

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

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October 11, 2022

**Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau**  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto: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](mailto:sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca)

**Cc: Migrant Rights Network - [info@migrantrights.ca](mailto:info@migrantrights.ca)**

**RE: We support Permanent Residence for All Undocumented Migrants**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

On behalf of the people of faith from The United Church of Canada, I am writing to represent thousands of people across the country who welcome newcomers to Canada through formal refugee sponsorship, and formal and informal supports to migrant workers.

The people of The United Church of Canada hold the belief that we are called to love and show hospitality to everyone in our midst. We believe in the dignity of creation and of God's loving grace and its equitable expressions. We also believe that love for the whole community of creation is a universal value, shared by all peoples of the world.

The people of The United Church of Canada are encouraged by Prime Minister Trudeau's [mandate letter](#) asking Immigration Minister to create a "regularization program" for undocumented migrants. This includes a unanimous [parliamentary motion](#) asking the Immigration Minister to create a plan for pathways to permanent residency for migrant workers of all skill-levels. Canada is at a moment in our country's development that requires an influx of new people and skills that will enable us to recover from COVID19 and continue to build a strong inclusive society. A comprehensive and inclusive regularization program that leaves no one behind is required.

As people of faith, we seek ways to make our services, buildings, and programs inclusive in ways that enable our communities to benefit from a diversity of perspectives and skills. Canada will benefit incredibly if we as a country provide equal rights for all by extending permanent residence to 1.7 million



migrants, including 500,000 undocumented migrants who bring their whole selves and skills to their new lives on this land.

The United Church of Canada along with civil society organizations like the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change would like to see the government explore processes that leads to comprehensive and inclusive regularization program that leaves no one behind among undocumented migrants, particularly those in low-waged jobs. This will enhance the diversity of our country and ensure that all people in our country are able to live with dignity and access their inherent human rights. Undocumented migrants have spoken out through the [Migrant Rights Network](#) proposal and others. We ask that you give precedence to the voices and experiences of those directly affected by your actions as you consider all of the civic sector proposals available to guide your regularization program. In solidarity with these voices, The people of The United Church of Canada affirm their urgency that this needs to happen without delay.


I personally appreciate that your Government has repeatedly committed to key commitments including upholding values of equality, fighting racism, and [welcoming immigrants and refugees](#). I ask then that the Canadian Government continue completing the implementation of its planned comprehensive program on granting permanent residency to undocumented migrants, instead of a partial or exclusionary one.

The United Church of Canada is also part of the global initiative of Churches Witnessing with Migrants (CWWM), and echo CWWM's first principle: "All human beings have inherent human dignity and protected human rights. Human dignity is inviolable; and all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. All human rights are migrant, refugee, and uprooted peoples' rights." Until all humans, until all of God's children are able to live in dignity with access to basic human rights, we are all diminished.

In closing, on behalf of the people of faith in The United Church of Canada, I look forward to hearing how your Government will act to provide permanent residence status to all undocumented migrants. In addition, we request that Minister Fraser communicate with us as the work proceeds. I understand that there may be opportunities to connect with Members of Parliament overseeing the work. As advocates of social justice, The United Church of Canada wants to ensure that the voices of undocumented migrants are clearly heard by those making decisions and that the immediate need for permanent residency is clearly understood by all concerned.

I appreciate that this work is being undertaken and look forward to a strengthened and diversified country that values the gifts of all living here.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  


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The Rev Michael Blair

General Secretary, General Council  
The United Church of Canada