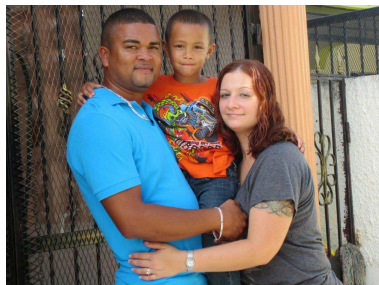


**KRYSTAL LOVERIN** I met my husband José soon after I finished a year tour of duty in Iraq. I had just been diagnosed with PTSD and resigned my position as a police officer. My husband saved my life by attending weekly counseling sessions, learning how to help me cope and live with the effects of war, and becoming that rock that I had always been for my family. After proudly serving my country for ten years, now my country wants to deport my husband back to Mexico for ten years. It would mean the end of life as I know it because I'm not mentally capable of living in his environment of gunfire, firecrackers, violence and corruption nor am I able to succeed in my own environment without his strength and caring to carry our family through when I have panic attacks or rough patches.

**AMBER HENDERSON** I met my Juan Carlos, my fiancé in 2007. I learned that he had been deported once before but I had no clue what that meant at the time. He was stopped for driving without a license on New Years of 2011. ICE showed up at our house on July 31, 2012 and he was deported back to El Salvador on August 19, 2012. He has a 20-year ban, waivable in 10 yrs. I have 2 boys that he has been a father to since we met. We are trying to decide where we will live to wait out the ban because he feels that El Salvador isn't safe for me and my boys. So I am awaiting exile. I've found strength in all the women going through immigration struggles, and the immigrate2us has been very helpful.

**CRYSTAL M.** I met my husband in 2006. In 2005, he'd been detained by border patrol for entry without inspection. He was given a court date that he missed, which triggered legal provision INA 212(a)(6)(B), which meant he was ineligible to apply for a waiver under grounds of extreme hardship for five years from the date he departs the United States. We have a son together who was born in 2007. We finally got married in April 2009, and my husband was deported back to the Dominican Republic in December 2009. Our "6B" bar is finished December 9, 2014. Since the first time we went to the Dominican Republic, our son has understood that daddy cannot come back home with us until he has special papers. I am advocating for family unity because I'm tired of feeling invisible to the government.



**GAIL** My name is Gail Wood and I'll be 60 in June. My husband is Alfredo Martinez Perez. We live in Patzcuaro, Michoacán. We got married

in 2001. He is my hero and my champion and I can't imagine life without him. I have 4 children, 29, 31, 34, and 35 years old. They love their step-dad with all their heart. We know he has a lifetime permanent bar, although nothing is actually official because we left the US on our own in 2005. We just got tired of living in the shadows. I have chronic health conditions that can't be adequately treated in Mexico. The consequences of foregoing the necessary medical treatments means daily pain, a dramatically diminished quality of life, as well as a not so good 5 year survival rate. South of the border life is literally sending me to an early grave.

**NICOLE SALGADO** I'm from Central New York, but since 2006, I've lived in exile in Central Mexico. My husband and I met 13 years ago near San Francisco. He was a builder, and I had recently graduated from Cornell. I knew he had an immigration record, but I was certain marriage would solve any problems he might have. In fact, my husband's only chance for legal status was to leave the U.S. and wait 10 years to apply for reentry. Two years after we married, we moved to his hometown of Querétaro, México and can apply for a waiver in 2016. Culture shock, the economy, stress-related and local illnesses have turned my life upside down. But I also built a home, began to teach, had a baby, and became a dual citizen. I coauthored the book Amor and Exile with Nathaniel Hoffman from 2011 to present, which documents the issues faced by Americans married to undocumented immigrants. Despite all the hardships I've faced, I haven't lost hope that someday we'll obtain my husband's legal right to join my daughter and I in the U.S., and for thousands of other families like ours to reunite in their homeland.



