

Lupe Gonzalo is a senior staff member and leader of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW). She worked in the agricultural fields of the United States for 12 years as a migrant farmworker, including in the harvesting of tomatoes, citrus, peppers, and many other vegetables and fruits in Florida and along the East Coast. As part of the Fair Food Program education team, Ms. Gonzalo and her colleagues conduct workers' rights education in seven states along the East Coast throughout the year. Ms. Gonzalo was also a member of the CIW team working with Futures Without Violence, which collaborated with CIW and other Fair Food Program partners on the first sexual harassment training curriculum for the agricultural sector in the U.S. Drawing on her experience with the Fair Food Program, Ms. Gonzalo has helped to train, mentor, and educate workers from other regions and industries on the Worker-driven Social Responsibility model, assisting in those workers' efforts to combat human rights abuses across the U.S. and the globe. Ms. Gonzalo's work at the CIW includes hosting daily radio shows on the CIW's low-power community FM radio station, leading the weekly women's group meetings, receiving complaints of abuses in the fields, and managing wage theft claims. Finally, Ms. Gonzalo represents the CIW at a national level, speaking publicly on the challenges faced by farmworkers in Florida, both during major actions with thousands of consumers and in dozens of presentations throughout the year. She was featured on CNN Freedom Project's recent series on the Fair Food Program, and was named a Community Trailblazer by the Equal Voice Magazine. Her story is featured in Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls, 100 Immigrant Women Who Changed the World.