



3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 200  
Toronto, Ontario  
M8X 2Y4 Canada

416-231-5931 1-800-268-3781  
F: 416-231-3103  
www.united-church.ca

16 July 2024

Rt. Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
Confederation Building, Suite 110  
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
[marc.miller@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marc.miller@parl.gc.ca)

RE: We support regularization for all undocumented people

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

On behalf of the people of faith who are The United Church of Canada, I encourage and support a government effort to regularize the status of undocumented people in Canada. People of the United Church can be found in more than 2,500 communities of faith across the country; you have been hearing from some of them on this issue.

Migrants are a fundamental part of Canada's social and economic fabric. They are also important and beloved members of our churches. Their precarious status as undocumented makes them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, and is an affront to their human dignity. There is clear, strong support from Canadians for a regularization program.

Your government has recognized the importance of this issue:

- In your 2021 mandate letter to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, you included "regularization of undocumented workers" as a priority and recognized the contribution that undocumented workers make to Canadian communities;
- Immigration Minister Marc Miller has publicly recognized the strong economic and humanitarian case for regularization of undocumented migrants and promised to bring a proposal to Cabinet in the [Spring](#) of 2024.

The United Church of Canada celebrated the mandate letter's commitment to regularize undocumented migrants. We are encouraged by the frequent repetition of this promise, as well as by statements from both former Minister of Immigration Sean Fraser and current Minister Marc Miller about their plans to implement that government commitment.

We are deeply concerned that your government is losing its will to follow through on previous promises towards regularization of “status for all,” including undocumented migrants. Minister Miller has recently stated publicly that the government’s failure to advance this commitment by the spring of 2024 is due to a lack of consensus in cabinet. Failing to deliver on your commitment would mean turning back from your social contract with migrant communities and would feel like a betrayal of civil society members who have been working in good faith with the government to advise on the delivery of this program.

We are also deeply concerned that abandoning regularization now could have a domino effect on progressive principles that your government promised to champion: workers’ rights, gender justice, climate justice and racial justice. This is not the time to cede to reactionary pressures that stigmatize immigrants, nor to fan the flames of anti-immigrant xenophobia.

The government of Canada has a clear choice:

1. It can succumb to fear-based reactionism and abandon its commitments to equality, fighting racism and welcoming immigrants and refugees OR
2. It can be bold, daring and stand strong to its values in pursuit of building a fair society with equal rights and permanent resident status for all.

We strongly encourage you to choose the latter, and to use the Migrant Justice Network’s Regularization Brief ([attached](#)) as a roadmap.

We urge you to use the summer break from Parliament to find a path forward for implementing your promised regularization program and building the necessary consensus in cabinet to advance this fundamental justice commitment. To support you in the endeavour, we would like to request a meeting at your earliest convenience so we can understand what roadblocks your government is facing and how our church and communities of faith can assist in moving this issue forward.

Yours sincerely,



The Rev. Jennifer Henry  
Acting General Secretary, General Council  
The United Church of Canada

Cc: Migrant Rights Network  
[letters@migrantrights.ca](mailto:letters@migrantrights.ca)