



March 26, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council
80 Wellington Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

The Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada is urging you to act on your government's commitment to introduce a broad and comprehensive regularization program that would provide permanent residence to people living in Canada without status and access to basic rights.

Sisters of St. Joseph across Canada are involved in the sponsorship and settlement of refugees as well as the protection of labour rights and other basic social and economic rights for migrant workers. The Federation's Office for Systemic Justice advocates with and for people whose lack of status puts them in precarious situations, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Canada's immigration system directly contributes to many people falling out of status due to issues such as lengthy processing delays and work permits which are tied to a single employer. We have seen how tied work permits expose people to exploitation, racism, and systemic discrimination. We maintain that these systemic weaknesses, and the exploitation which flows from them, create an obligation on the part of the federal government to offer barrier-free pathways to permanent residency for those who have been pushed into precarity.

We were pleased to hear Minister Miller's commitment, in November 2023, to seek a broad and inclusive regularization program, and to bring a proposal to Cabinet this Spring. Regularization brings widespread benefits, not only to people without status, but to the communities in which they live and work; it gives people without status an opportunity to lead a life with dignity, while also strengthening our society and our economy; it provides children and youth, in families without status, the opportunity to develop their potential.

Regularization is essential for protecting human rights and, therefore, is a necessary vehicle to help Canada meet its obligations under international law to ensure that all people, regardless of immigration status, have access to basic human rights, such as fair conditions of work, health care, education, and protection from gender-based violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Wilson, CSJ".

Sue Wilson, CSJ