



April 24, 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)**

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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

The Workers' Action Centre (WAC) is a worker-based organization. We are committed to improving the lives and working conditions of people in low-wage and unstable employment. Thousands of working families are struggling to make ends meet, so we act and organize for decent work. We work within the Somali, Latina, Tamil, Chinese, Bengali and broader South Asian communities to support workers who face problems at work getting paid, being discriminated against and other statutory benefit violations. Workers are routinely not paid, face abuse on the job and are given the dirtiest and dangerous assignments. Unscrupulous employers, immigration consultants and landlords take advantage of their vulnerable legal status in Canada by charging fees or taking illegal deductions from their hard-earned wages. Despite this stressful and horrendous context, many undocumented workers are trying to provide for themselves and their families so that they can make this country their home.

We were very encouraged and thrilled in 2021 when you wrote your mandate letter with a commitment asking the Immigration Minister to create a "regularization program" for undocumented migrants. That promise has been repeated many times, and most recently the Immigration Minister has promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet this Spring. Many of the workers that come to WAC desperately need this regularization program. We are constantly supporting workers who are working in essential sectors such as healthcare, construction, cleaning and food production who are being not paid their wages due to their precarious immigration status. This results in workers being owed thousands of dollars in unpaid wages, losing their housing, not being able to buy

food or essentials for their families. Regularization will ensure improved labour conditions and improve conditions in the labour market as a whole.

These are workers who do essential work in our economy and were there for us during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. With the current affordability crisis in housing and food, these same workers are now dealing with exorbitant rents, food insecurity and now an additional burden of healthcare as the Ford government cut access to healthcare in 2023 for uninsured people.

We are greatly concerned with the communities we work with being blamed for many of the problems facing people while they struggle to make ends meet. We believe the right way to move forward is to ensure that your government helps to build a fairer society with equal rights for all which means moving forward with a decent regularization plan. The alternative is to fan the flames of racism and anti-immigrant sentiment which is being propagated by those who do not want to welcome immigrants and refugees into Canada.

The Workers' Action Centre is part of a broad provincial coalition called Justice for Workers which has members in every city across Ontario. Thousands of workers, allies and supporters believe that a comprehensive and inclusive regularization program is critical for all undocumented people to apply for allowing permanent resident status. There should be no caps, no restrictions by industry of work or geography and no two-step immigration which only gives temporary work permits. We need to end migrant exploitation by ending tied work permits and hours of work limits for international students; and ensure permanent resident status for all working people in Canada today.

WAC is an active member of the Migrant Rights Network. MRN has created proposals on [regularization](#) which we endorse and have attached the brief with this letter. The regularization program matters to so many organizations across the country who are working to ensure an end to systemic racism, poverty and ending exploitative labour conditions. We know from our frontline experience that undocumented people and migrants are mostly racialized, low-waged people, often women. Ensuring equal rights and access for basic services, education and healthcare for undocumented people is part of implementing anti-racist policy and working to ensure gender equality.

You have widespread support to implement this critical policy that was such an important promise to migrant workers who are the backbone of every economy in this country.

Sincerely and in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deena Ladd', written in a cursive style.

Deena Ladd,  
Executive Director  
Workers' Action Centre

