

Doing Justice Being Peace

- 15 December 2023 -

Weekly Newsletter



December 18 is *International Migrants Day*. People migrate in search of freedom, opportunity, and a better life. Driven by war, poverty, and climate change, many are forced to leave their homes. The lack of safe migration routes exposes vulnerable groups to abuse and exploitation. Migration should be a choice, not a necessity.



The *International Day of Human Solidarity*, on December 20, emphasizes the need for those who benefit the most to help those who suffer or benefit the least.

This is a day to remind governments to honour their promises and international agreements to alleviate poverty and enhance development in the poorest regions of the globe.



Migrant workers are vital to Canada, contributing to the hospitality, agriculture, caregiving, transportation, and construction sectors.

They often endure abuse, low wages, and poor living conditions due to Canada's closed work permit system. This system restricts workers to a single employer, limiting their movements, choices, and their ability to assert their rights.

The United Nations Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery condemned the closed work permit system in Canada because it “makes migrant workers vulnerable to modern forms of slavery, as they cannot report abuses without fear of deportation.”

The dignity of migrant workers can be reclaimed with unconditional open work permits and clear pathways to permanent residency. This would allow migrant workers to freely change employers and live without the fear of exploitation and unsafe working conditions.

To support these reforms, visit: openworknow.ca



*Our most meaningful work is to make
a home in our hearts for others.*

- St. Marianne Cope

What does ‘home’ mean to you – a place, a memory, a person, a feeling? How can we extend this to those who are far from their traditional homes and loved ones?

Newsletter by: Yolande Whalen (Justice Coordinator)