



June 20, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario

- **Open letter from over 130 organisations on World Refugee Day regarding the Safe Third Country Agreement**

Dear Prime Minister and leaders of the opposition parties,

We are writing to demand that Canada withdraw from the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) with the United States to ensure that individuals seeking refuge can do so without risking their lives. We call on you to demonstrate leadership and withdraw our country from the STCA, to allow individuals to make a refugee claim by presenting themselves in a regular way at a Port of Entry.

The STCA and its recent expansion has effectively closed Canada's borders to refugees, forcing them to take dangerous and difficult journeys to reach safety. This puts them at extreme risk of abuse, exploitation, and even violence by smugglers.

We must recognize the human rights of all individuals seeking safety and the dignity they deserve. We must also acknowledge the racism inherent in policies that restrict access to safety by specifically targeting people fleeing from the Global South.



In light of the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision, which acknowledges that refugees sent back to the US face real risks of rights violations, and which has directed the Federal court to determine whether the Agreement breaches gender equality rights under the Charter as a matter of profound seriousness, we call on our political leaders to suspend Canada's participation in the STCA without delay, in line with the fundamental principles of dignity, fairness, and inclusivity that define our nation.

Our country takes great pride in a tradition of providing refuge to those fleeing persecution and violence. By dismantling the barriers imposed by the STCA and allowing individuals to make refugee claims at regular ports of entry, you can uphold our identity as a compassionate and welcoming nation that recognizes the inherent worth and potential of all individuals.

Sincerely yours,

Canadian Council for Refugees, alongside:

National

Amnesty International Canada  
Canadian Council of Churches  
350.org  
Canadian Arab Federation  
Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Canadian Civil Liberties Association  
Canadian Labour Congress  
Canadian Refugee Health Network  
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) / Syndicat canadien de la  
fonction publique (SCFP)  
Citizens for Public Justice  
Collaborative Network to End Exploitation



Hispanic Development Council  
International Association for Refugees Canada  
International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group  
KAİROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives  
Le Centre Oblat: A Voice for Justice  
Ligue des droits et libertés  
National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE)  
Oxfam Canada  
Service jésuite des réfugiés Canada  
The United Church of Canada  
Unifor

Provincial/Territorial

Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services  
Alliance des communautés culturelles pour l'égalité dans la santé et les services sociaux (ACCÉSSS)  
Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, conseil régional des Mille-Îles (ACFOMI)  
Action Réfugiés Montréal  
Adam House  
Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA)  
Afghan Women's Organization Refugee and Immigrant Services  
AGIR: Action LGBTQ+ avec les immigrantEs et les réfugiéEs  
Agora Boreale association interculturelle  
Alliance pour l'accueil & l'intégration des immigrants (ALAC)  
AMIGRAR Immigration Consulting Inc.  
Amnistie internationale Canada francophone  
Angela Rose and Oak House  
Association Latino-américaine pour les Immigrants du Canada  
Association pour les droits des travailleuses.rs de maison et de ferme (DTMF-RHFW)  
AURA - Anglican United Refugee Alliance



Bureau coordonateur Ahuntsic  
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society  
Calgary Refugee Services  
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture  
Capital Rainbow Refuge  
Catholic Center for Immigrants Ottawa  
Centre communautaire LGBTQ+ de Montréal  
Centre d'aide aux familles latino américaines (CAFLA)  
Centre des femmes d'ici et d'ailleurs  
Centre for Refugee Children  
Centre social d'aide aux immigrants  
Christie Refugee Welcome Centre  
Clinique pour la justice migrante  
Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change  
Comité logement de la Petite Patrie  
COMPASS Refugee Centre  
Créons des Ponts/Bridges not Borders  
Department of Psychiatry, Division of Cultural and Social Psychiatry, McGill  
University  
Diocese of Hamilton  
Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre (DBNC)  
Dushahi Sribavan Law Professional Corporation  
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN)  
Emergency Support Committee for Refugees  
Family Service Toronto  
FCJ Refugee Centre  
Femmes du monde à Côte-des-Neiges  
Femmes-Relais Saint-Michel  
Foyer du Monde  
Francophonie Canadienne Plurielle Société  
Healthy Muslim Families  
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM)  
Immigration Law Clinic, Detroit Mercy School of Law



Inasmuch Community Society  
Iraqi Federation of Refugees  
Kinbrace Community Society  
Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Centre  
Kurdish Initiative for Refugees Inc.  
La Ligue des Noirs du Québec  
Law Office of Jason Currie  
Le Pont (CACRM)  
Les Œuvres Marie-Anne Lavallée  
Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre  
Maison de la Famille des Maskoutains  
Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations  
Martha Justice Ministry, Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish  
Matthew House Ottawa: Refugee Services and Furniture Bank  
Matthew House Refugee Services Toronto  
Matthew House Refugee Welcome Centre  
Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto  
Mission communautaire de Montréal  
MOSAIC  
Mouvement contre le viol et l'inceste  
Mouvement d'éducation populaire et d'action communautaire du Québec  
Multi-Agency Partnership of BC  
Nellie's Shelter  
New Journey Housing  
Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre  
North End Sponsorship Team (NEST)  
OCASI-Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants  
Office for Systemic Justice, Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada  
Ontario Federation of Labour  
Ontario sanctuary coalition  
Physician Partnership of the Newcomer Health Clinic, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Physioversal  
Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia



Rainbow Refugee Society  
Refugee 613  
Refugee Committee, Toronto Monthly Meeting of The Society of Friends  
(Quakers)  
Regroupement des organismes communautaires famille de Montréal  
Réseau d'action des femmes en santé et services sociaux - Montréal  
Réseau d'intervention auprès des personnes ayant subi la violence  
organisée (RIVO)  
Réseau québécois de l'Action Communautaire Autonome  
Romero House  
Rural Refugee Rights Network  
Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies  
(SAISIA)  
School of physical and occupational therapy, McGill University  
Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services  
Sisters of St Joseph of Toronto Ministry for Social Justice, Peace, and Creation  
Care  
SJ McLean Law Professional Corporation  
Sojourn House  
Solidarité Ahuntsic  
Somali HelpAge Association  
St. Mary's International charitable Organization  
Stratégie Carrière  
Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et  
immigrantes (TCRI)  
Table des groupes de femmes de Montréal  
Table régionale des organismes volontaires d'éducation populaire (TROVEP)  
de Montréal  
The Refugee Centre  
TNO - The Neighbourhood Organization  
University of Manitoba  
Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture (VAST)



Vancouver Island Counselling Centre for Immigrants and Refugees  
Association  
Vision Inter-Cultures  
Visitation Province of the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal  
Welcome Collective  
Welcome Haven  
Workers' Action Centre  
Youth For Purpose Canada  
YWCA Toronto

Cc. Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Opposition Conservative Party of  
Canada  
Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the NDP  
Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
Hon. Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety