

December 10, 2018

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
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Email : pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the signatories of this letter, are representatives of Churches and Communities of faith. All our religious traditions invite us to be in constant commitment to the poorest of the poor, be in favour of social justice and to defend the human dignity of all people. It is these fundamental principles that guide us when we look upon the fate of Honduran and Central-American migrants, many of whom are women and children, who have walked to the Southern border of the United States seeking protection. The situation in which they find themselves, and how they are being treated, are unacceptable to us. We note that their basic rights are violated day in and day out.

The decision of the President of the United States, his declarations linking the migrants to terrorists and the imposition of a military response at the border are worrisome. They are fundamental violations of the Geneva Convention on the status of refugees (notably articles 31 and 33) that condemn the criminalization of irregular arrivals and requires that refugee claimants not be considered a threat to a country's national security without proof.

On this International Human Rights Day, and the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we write to ask the Canadian Government to intervene and condemn the human rights violations that are occurring and that solutions that respect the migrants' basic human rights be found. We believe that the Canadian Government can and must play a major role during this crisis happening in the region.

Be assured, Mister Prime Minister, of our gratitude for all interventions and acts of hospitality that the government takes for our migrant brothers and sisters from Central America.

List of signatories

The Rev. Daniel Cho
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The Presbyterian Church in Canada

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Beverly Shepard
Presiding Clerk
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