



NATIONAL ADVOCACY.
COMMUNITY ACTION.



September 9, 2022

The Honourable Minister Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, K1A 0A6
By email: sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Fraser,

On behalf of YWCA Toronto, I am writing to join the Canadian Council for Refugees in calling on the Canadian government to reform the immigration system to bring an end to our two-tiered society and to provide permanent status to all those living and working here, recognizing their dignity and rights as human beings.

Currently, many people in Canada have no status or only precarious status. The reasons for this are many and often related to barriers and delays in immigration and refugee laws and practices.

Living under precarious or no status means that many workers – in particular, women and refugees – live in fear of being detained and deported and of being discriminated against. They are denied many of their basic rights, such as health, education, and employment opportunities. They experience many forms of abuse, with little or no recourse, because of the lack of protection the law often provides in practice or in principle. In particular, women with precarious status are predominantly racialized, thus structural and systemic racism as factors that further entrench their exclusion and disadvantage – particularly for Black women. Women with precarious status face heightened risk for gender-based violence, homelessness, and job precarity.

We believe the Canadian government should recognize that people living in Canada have social capital and contribute to the fiber of Canadian society, and create ongoing open and flexible pathways to regularize those in Canada with precarious or no status. Canada should also recognize the value of the labour contributed by newcomers at all levels, and admit those workers required by the labour market on a permanent basis.

We welcome the commitment in the Minister's mandate letter to "build on existing pilot programs to further explore ways of regularizing status for undocumented workers who are contributing to Canadian communities." We urge that broad and flexible pathways to regularization be implemented.

We support the principles established by the CCR in its proposal (<https://ccrweb.ca/en/regularization-submission-creating-open-and-flexible-pathways>):

- Develop pathways with simple, broad and clear criteria;
- Offer pathways that are permanent and available on an ongoing basis;
- Minimize documentary requirements;
- Do not exclude applicants based on non-compliance with law;
- Guarantee Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) collaboration;



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- Allow opportunities for third party applications; and,
- Consult with affected communities before finalizing policies in order to get feedback on needs and barriers.

CCR and its members have expressed their willingness to support the development and implementation of broad and flexible pathways to permanent status for those with precarious or no status in Canada. We encourage you to lend your support to these initiatives and reform the immigration system to provide permanent status to all those living and working here, recognizing their dignity and rights as human beings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather M. McGregor".

Heather M. McGregor
Chief Executive Officer
YWCA Toronto