

September 12, 2022

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

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

RE: We Support Permanent Residence for All

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser,

Access Alliance strongly supports the federal government's initiative to introduce a new "regularization program" for undocumented migrant workers. We urge you to ensure this is inclusive of all undocumented people without exception, guaranteeing everyone a fair chance at living a healthy life in Canada, free of fear of deportation, discrimination, and exploitation.

Access Alliance is a non-profit multi-service community health organization based in Toronto. We provide services and advocate to improve health outcomes for immigrants, refugees, and their communities that have been made vulnerable by systemic barriers and poverty. Like other community health organizations, our model of care ensures that all individuals, regardless of immigration and health insurance status, can receive access to services. We have been struggling to keep up with the demand for health services, in particular for undocumented people here in Toronto, who are excluded from accessing basic social determinants of health.

You are at a critical juncture to make the right political choice, which is long overdue. We urge you to **create a permanent and comprehensive regularization plan that establishes equal rights for all by extending permanent residence to 1.7 million migrants, including 500,000 undocumented migrants. Many of these migrants are trapped in unsafe work and living situations, vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, and with very little access to legal recourse.**



The alternative - a partial, small and exclusionary program that will give rights to a few and deny them to most - is unethical and has major societal and economic costs. As one example, comprehensive regularization would allow people working unsafe and precarious jobs to seek stable decent work in sectors where their skills are needed most, addressing labour shortages. It would also give currently undocumented workers the opportunity to access to minimum employment standards that should protect all workers in Canada.

The Migrant Rights Network has created a [set of proposals to guide the development of a regularization program](#) which can guide this process, and further lays out the major benefits to our society that come with a simple, broad, permanent plan.

Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Fraser, your government has repeatedly committed to upholding values of equality, fighting racism, and welcoming immigrants and refugees. Not only would an inclusive and comprehensive regularization plan be critically important to open up service access to all, it can contribute to Canada becoming a more justice and inclusive society for all.

We urge you to fix this historic injustice by implementing a comprehensive program that is easy to access and will help all residents of Canada to fully contribute to society and lead healthy, dignified lives.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you very much,



Jasmine Ramze Rezaee
Board Chair
Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

CC:

Migrant Rights Network; Hon. **Chrystia Freeland**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Member of Parliament for University-Rosedale, Ontario; **Hon. Ahmed Hussen**, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, Member of Parliament for York South-Weston, Ontario; **Hon. Bill Blair**, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Emergency Preparedness, Member of Parliament for Scarborough Southwest, Ontario.