

September 26th 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: We support Permanent Residence for All

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

We would like to introduce ourselves. The Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) member faith communities have decades of on-the-ground experience working with people who are struggling with poverty and homelessness. For over thirty years, ISARC has faithfully brought that experience to governments to shape public policies that would help lift people from poverty and end homelessness.

Migrant workers are one group of individuals who have no meaningful political power and therefore need others to speak up for them. Prime Minister we support your mandate letter asking the Immigration Minister to create a “regularization program” for undocumented migrants. We were pleased to note the unanimous parliamentary motion asking the Immigration Minister to create a plan to give permanent residency to workers of all skill-levels (up to now, most low-waged (so-called low-skilled) workers have been excluded).

The issue now as we understand it is whether the relief should only apply to a narrow group of workers or whether it should be extended to all 1.7 million migrants, including 500,000

undocumented migrants. We strongly urge you to adopt the latter approach. As members of faith part of our belief system is that we are all created in the Divine image and thus all worthy of equal legal and social rights. Indeed the likely group to be excluded if a narrow approach is taken are low waged workers, the very ones most in need of relief. We operate on the view that we will ultimately be judged on how we treat the weakest among us.

We urge you to rise to this historic opportunity to achieve equality for all migrants, including undocumented people. We trust that you will not succumb to the many forces, including big business lobbyists, pushing to make these programs as small and exclusionary as possible so that they can continue to profit from migrant worker precarity. Specifically, many forces want to restrict the regularisation programme to just a few workers in certain industries, instead of including everyone.

Your government has repeatedly committed to liberal values such as upholding values of equality, fighting racism, and welcoming immigrants and refugees. We urge you to adopt the principles and proposals drafted by the Migrant Rights Network which can be found here: <https://migrantrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/MRN-Brief-Regularization-July-2022.pdf>.

We are all our “brothers and sisters keepers” and your actions can underline this commitment to justice and equality.

Sincerely,



Rev. Dr. Susan Eagle
Chair, Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition