Dear Member of Parliament,

I am a member of NAME Presbyterian Church in PLACE. In July of 2020, The Presbyterian Church in Canada wrote the government of Canada, asking it to address the injustices faced by migrant workers. I am writing to you now because many of those injustices still exist.

Canada relies on the hundreds of thousands of temporary foreign workers that fill essential positions, often in low paying service and labour jobs. These workers care for family members and contribute to their communities and the economy. Yet the vulnerability of migrant workers is well documented. Many must rely on their employers for housing, access to health care and community services. Workers often face gruelling conditions and long hours. Exploitation and abuse occur without a clear path to remedy for fear of job loss or deportation. Provinces do not have consistent and sufficient legislation to safeguard the rights of migrant workers.

The impacts of COVID-19 have exacerbated these challenges. A report from the Caregivers’ Action Centre (October 2020) outlines conditions where the closure of schools and employers working from home increased and intensified caregivers’ work, sometimes without getting paid for extra hours of work. The overwhelming majority of these caregivers are racialized women, many of whom were cut off from social and personal supports and were even unable to send needed remittances home to family members abroad. Public health measures that aim to stop the spread of the virus are necessary but have also worsened situations where human rights have been violated or neglected.

The situation is complicated but there are steps the government could take now that would make significant improvements to the situation of migrant workers:

* **Sign and ratify the Domestic Workers Convention No. 189**. Doing so would strengthen domestic workers rights by ensuring more stringent safeguards are in place for their conditions of employment, and by addressing issues such as equity in wages, hours, and days off.
* **Ratify the International Convention of the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families**. Doing so would be a second significant step to address the vulnerabilities of migrant workers in Canada by providing clear guidelines and standards for governments, communities, and employers.
* Ensure better protection of the rights of migrant workers by providing, and regularizing, **fair and accessible pathways to permanent residency** without arbitrary caps.

The church believes that all people are deserving of dignity and respect. Human rights conventions provide a framework for necessary standards for the protection of human dignity and wellbeing.

Will you support these important steps? I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,