

Summary

Thousands across Canada and the United States believe the Safe Third Country Agreement is discriminatory and harmful towards refugees. There no longer exists any rationale for applying this policy, particularly considering the ever-increasing global refugee crisis and consistent anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies within the current U.S. Administration. The STCA should be rescinded once and for all.

Issues

- The STCA denies refugee claimants the chance to seek protection.
- The STCA dismisses refugee claimants without a fair hearing.
- The STCA encourages refugee claimants to embark on dangerous journeys.
- The STCA attempts to unjustly avoid Canada's international obligations to refugees.
- The STCA is out of step with the realities of the current global refugee crisis.

Background

According to the UNHCR, there are currently 25.4 million refugees worldwide. At the same time, the U.S. has become increasingly hostile towards immigrants and refugees. In this context, Canada must do its part to respond to growing global demands for refugee protection. Prior to the implementation of the STCA in 2004, refugee claimants from the U.S. were able to simply present their case at a Canada-U.S. Port of Entry. Now, in order to be considered for protection, most refugees are forced to take sometimes perilous journeys to have their cases heard in Canada. This has put them at risk and resulted in irregular border crossings, eroding public confidence in Canada's refugee system.

Rationale

By rescinding the STCA, Canada will allow refugees from the U.S. to once again have access to protection in Canada. This will greatly reduce irregular border crossings, restore public confidence in Canada's refugee system, and uphold the rights of each individual refugee.

Recommendations

Canada should live up to our international obligations for refugee protection by upholding the rights of each refugee to receive a fair hearing. We should restore access to refugee protection at the Canada-U.S. border, and rescind the STCA with the U.S. in order to provide safety for refugees and to maintain our tradition as a global leader for welcoming refugees.

Contact

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