

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada

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Hon. Marc Miller

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

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Cc: Migrant Rights Network - info@migrantrights.ca

Regularize All Undocumented People & Ensure Permanent Resident Status for All

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

We are writing this letter today to ask you to:

- Immediately create a comprehensive and inclusive regularization program that allows all undocumented people in Canada to apply for permanent resident status. This program should have no caps, no restrictions by industry of work or geography, and no two-step immigration, which only gives temporary work permits.
- Create an interim program to allow migrant caregivers in Canada to apply for permanent resident status without educational accreditation and language test score requirements;
- 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.

The Migrant Rights Network has created specific proposals to make these changes effective and we endorse their call.

We are simply asking you to keep your promise. In December 2021 Prime Minister 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. In the same December 2021 letter, Prime Minister Trudeau promised permanent resident status for all migrant workers and students.

Ensuring equal rights and and permanent resident status for all migrants is the right thing to do:

- **It is part of ending systemic racism and ensuring gender equality:** Undocumented people and migrants are mostly racialized, low-waged people, often women. Ensuring rights and access for them is part of implementing anti-racist policy and gender equality.
- **Ensure improved labour conditions:** 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.
- **Ensure public health:** Migrants often do not access healthcare until it is absolutely necessary due to the costs. By the time they do, their health conditions are much more complicated, and the burden on the healthcare system is much higher.
- **Create more effective social policy:** Currently, there are no reliable statistics on undocumented people in Canada. An inclusive regularization program will ensure that non-status people enter into everyday life, allowing for more informed and effective social policy to be created.
- **Grow the economy at greater rates than cost of processing or settlement services:** Most undocumented people pay taxes but their employers, many of whom are very profitable businesses, do not pay statutory remittances. Regularizing 500,000 undocumented people will increase employer CPP and EI contributions by at least \$1.1 billion, just in the first year. A recent report about regularization in France, when applied to Canada, means that these changes will increase economic activity by \$28 billion per year.
- **Create labour mobility to address shortages where they exist:** Undocumented people work in cash-based jobs, or are under or unemployed. Migrants are on employer-tied permits or need to stay in jobs to get permanent resident status. Ending tied permits, removing hours of work restrictions, regularizing undocumented people and ensuring permanent resident status for all will increase migrant labour mobility, unlocking their skills and experience enabling them to fill the skills gap and labour market shortage.
- **Build on best practices around the world:** Between 1996 and 2008, 24 of the 27 EU Member States implemented regularization programs, and some several times. An estimated 5.5 to 6 million people were regularized in that time.
- **Respond to a growing voice:** Almost every major civil society, labour, health and environmental organization has joined our call for full and permanent immigration status for all - nearly 500 organizations.

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Date: Mar 15, 2024