

September 27, 2022

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Sean Fraser

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Confederation Building, Suite 110
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca

cc: Migrant Rights Network - info@migrantrights.ca

RE: FoodShare supports Permanent Residence for All

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

We are writing today in full support of the proposal put forth by the Migrant Rights network, demanding action on the implementation of a **comprehensive regularization program**.

FoodShare Toronto is a food justice organization working to build a city where everyone can feed themselves, their loved ones, and their community with dignity and joy. Operating for more than three decades, our programs reach over 400,000+ people each year. We strive to ensure that our work drives at dismantling sites of exploitation within the food system, including the exploitation of migrant workers in our food system – an issue that requires immediate and urgent action from your government.

There are over 500,000 people, including families, living in Canada without any valid immigration permits and this number is increasing. In addition, 1.2 million people are on work, study or refugee claimant permits; most of these have no opportunity to remain permanently in Canada.

Permanent resident status is the mechanism through which all other rights are accessed for migrants. Undocumented people, migrant workers and refugees are being exploited in substandard working conditions, because regressive immigration and labour laws restrict their agency and leave them open to abuse.

Lack of permanent resident status makes it difficult, and often impossible, for migrants to speak up for their rights or access services, including emergency food relief programs, because of a well-founded fear of reprisals, termination, eviction and deportation.

We were pleased to see the regularization of undocumented workers included in the Immigration Minister's mandate letter, and the unanimous passing of a parliamentary motion asking for the Minister to create a plan to give permanent residency to workers of all skill-levels.

It's beyond time to honour the people who keep our communities running. Migrant workers grow and harvest our food, they take care of our children and our elders, they study and learn here, and they are valued members of our communities.

We must do better for migrants. We don't need a partial program. We don't need an exclusionary program. **We need a comprehensive program that is based around the principle of status for all.**

Migrant Rights Network has created a [set of proposals to guide the development of a regularization program](#) which we fully endorse. The roadmap to the regularization of all undocumented people without exception and permanent residence for all migrants, particularly those in low-waged jobs has been set out. The federal government need only follow it.

Your government has repeatedly committed to values such as upholding equality, fighting racism and welcoming immigrants and refugees. This is your opportunity to demonstrate that commitment.

Sincerely,



Crystal Sinclair



Paul M. Taylor