

*All-Party Parliamentary
Group to End Modern
Slavery and Human
Trafficking*



*Groupe parlementaire
multipartite de lutte contre
l'esclavage moderne et la
traite des personnes*

July 4, 2019

The Hon. Ahmed D. Hussen, PC, MP
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you as the Co-Chairs of the *All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) to End Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*. Our group was launched in 2018 and includes members from all official parties in Parliament, with four co-chairs representing each party. Over the past year, we have been able to regularly engage Parliamentarians with the issue of human trafficking and build partnerships with community organizations and stakeholders across Canada.

We are calling upon you to review a case currently under consideration whereby Guatemalan and Honduran migrant workers brought to Ontario under false pretenses, and subsequently exploited and coerced, are at risk of further harm or exploitation due to their *Temporary Resident Permits* not being extended.

In making this request for review, we first acknowledge and commend the federal government for its provision of an open work permit for vulnerable workers experiencing abuse, or risk of abuse, in the context of their employment in Canada. This is most helpful in cases of forced labour.

With respect to the situation currently at hand, it deals with a case of migrant workers from Guatemala, and another from Honduras, who were brought to farms in Southern Ontario with false promises and were subsequently exploited and coerced for over a year, living in inhumane housing conditions. Seven of these individuals were provided with *Temporary Resident Permits* (TRPs) specific to victims of human trafficking between August and November 2018 after interviews at the Windsor IRCC office.

The case is currently under investigation by the Crown and the Ontario Provincial Police. The London Police Human Trafficking Unit took formal statements and have referred the case to Crown Attorney Susan Orlando, Provincial Coordinator of the *Ontario Human Trafficking Prosecution Team*.

Most unfortunately, the TRPs of the victims have not been extended, leaving them at serious risk of further harm or exploitation upon deportation. The denial of renewal of the TRPs was despite email communication sent by Ms. Orlando of the *Ontario Human Trafficking Prosecution Team* to the IRCC officer explaining that they may be required to give evidence at future court proceedings in Ontario (enclosed) as per 2b of Ministerial Instructions for TRPs.

These men and women are most fearful of returning to their countries. Their alleged trafficker, *Jose Callejas*, is originally from Guatemala and according to the survivors, is a former member of the Guatemalan Army with family connections to *Manuel Callejas*, a retired General sentenced in May 2018 to thirty year's imprisonment for involvement in crimes against humanity.

We would appreciate your immediate attention to this matter to ensure these victims of human trafficking are not subject to deportation and continue to receive the protection and rehabilitation they require.

Sincerely,



Daniel Christmas
Senator
Co-Chair

Arnold Viersen
Member of Parliament
Co-Chair

Robert-Falcon Ouellette
Member of Parliament
Co-Chair

Christine Moore
Member of Parliament
Co-Chair

Enc: Email from Susan Orlando, Provincial Coordinator, Ontario Human Trafficking Prosecution Team