



September 8, 2022

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

Hon. Sean Fraser
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Confederation Building, Suite 110
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca

Cc: Migrant Rights Network - info@migrantrights.ca

RE: We support Permanent Residency for Migrant Workers and the Regularization of Undocumented Migrants

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

We are writing as people of faith from The Anglican Church of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and The United Church of Canada to call for a more just system for migrant workers in Canada. As denominations involved in the global movement of Churches Witnessing with Migrants (CWWM) we share this first principle: “All human beings have inherent human dignity and protected human rights. Human dignity is inviolable; and all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. All human rights are migrant, refugee, and uprooted peoples’ rights.”

We are encouraged by Prime Minister Trudeau’s [mandate letter](#) asking the Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship to explore ways of regularizing undocumented workers, and the [parliamentary motion](#) directing the minister to plan pathways to permanent residency for migrant workers. These measures are extremely important tools in pursuing justice for migrant workers in Canada and for ensuring the prosperity of this country in the future.

Processes to regularize undocumented workers and provide pathways to permanent residency for migrant workers, particularly those in low-wage jobs, will benefit migrant workers by better protecting workers’ rights and decreasing opportunities for exploitation.

There are Canadian civil society groups, reports, and proposals to guide and inform the development of processes for regularization and pathways to permanent residency for migrant workers. We urge the Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship to especially consider the expertise of civil society groups working with migrant workers and to take into account the stories, experiences, and recommendations of all migrant workers in Canada.

Our denominations represent hundreds of thousands of people who welcome newcomers to Canada through formal refugee sponsorship, formal and informal supports to temporary foreign workers, and a multitude of local services such as English as a Second Language classes, informal caregiver support groups, and community kitchens. Our partners in national and international initiatives toward justice for all in Canada and around the world include the World Council of Churches, the Canadian Council of Churches, KAIROS, and the Canadian Interfaith Conversation. We believe we are called to love and show hospitality to everyone in our midst, and that one of the ways we can do this is through developing comprehensive and equitable policy to protect the rights of migrant workers.

Finally, we seek an opportunity to meet with Minister Fraser as he takes up this important mandate, to learn more about the government's plans and to share with him and his staff what we have learned and know to be critical considerations in bringing about justice, mercy, and protecting the rights of migrant workers in Canada.

Yours sincerely,



The Most. Rev. Linda Nicholls
Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada
The Anglican Church of Canada



Rev. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris
Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Rev. Michael Blair
General Secretary General Council
The United Church of Canada