

March 15, 2024

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2

Hon. Marc Miller
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

On behalf of the Graduate Student Society (GSS) at Simon Fraser University, representing over 4,000 graduate students, we are writing to urge the Government of Canada to take immediate action to regularize all undocumented individuals and ensure permanent resident status for all migrants, including those in the HCCP & HSWP programs. As an organization committed to equity, inclusion, and social justice, the GSS recognizes the critical importance of fair and humane immigration policies. The current situation facing undocumented migrants and care workers in Canada is untenable and demands urgent action.

In December 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau made a commitment in his [mandate letter](#), directing the Immigration Minister to develop a "regularization program" for undocumented migrants. This commitment has been reiterated multiple times, with the most recent assurance from the Minister to present a proposal to the Cabinet in the [Spring](#) of 2024.

The migrant care worker program is set to expire on June 17th, and without its replacement, thousands of migrant women will risk becoming undocumented. Furthermore, many of them are unable to pursue permanent residency due to stringent language testing and educational accreditation requirements. Additionally, landlords are increasing rents excessively, grocery monopolies are creating obstacles to accessing food easily, and lobbyist-influenced governments are privatizing healthcare and education. Despite these issues affecting the affordability crisis significantly migrants are unfairly targeted while racism is used as a tool for division and distraction. The government's restrictions on study permits and family reunification, along with limited pathways to permanent residency, further contribute to a growing population living under temporary and exploitative conditions.

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The current political decision at hand is

- Whether the federal government intensify anti-immigrant xenophobia or work towards creating a just society where everyone has equal immigration rights?
- Whether the federal government uphold its commitment to Liberal values of equality, combating racism, promoting gender justice, and welcoming immigrants and refugees by establishing a just society with equal rights and permanent resident status for all individuals?

To achieve equal rights for all, we urge the federal government to:

- 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 care workers](#) 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.

We have members within our organization who are international students and understand many of the barriers and risks of exploitation that migrants face. As an organization committed to fostering more equitable communities, it is crucial for us to stand with and support the rights of the most vulnerable in our society. That is why our governing Council overwhelmingly voted to support regularization for migrants. Thus, the GSS stands in solidarity with the Migrant Rights Network and other organizations advocating for the rights of migrants. We urge the Government of Canada to heed our collective call for regularization and just immigration policies.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your prompt action.

Sincerely,

The Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University¹

¹ The GSS occupies shared Coast Salish territories, including the traditional and unceded lands of the Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Tsleil-Waututh, x̣ʷməθkʷəỵəm (Musqueam), Kwikwetlem, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Katzie, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and numerous Stó:lō First Nations.