

March 28, 2024

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada 80 Wellington Street Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2 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, Minister@cic.gc.ca

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - letters@migrantrights.ca

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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

I am writing on behalf of the <u>Socialist Project</u>. We are a Toronto based political organization that seeks to rebuild the socialist Left in Canada and around the world by bringing together individuals, groups, and movements who share a socialist vision of the future, *looking to build towards a socialist party*. Through our decades long history we have created strong ties to academics, labour organizers, and unions in Canada and around the world.

In December 2021 PM Trudeau made a <u>mandate letter</u> 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 <u>Spring</u> of 2024. We call on you to uphold your commitment to create this program so many migrant workers desperately need.

It is particularly worrying that the migrant care worker program is expiring on June 17, and unless it is replaced thousands of migrant women will become undocumented. Already, <u>many of them cannot apply for permanent residency because of impossible-to-achieve language testing and educational accreditation requirements</u>. You must allow all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status immediately.

Our capitalist system has created a cost-of-living crisis through the relentless pursuit of profit by

private enterprises. Rents and food prices have gone through the roof, healthcare and education are being privatized, and wages have stagnated. Meanwhile the state has become increasingly authoritarian in its attempts to stomp on workers rights. 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.

Trudeau and the federal government must choose between fanning the flames of anti-immigrant xenophobia or building a fair society with equal rights for all. We urge you to act immediately and give everyone in Canada the same immigration rights. Give permanent status to all. Do not abandon your commitment to the values of equality, fighting racism, ensuring gender justice and welcoming immigrants and refugees.

The Socialist Project fully supports the Migrant Rights Network's proposal on <u>regularization</u>. This program calls for undocumented people to be allowed to apply for permanent resident status immediately without any caps, without restrictions by industry or geography, and without two-step immigration. We also support the proposal for <u>migrant care workers</u> 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.

Canada must take responsibility for its migrant workers. The global capitalist system, of which Canada is a leading player, fuels migration by the increasing dependence of highly exploited labour in the Global South and the demand for low-wage labour in the Global North. Capitalism also drives migration through its contribution to climate change. 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. Canada also mines and exports massive amounts of fossil fuels. 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 obligation is further reinforced by Canada's position as a leader in mining devastation - 25 per cent in Canada i

We must fight for the rights of all workers, but especially migrant workers who are particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. A major step in that fight is the immediate regularization of all undocumented people and ensuring of permanent resident status for all migrants.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Knight