



**April 2, 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  
[Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca), [Minister@cic.gc.ca](mailto:Minister@cic.gc.ca)

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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

My name is Anna Malla, and I work at the Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMSMaRT), an interdisciplinary outreach team providing community centred care to people for whom conventional health service models present too many barriers to access. We serve primarily people who are deprived of housing in the greater Hamilton area. We work in collaboration with local, provincial, and national organizations around housing and homelessness, as well as around ineffective and harmful drug policies. We have a vast and diverse membership consisting of healthcare professionals (family physicians, specialists, nurses, psychiatrists), academics, social service workers and other community-based professionals, working alongside people with lived and living experience of homelessness and drug use.

On a personal level, I worked for many years supporting and advocating alongside migrant workers, including migrant farm workers and care workers, and am an ally member of the Migrant Rights Network. I have seen firsthand how the lack of government action to regularize the immigration status of thousands of people impacts not only migrants and their families, but also the very fabric of Canadian society. I'm watching the political moment we're in, where In December 2021 PM Trudeau made a mandate letter commitment asking the Immigration Minister to create a "regularization program" for undocumented migrants, after years of pressure from migrant rights groups across the



country. That promise has been repeated many times, and most recently the Minister promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the Spring of 2024. We are still waiting! The migrant care worker program is expiring on June 17, and unless it is replaced, thousands of migrants, mostly women, will become undocumented. Already, many of them cannot apply for permanent residency because of impossible-to-achieve language testing and educational accreditation requirements.

At HAMSMaRT we see the impacts of the housing crisis every day, where 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.

So there is a very clear political choice right now for the Federal Liberal government to make: Will the Trudeau government fan the flames of anti-immigrant xenophobia or to build a fair society with equal rights for all which is only possible when everyone has the same immigration rights? Will the Trudeau government abandon its purported commitment to equity, fighting racism, ensuring gender justice and welcoming immigrants and refugees, or will it build a fair society with equitable rights and permanent resident status for all?

The demands for equitable rights for all are clear, and we at HAMSMaRT endorse every one of the following demands:

- 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
- Create an [interim program for 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 Federal government doesn't even need to do the work to figure out how to enact these demands; the Migrant Rights Network has created proposals on [regularization](#) and for [migrant careworkers](#). We endorse these principles in their entirety.

The issue of immigration regularization matters to us at HAMSMaRT both as an issue of public health, and as a social policy issue as it relates to poverty and homelessness. We know that thousands of people across Canada have already made their voices heard on this vital issue, and that the direction the Liberal government chooses will impact how people vote in the next election. We urge you to do the right thing, and will be watching over the coming two months.

Sincerely,

Anna Malla  
Director of Operations and Organizational Development  
On Behalf of the Board, Staff, and membership at HAMSMaRT