

March 12, 2024

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing on behalf of Citizens for Public Justice, a national, progressive organization of dedicated members who are inspired by faith to act for social and environmental justice in Canadian public policy. I would like to express our full support for the [regularization program](#) proposed by the Migrant Rights Network. This is a matter of great urgency: without permanent status, millions of migrants in the country are unable to access essential services and are subject to abuse and human rights violations.

In 2021 you issued a mandate letter asking the Immigration Minister to create a regularization program for undocumented migrants. This is a commitment that has been repeated several times, most recently by MP Marc Miller, who promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the Spring of 2024. On June 17th the migrant care worker program is set to expire, which will leave thousands of migrant women undocumented. The implementation of a broad and comprehensive regularization program can no longer be delayed.

As an organization that advocates for the rights of refugees and migrants in Canada, we call on you to fulfill Canadian commitments to human rights, and appeal that it not be a small exclusionary program that grants rights to a few and denies them to most. Aligned with thousands of advocates across the country, we are requesting a broad regularization program that extends permanent residence to 1.7 million migrants - a program that leaves no one behind.

Citizens for Public Justice endorses the proposals established by the Migrant Rights Network to guide the development of a [regularization](#) program. Migrant Rights Network has also highlighted the need to create an [interim program for migrant caregivers](#) in Canada to apply for permanent resident status without educational accreditation and language test score requirements. Finally, Citizens for Public Justice joins Migrant Rights Network and other activists in calling for an end to employer tied work permits and hours of work limits for international students. It is only by doing so that Canada can end migrant exploitation and ensure equal rights for all.

It is crucial that programs and policies are informed by the individuals and groups that are most impacted. We ask that you take into account these proposals developed through migrant organizing, which reflect the needs and demands of migrants across the country.

Your Government has committed itself to the values of equality and anti-racism, and to welcoming migrants and refugees. We therefore invite you to use this opportunity to fulfill such commitments with action by redressing the historic injustice of excluding thousands of migrants from equal status through a comprehensive regularization program that leaves no one behind.

Tragically, Canada has a history and legacy of exclusionary immigration policies that counter the values and image we claim to hold and portray. Many people who play integral parts in Canadian society have been left out of pathways to permanent residency. We have seen the devastating effects that the lack of permanent status has had on many migrants in Canada, such as poor health outcomes, high poverty levels, and separated families. Many are stuck in exploitative, low-wage jobs with precarious status while providing essential services. They lack equal rights at work, school, and limited access to healthcare and other basic services.

We urge you to consider the proposals referenced above and implement a comprehensive program that allows migrants to participate more fully in our communities and grants them access to fundamental human rights in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Willard Metzger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Willard Metzger
Executive Director