



Black Legal Action Centre

Suite 221 – 720 Spadina Avenue • Toronto • Ontario • M5S 2T9

Saturday, October 29, 2022

Honourable Sean Fraser, MP

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

House of Commons

Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

Email: sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca

VIA EMAIL

**Our System, Our Children, Our Responsibility:
A Campaign against the Deportation of Child Welfare Survivors**

Dear Minister Fraser,

Thank you very much for receiving the Black Legal Action Centre's (BLAC) question, on behalf of *Our System, Our Children, Our Responsibility: A Campaign against the Deportation of Child Welfare Survivors*, at the OCASI 2022 Leaders' Forum on October 27, 2022.

This coalition, steered by BLAC, is concerned about deportations of Black child welfare survivors. We are aware of a number of cases in which people:

- came to Canada as children
- were placed in the care of a child welfare agency, foster family, or in kinship care
- were caught up in what is referred to as the child welfare-to-prison pipeline, and
- are now at risk of being deported because they have been deemed inadmissible due to criminality

While they were in the child welfare system (i.e., in the care of the State), the State had an obligation to obtain citizenship for them. Now, because of the state's failure, people are at risk of being deported from the only country they have ever really known.

This is a grave injustice. An injustice that you can help address by creating a Public Policy under s. 25 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. We have appended a draft Public Policy to this letter for your consideration.

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We look forward to hearing from you and your staff about next steps.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Moya Teklu
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Moya Teklu (she/her)
Executive Director and General Counsel
Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC)

Cc/

Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers (CARL)

Canadian Civil Liberties Association

Chinese Southeast Asian Legal Clinic (CSALC)

Collective of Child Welfare Survivors (CCWS)

Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change (COP-COC)

Midaynta Community Services

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)

Peacebuilders Canada

Refugee Law Office (RLO)

South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario (SALCO)