



Vivimos Juntos, Comemos Juntos
We Live Together, We Eat Together

April 19, 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,

Vivimos Juntos, Comemos Juntos (VJCJ) is a group of current or former undocumented people, as well as allies, that provides material and social support to our evergrowing undocumented communities in the Greater Toronto Area. Our membership consists of hundreds of currently or formerly undocumented members, many of whom have lost their immigration statuses for a variety of reasons beyond their control. We believe in an equal and inclusive society where everyone should be able to access the resources needed to survive and thrive, and live a dignified life. This is why we have been vocal in the media about our issues and demands, and have joined the Migrant Rights Network - the largest coalition of migrant-led groups in Canada - in calling for an inclusive, comprehensive, and non-exclusionary regularization program for all undocumented people without delay, as well as permanent resident status for everyone.

In December 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau made a mandate letter commitment asking the Immigration Minister to “further explore ways of regularizing status for undocumented workers who are contributing to Canadian communities”. Since then, this promise has been repeated many times, most recently by the Immigration Minister Marc Miller promising to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the Spring of 2024. Additionally, the migrant caregiver pathway programs for permanent residency are expiring on June 17, 2024, and if not

replaced, thousands of migrants will be forced to return home or will become undocumented - despite being promised permanent residency. The stalling and expiring of permanent residency programs is creating serious uncertainty within our migrant communities, during which landlords and employers are financially benefiting from. Rents and grocery costs are skyrocketing, social services are increasingly privatizing, and racialized im/migrant communities are being scapegoated for all of it - this is racism.

We urge the federal government to uphold the liberal values of equality, fighting racism, and welcoming immigrants and refugees by

1. **immediately creating a comprehensive and inclusive [regularization program](#)** that allows all undocumented people to apply for permanent resident status immediately with no caps, no restrictions by industry of work or geography, and no two-step immigration which only gives temporary work permits;
2. **creating an [interim program for migrant caregivers in Canada](#)** to apply for permanent resident status without educational accreditation and language test score requirements;
3. **ending migrant exploitation** by ending tied work permits and hours of work limits for international students; and ensuring permanent resident status for all working class people in Canada today.

This can be achieved by following through with the principles and proposals on [regularization](#) and for [migrant caregivers](#) developed by the Migrant Rights Network (see attached) - which we wholeheartedly endorse and support. Why? Because regularization and status for all is a step forward in ending systemic racism and ensuring gender equality; improving labour conditions for all migrants; significantly increasing the health and well-being of communities and the cost-effectiveness of our national healthcare system; ensuring employers pay for statutory remittances for all employees; creating labour mobility to address shortages in specific industries; and lastly, transitioning to a green economy and taking responsibility for the consequences of climate change. Further explanations can be found in the proposal linked above.

In sum, our group of current and former undocumented people formed in late 2019 because we needed, and still need, to survive. Some of us are allies with family and friends who are undocumented. Many of us, or our family and friends, have been living in Canada for years, others arrived more recently. We all arrived with temporary immigration status, such as students, work permits, or refugee status, and lost it through no fault of our own. We were promised safety, protection, opportunity or permanent resident status by employers and your government; but the promise has yet to be fulfilled. Everyone deserves to live a life with dignity. **We urge you to do the right thing and grant permanent resident status to everyone without exclusions and delays.**

Sincerely,



Diana Da Silva
Co-Founder & Collective Member
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