

May 1, 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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller:

RE: Regularizing All Undocumented People and Ensuring Permanent Resident Status for All Migrants

I am writing to you on behalf of the Women's Education and Action Fund (LEAF) to urge you to follow through on the promise of creating and implementing a comprehensive and inclusive regularization program for undocumented migrants in Canada.

LEAF is a national, non-profit organization that works towards ensuring the law guarantees substantive equality for all women, girls, trans, and non-binary people. In order for this to be a reality, everyone in Canada – including those who are undocumented – must have access to the same basic rights, something that a regularization program is critical to supporting.

Undocumented people and migrants are mostly racialized, low-waged people, often women. They comprise a key segment of Canada's care economy,¹ taking care of children, the elderly, and sick and disabled people in their communities. Yet, their lack of status means that they are vulnerable to exploitation and threats from their employers, and the fear of deportation often prevents them from speaking out when their rights are violated.

A regularization program would help ensure that people with precarious status have better access to justice. It would also ensure better access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, and be a meaningful step towards reproductive justice in Canada. Because health care can be extremely costly for those without insurance coverage, migrants often do not access health care until it is absolutely necessary. By the time they do, their health

¹ Strauss, C. (2021). Basic Income & The Care Economy. In *Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)*. Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF). <https://www.leaf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Basic-Income-The-Care-Economy-Full-Report-Final.pdf>

conditions are often much more complicated, and the burden on the health care system is much higher.

A comprehensive and inclusive regularization program is a key step towards gender equality, racial justice, and reproductive justice in Canada. We urge you to integrate Migrant Rights Network's proposals on [regularization](#) and [migrant care workers](#) in the promised regularization program to ensure that no one is left behind.

Ensuring that everyone in Canada has access to the same basic rights and essential services is foundational to LEAF's work towards gender equality. We welcome your leadership towards our shared goal of a more equitable Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Hrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pam Hrick
Executive Director and General Counsel

cc. Migrants Rights Network (letters@migrantrights.ca)