



**April 29th 2024**

**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. Marc Miller**

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
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**CC: Migrant Rights Network - [letters@migrantrights.ca](mailto:letters@migrantrights.ca)**

**RE: Regularize All Undocumented People and Ensure Permanent Resident Status for All Migrants**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

Climate Justice Toronto (CJTO) is a membership-led democratic organization fighting for transformative class-based climate action in Toronto and beyond. As a grassroots organization based in Toronto, CJTO has been building community power for over 5 years. CJTO has built an identity in the Toronto political landscape through supporting grassroots direct actions on climate and housing justice. As a dues-paying organization, we command a strong social media presence with over 20K followers and more than 50 active members. CJTO has been working closely with York South Weston Tenants Union (YSWTU) in supporting their more than a year-long rent strike against Dream, a corporate landlord. CJTO members have deep community connections with the different levels of governments, the environmental sector, and journalists.

In December 2021 PM Trudeau made a [mandate letter](#) commitment asking the Immigration Minister to create a “regularization program” for undocumented migrants. That promise has been repeated many times, and most recently the Minister promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the [Spring](#) of 2024.

The migrant care worker program is expiring on June 17, and unless it is replaced, thousands of migrant women will become undocumented. Already, [many of them cannot apply for permanent residency because of impossible-to-achieve language testing and educational accreditation requirements](#).

Landlords are raising rents beyond reach, grocery monopolies are making it harder to put food on our tables, lobbyist driven governments are privatizing healthcare and education. But it's im/migrants that are being scapegoated for the affordability crisis as racism is used to divide and distract us. The federal government has capped study permits, students can't be with their families and permanent residency has been capped which means more people than ever will remain on temporary and exploitative permits.

The federal government needs to choose:

Will the Trudeau government fan the flames of anti-immigrant xenophobia or build a fair society with equal rights for all which is only possible when everyone has the same immigration rights?

**It is the imminent responsibility of this government to ensure equal rights for all by:**

Immediately create a comprehensive and inclusive [regularization program](#) that allows all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status immediately.

- No caps
- No restrictions by industry of work or geography
- No two-step immigration which only gives temporary work permits

End migrant exploitation by ending tied work permits and hours of work limits for international students; and ensure permanent resident status for all working class people in Canada today.

Migrant Rights Network has created proposals on [regularization](#) and for [migrant careworkers](#). CJTO endorses the tireless advocacy of Migrant Rights Network for a decent and fair Canadian economy for all.

Almost every major civil society, labour, health and environmental organization has joined this call for full and permanent immigration status for all - nearly 500 organizations. Major organizations from across Canada have also written letters to you, PM Trudeau, supporting our regularization proposal. On September 17, 2023, demonstrations were organized in 15 cities in Canada, which were endorsed by over 200 organizations.

Employers of migrant workers, international students and undocumented workers threaten them with deportations to stop them from asserting their rights. This abuse results in overall

worsening of working conditions in the labour market. While bad employers prosper, good employers who may be unable or unwilling to hire workers informally or for cash payments are disadvantaged.

A green economy that serves climate, workers and community must be founded on the equality of all residents. By ensuring equal status for all migrants, we would remove a significant barrier to equality. Migrants, including refugees and non-status people, have always worked here — raising our kids, caring for our parents, and picking our food. These are some of the most insecure and exploitative jobs in Canada. But they're precisely the parts of our economy that we need to support and expand: nursing, child- and elder-care, farming, and domestic labor. They are low-carbon, too. We all need to pull together to change our economy and society to avert climate disaster and that requires bringing in those who are currently excluded by immigration laws.

Climate change has caused a [25 per cent](#) increase in economic inequality between the richest countries and the poorest. Canada is one of the world's largest [greenhouse gas emitters by population](#). In 2015, it was estimated that Canada's debt to poorer countries for its role in causing climate change was [at roughly \\$400 billion](#). This enormous share of responsibility in causing the climate crisis constitutes a moral obligation to welcome migrants with open arms, and implement climate solutions that get at the root of the crisis and leave no one behind. This obligation is further reinforced by Canada's position as a leader in mining devastation - [75% of the planet's mining exploration and exploitation companies had their headquarters in Canada in 2012](#). The mass degradation of natural resources, ecology, and species extinction connected to development projects led by Canadian companies has led to destruction of land-based ways of life, and mass impoverishment of people in the Global South, shrinking economic opportunities for everyone and creating the conditions for migration to Canada. Many migrants, on work, tourist or study permits, refugees and undocumented people, are here because of climate displacement, not just those from mass weather events. Giving equal rights to migrants is part of paying off Canada's climate debt.

It is time for you to act, and we are watching.

In Solidarity,

Climate Justice Toronto