

December 5, 2025

Rt. Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Lena Metledge Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
lenametlege.diab@parl.gc.ca

BY EMAIL

Re. Our concerns regarding Bill C-12

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Minister Diab,

On behalf of the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, we are writing to you to express our grave concerns with several provisions of Bill C-12, the *Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act*.

This legislation would authorize the government to share potentially highly sensitive personal information, including such things as changes to someone's gender identity, and a person's refugee status, which could expose vulnerable persons to risk. While the legislation does provide that such information sharing is subject to limitations prescribed by regulation, we do not know what those regulations will be, nor if they will provide sufficient protections.

Bill C-12 gives the government the power to cancel or suspend immigration documents and applications *en masse*, based on an undefined assessment of the "public interest", without individualized assessment or procedural safeguards. Most concerning, it arbitrarily cuts off protections to foreign nationals who have been in Canada for more than a year, even if developments in their home countries mean that they can no longer return safely. This could result in returning people to war zones or countries in which a new government regime is specifically targeting people of that group on the basis of their religion, ethnicity, sexuality or gender identity. As such, it flies in the face of the principle of non-refoulement, the core principle undergirding the 1951 Refugee Convention.

With the United States increasingly adopting policies and actions that violate human rights, including measures to limit and deny refugee claims, we also believe that the U.S. can no

longer be accurately described as a “safe third country.” Accordingly, we call on your government to end the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States.

For decades, Canada has been known around the world as a safe place for people who have been uprooted and seek protection. Immigrants and refugees have helped build up our country in countless ways. For us as Christians, however, the call to welcome and protect refugees goes even deeper than national interest. Our scriptures call us to welcome the stranger as if welcoming Christ himself. We remember that Jesus himself, as an infant, had to flee his home country due to persecution. Our parishes have sponsored refugees and walked alongside newcomers, including asylum seekers, as they seek safety, protection, and support. We urge you to uphold Canada’s commitment to the rights and dignity of refugees and withdraw Bill C-12.

Yours faithfully,

Elin Goulden
Social Justice & Advocacy Consultant,
Anglican Diocese of Toronto

The Rev. Canon Maggie Helwig,
Chair, Social Justice & Advocacy Committee
Anglican Diocese of Toronto