



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honorable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
365 Laurier Ave W Ottawa, ON K1A 1L1
Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca Minister@cic.gc.ca

September 29, 2022

Dear Prime Minister and Minister Fraser,

Re: Immigration Status Regularization – Permanent Residence For All

The Canadian Centre for Torture Victims (CCVT) welcomes your government's promise to introduce a regularization program for undocumented migrants – stated in the mandate letter of the Minister of Immigration Refugees and Citizenship and encouraged by a unanimous Parliamentary motion calling for a program to be introduced by Fall 2022.

The Canadian Centre for Torture Victims (CCVT) aids survivors of torture, war, genocide, and crimes against humanity to overcome the lasting effects of torture and war. Working with the community, the Centre supports survivors in the process of successful integration into Canadian society, works for their protection and integrity, and raises awareness of the continuing effects of torture and war on survivors and their families. The CCVT gives hope after the horror.

Many people in Canada have no immigration status or only precarious status. Many of those with precarious or no status are racialized and many are women. This Fall, your government has a historic opportunity to introduce a long overdue change to create a permanent, comprehensive, inclusive, and accessible regularization program. We urge you to introduce a program that will extend permanent residence to all refugees and migrants, including 500,00 undocumented migrants – thus giving equal rights to all, rather than a small and restrictive program that will give permanent residence for just a few.

We urge you to implement the recommendations in the comprehensive regularization proposals from Canadian Council for Refugees and the Migrant Rights Network. Both organizations propose a comprehensive program that will include every person in Canada without immigration status or precarious status, is built on a human rights framework and leaves no one behind. CCVT is a member of both networks and wholeheartedly supports both proposals.

Main 194 Jarvis St, 2nd Fl., Toronto, ON, Canada M5B 2B7 T: 416.363.1066 F: 416.363.2122 E: mabai@ccvt.org Toll Free: 1.877.292.2288

Scarborough 2401 Eglinton Ave. E., 3rd Fl., Unit 310, Scarborough, ON, Canada M1K 2N8 T: 416.750.3045 F: 416.750.4990

The Hub 1527 Victoria Park Avenue 2nd Fl., Toronto, ON, Canada M1L 2T3 T: 416.750.9600 F: 416.750.9200

Mississauga Office 130 Dundas St. East, #204, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5A 3V8 T: 905-277-2288 F: 905-277-8083

Accredited to the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

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People without immigration status are part of our communities, yet they are made invisible and vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation, and abuse. They cannot access rights at work, school, or elsewhere, access services or basic healthcare. The situation that confronts us is urgent and critical.

We urge you to act without delay, consider the proposals referenced above and implement a comprehensive program that will let people without immigration status become full participants in society and lead a life of visibility and human dignity.

Yours Truly,

Mulugeta Abai
Executive Director

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