



**10 YEARS**  
**HUMANITY IN ACTION**  
 #WEAREVIA

## VIA Celebrates 10 Years Supporting Those Navigating the U.S. Migration System

VIA was born in 2016 from a personal experience marked by displacement, the fear of persecution, and migratory uncertainty. It did not emerge as an institutional plan, but as a human response to a complex system that millions face without guidance. This is how Niurka Meléndez and Héctor Arguinzones, its founders and current directors, envisioned it.

Almost ten years later, the organization remains on the front lines, accompanying people as they navigate legal processes, misinformation, and emotional isolation.

According to Niurka Meléndez, "VIA was born from our own experience as asylum seekers and from the desire that other people do not have to go through this process alone."

VIA is an organization led by displaced persons that operates on lived experience as structural knowledge.

**Principles that guide their work:**

- ethics and objectivity
- political neutrality
- informed compassion
- commitment to human dignity

*Legal clarity reduces vulnerability.*

*Collective support reduces isolation.*



## VIA Provides Verified Information as a Tool for Protection

**Topics addressed in 2025:**

- affirmative and defensive asylum
- TPS and work permits
- immigration court procedures
- hearing preparation
- change of address compliance
- legal fraud prevention

"Knowledge is power" (Ipsa scientia potestas est), wrote the English philosopher Francis Bacon in his book "Meditationes Sacrae" in 1597. The idea remains relevant: access to clear information allows one to understand reality, make informed decisions, and reduce vulnerability. In the current context, verified information is not a supplementary resource; it is a concrete form of preventive protection.



In 2025, thousands of people participated in legal orientations where complex procedures were explained clearly, with responsibility, and in an accessible language. Recorded sessions expanded access to reliable information and reached communities that could not attend in real time.

"Access to clear and verified information allows people to understand their options and reduce their vulnerability," states Héctor Arguinzones.



## VIA Consolidates Its Constant Digital Presence to Inform, Guide, and Support



For more than 400 consecutive weeks, VIA has maintained a sustained digital presence, sharing clear and accessible information for communities seeking reliable guidance amid migratory uncertainty.

This consistency is not a response to metrics or superficial visibility. It responds to an urgent need: to combat misinformation and ensure that people understand their legal options and the available resources. The educational content published on social media, in live broadcasts, and in audiovisual materials has enabled expanded access to verified information beyond geographic barriers, work schedules, and technological limitations.

"Each post, each video, and each message has a clear objective: that no one feels uninformed or alone in their process," state Niurka Meléndez and Héctor Arguinzones.

*Digital consistency not only increases reach.*

*It strengthens community trust and turns information into a concrete form of protection.*



## VIA's Impact in 2025: Numbers That Reflect Real Stories

In 2025, VIA directly reached thousands of people through community activities, educational sessions, and support spaces. Behind every figure are real stories: a mother preparing her case, a young person facing court without a lawyer, or a family trying to understand their options.

These figures reflect not only VIA's reach but also its sustained institutional capacity, strategic expansion, and operational consistency.

"Behind every figure, there are people trying to understand their options and make informed decisions in the midst of uncertainty," notes Niurka Meléndez.

**Direct Impact**

- 11,345 people supported
- more than 200 community activities
- 90 legal orientations
- 30 English sessions

**Digital Impact**

- 4.6 million views on Instagram
- 33,524 views on YouTube
- sessions available publicly



*Access to verified information transcends geography, schedules, and economic barriers.*



## VIA Strives to Address Mental Health and Encourage Community Resilience

**In 2025:**

- 16 psychosocial support encounters
- more than 740 participants
- in-person integration activities

**The "Granny Square" Workshop:** More than 90 families gather weekly to knit together.

- The rhythm calms
- the table connects
- creating heals

The migratory limbo is not just legal; it is emotional. Integrating psychosocial support into legal guidance is not a supplement and community resilience. Anxiety, isolation, and prolonged uncertainty generate a deep psychological burden.

Since 2018, the Peer Support program has created safe spaces to restore dignity, strengthen resilience, and rebuild community bonds. More than just support, these encounters serve as an essential reminder: no one should have to go through this process alone.

According to Héctor Arguinzones, "Legal orientation is fundamental, but community support is what helps people sustain themselves during prolonged processes."

*Sharing experiences transforms solitude into community.*

*Human connection becomes a resource for facing uncertainty.*



## Affirm the Directors: "A Decade Later, VIA's Commitment Continues"

After nearly ten years of sustained work, VIA reaffirms its responsibility to the community it serves. Its work has demonstrated that lived experience can be transformed into practical knowledge and effective support for those facing complex migration processes.

"Our lived experience is neither symbolic nor anecdotal. It is applied knowledge that allows us to respond with precision, urgency, and ethics. In a migratory environment marked by uncertainty, VIA not only informs: it builds trust, reduces vulnerability, and strengthens the ability of communities to support themselves with dignity," states Niurka Meléndez and Arguinzones.



Faced with a constantly changing migratory context and new community demands, the organization projects its next stage with a vision focused on sustainability, innovation, and equitable access to information.

"Looking ahead to 2026, VIA will continue strengthening its institutional sustainability, expanding strategic alliances, and modernizing its digital infrastructure to guarantee equitable access to vital information," conclude Niurka Meléndez and Héctor Arguinzones.

