciales nos obligaron a desplazarnos de nuestro lugar de origen, nos hicieron emigrar para no resignarnos a la pobreza extrema. Y ahora pretenden hacernos creer que no existimos, que no contamos, que no contribuimos.

Dejenme decirles que estamos aquí, porque aquí queremos estar, por que este es nuestro lugar, por que es nuestra decicon, y ppor que queremos contribuir para superar la crisis econonima que nos afecta a todos, aunque tengamos que trabajar el doble, sabemos hacerlo! Por eso estamos aquí una vez mas para crear el ambiente politico necesario para impulsar una reforma migratoria integral y justa para todos.



MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: Tuesday, July 7, 2012

Contact: Nayely Perez-Huerta | 919-341-9796 | nayely@tnimmigrant.org

Southeast immigrants rights network organizes poli-migra wedding

March to Demand an End to Discrimination and Racial Profiling

[Raleigh, NC] – On July 13th, immigrants and allies will march to demand that legislators in North Carolina put an end to deportation programs that separate families and discriminate and harm communities. More than 180 immigrant rights organizers from 10 different states in the Southeast will march together to the NC General Assembly to witness a “Poli-Migra” wedding (the marriage between the police and Immigration and Custom Enforcement or ICE).

This action is being organized by members of the Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN) and will take place as part of the 2012 SEIRN Conference and coincides with a national week of action to break ICE’s hold on communities and demand local officials take their own initiative to turn the tide on Arizona style laws.

WHAT: March and Poli-Migra Wedding

WHEN: Friday, July 13, 2012

WHO: Members of the Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN)

WHERE: March will start at 4:30 PM in Hillsborough St. and will end across from the NC General Assembly on Jones St. The wedding ceremony will take place across the NCGA.

The Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN) represents many groups and organizations that are primarily devoted to serving the immigrant community. Our mission is to build just and inclusive communities throughout the South by supporting immigrant rights organizations, fostering regional collaboration and peer exchange, strengthening alliances with the progressive movement, and facilitating joint analysis and action on issues of common concern.

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The Southeast Immigrants Rights Network (SEIRN) invites you to a

MARCH!

and Poli-Migra Wedding

Friday, July 13th

March begins at 4:00pm
@ Brown Stone Hotel
1707 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh

Wedding begins at 5:00pm
@ NC General Assembly
Downtown Raleigh

 

¡Dignidad para tod@s! ¡No más deportaciones!

Contact: nayely@tnimmigrant.org | 919-341-9796



La Red del Sureste Por los Derechos de los Inmigrantes (SEIRN) te invita a una

MARCHA!

Y boda de la Poli-Migra

viernes, 13 de julio

La marcha comienza a las 4:00 PM
en Brown Stone Hotel
1707 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh

La boda comienza a las 5 PM
en la Asamblea General
en el centro de Raleigh

 

¡Dignidad para tod@s! ¡No más deportaciones!

Contacta: nayely@tnimmigrant.org | 919-341-9796