

## What is the FTAA?

The FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) is a trade agreement similar to NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) being negotiated to expand trade deregulation, privatization and neo-liberal policies throughout North, Central and South America. Following the example of NAFTA, signed in 1994, the FTAA is being negotiated between Trade Representatives with little accountability to the public or any representative body. Workers in the US and Mexico under NAFTA have already lost decent-paying jobs, while others have been forced to work under exploitative conditions for substandard pay without collective bargaining power. Under the FTAA, corporations will further be able to relocate to lower wage scale countries to set up sweatshops and bid to privatize essential services throughout the hemisphere, setting up monopolies in utilities (water, electricity...), healthcare and education. The FTAA will weaken environmental regulations and grant corporations increased rights to pollute for profit. Small farmers, forced to compete with big U.S. companies, will face massive bankruptcy, as has already happened in Mexico due to NAFTA. Negotiations are currently underway to implement the FTAA in 2005.

## What is CAFTA?

CAFTA (the Central American Free Trade Agreement) is the first step in the implementation of the FTAA, with the same dismal effects. It is "NAFTA for Central America". Negotiations are currently underway to sign CAFTA by December 2003.

## Mission Statement:

The New York City People's Referendum against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is a grassroots coalition of organizations and individuals that is part of the national and hemisphere-wide Global Justice and Fair Trade movement to stop so-called "Free Trade" agreements like the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the FTAA. These agreements are now being negotiated in secret by governments and multinational corporations. Our aim is to reclaim democratic control over this decision-making process by raising awareness, organizing concerned people, and showing elected leaders—through a referendum—just how many people are against these pro-corporate, anti-labor, anti-environment, anti-democratic agreements.

## The NYC FTAA Referendum:

In order to coordinate this city-wide referendum on the FTAA and CAFTA, we meet regularly to strategize community and media outreach, congressional concerns, and to plan town hall meetings in each borough to educate ourselves and the public about the effects of free trade.

### Contact Information:

NYC People's Referendum  
130 West 29th Street, #9F  
New York, NY 10018-3610  
212-760-0333 • FTAAreferendum.org

Come join us on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7pm, at the above address!



# NEW YORK CITY People's Referendum on the FTAA and CAFTA

Free Trade Area of the Americas and Central America Free Trade Agreement

1. Have you been consulted and/or informed by the US government about the current Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) negotiations?  
Yes  No
2. Should the US government sign the CAFTA?  
Yes  No
3. Should the US government sign the FTAA?  
Yes  No
4. Should the US government immediately disclose to the public all the information about the Free Trade Agreements being negotiated?  
Yes  No

*Fold here, staple and return*

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\*Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*indicates required field

- Please send me further information about the FTAA
- I am interested in distributing ballots in my community
- I would like to invite a speaker to my place of work/ worship/ community center to spread the word about the FTAA

## Thank you for casting your vote!

Please detach, fold, staple and return

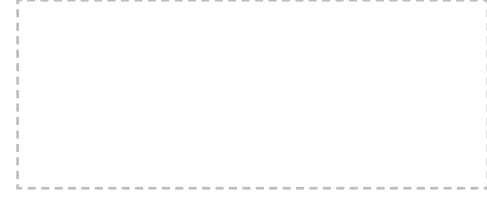


**Don't leave your destiny  
in the hands of others**



**NYC People's Referendum**  
P.O. Box 748  
Village Station  
New York NY 10014

**Affix  
37¢  
Stamp**



*- Please staple or tape shut -*

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