**AMY GODOY-GUERRA** My husband Carlos and I met in 2003 during college. We were married in 2007. Carlos is not eligible for a visa to live in the U.S. as my spouse, or for a hardship waiver, because of the circumstances of his arrival as a teenager in the 1990's. Tired of living in the shadows, Carlos and I left the U.S., explored options in Europe and finally settled in Northern Mexico—with hope for return. But in 2008, while I was pregnant with our son, we received final word from the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Carlos had a lifetime ban with no waiver, INA 212 A 6 C ii, for a false claim of U.S. citizenship, because when he was 16 a parent forced him to cross the border using a relative's

U.S. birth certificate instead of his own visitor's visa. We've been living in South Korea since 2011 while we try to cope with this ban. Our son is now 4 years old, we welcomed our daughter in December, and we all dream of someday returning to Chicago! A recent legal development with a focus on people who crossed as youth has opened a new opportunity to fight our case, but it will still be a very long road.

## CHANTELE

I'm Chantele Newman and I'm 21 years old. My husband, my best friend, was deported when I was turning 18. It changed my life completely. I had to leave my family—my mother, brother, and sister to follow the love of my life. I now live in Mexico City, battling being apart from my family, and my daughter is growing up without them also.



## ACTION FOR FAMILY UNITY MISSION STATEMENT

Act4Fams seeks to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and their U.S. citizen families living in exile all over the world. Act4Fams does this by uniting the voices of families living in or facing exile and fostering greater understanding of the issues that affect these particular American families. Above all, we seek to influence U.S. immigration policies by advocating for legal provisions that would bring home families in exile, reunite currently separated families, and prevent future exile of American families. We are a grassroots, volunteer-run group, and our members include both affected families and our supporters.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[facebook.com/Actionforfamilyunity](https://facebook.com/Actionforfamilyunity)

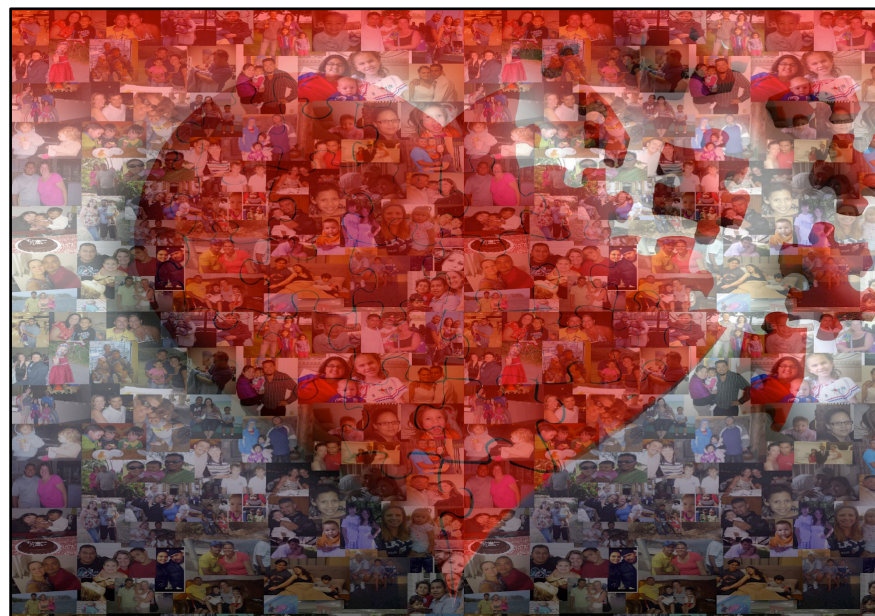
[www.actionforfamilyunity.org](http://www.actionforfamilyunity.org) | [act4fams@actionforfamilyunity.org](mailto:act4fams@actionforfamilyunity.org)



Act4Fams also supports other organizations working on behalf of immigration reform, such as American Families United (AFU), which lobbies Congress to reunite, or bring home American families in exile by immigration laws. [www.americanfamiliesunited.org](http://www.americanfamiliesunited.org)

*Immigration law doesn't just regulate how people cross our borders, it also separates thousands of American citizens from their spouses, even their homeland. These are the faces of families torn apart or exiled by immigration law. We are...*

## ACTION FOR FAMILY UNITY



Act4Fams was formed by American citizens with spouses who've been unable to legally immigrate. We need legislative reform that reunites us with our spouses, that brings American families back home. Together, our voices are stronger than they are alone. These are only some of our stories...