*(Date)*

The Honourable Marc Miller, P.C. M.P.

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

**Re: Urgent Call for Action – Tackling Critical Delays in Refugee Family Reunification**

Dear Minister,

***Did you know children and spouses wait more than 50 months to reunite with their family member who has been accepted as a refugee in Canada?***

We are writing to ask you to reunite refugee families quickly by issuing Temporary Resident Permits to family members abroad of Protected Persons.

Our organization is deeply concerned about these drawn-out and unsafe delays for refugee family reunification *(insert organization’s riding, and number of protected persons you are servicing- if applicable).*

The lengthy delays are caused by the Government of Canada’s cap on the number of individuals who can receive Permanent Residence as refugees, or as family members of refugees. Currently are fewer refugees can receive permanent residence than apply each year, causing substantial and growing backlogs.

This is unfortunate and objectionable as:

* Families are kept apart longer, significantly impacting their ability to integrate, contribute to, and participate in Canadian society.
* The long delays violate Canada’s international human rights commitments to reunite children promptly with their parents. They also fail to reflect the principles and values of our immigration system.
* Long separation inflicts suffering and harm on spouses and young children separated from their family members in Canada.
* Prolonged separation has particularly detrimental impacts on minor children. Their well-being, physical health and ability to perform in school suffer, making integration difficult in Canada upon their arrival.

**The well-being of thousands of vulnerable children and hard-working families is at stake.**

*(Insert your organization’s case example here or accounts of observed impacts of delays by your organization)*

Fortunately, there is a **feasible and short-term solution** to this problem. Issuing Temporary Resident Permits (TRPs) allows family members of refugees to live in Canada while they wait for their Permanent Residence application to be processed.

Our organization supports this solution which has been proposed by the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Council for Refugees.

Attached to my letter is a document provided by the Refugee Family Reunification Project (<https://refugeefamilyreunification.ca/en/advocacy>). The document explains this recommendation.

Issuing TRPs to immediate family members of refugees is beneficial because:

* Refugees are entitled to reunification with their immediate family members; in nearly all cases, reunification is inevitable: it’s not a matter of ‘if’ but ‘when’.
* This solution is administratively feasible (via Ministerial instructions).
* It would have minimal financial implications and would reduce the strain on the Federal Court of Canada and Department of Justice resources.
* Canada would be on track to meet its legal obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedom.

Considering the current unreasonable and unacceptable delays faced by refugee families seeking reunification, it is essential the Federal Government issues Temporary Resident Permits (TRPs) to immediate family members of refugees.

We are keen to discuss this matter further and provide additional information. We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you.

Please consider that the longer it takes to tackle this issue, the longer a child goes without their loved one.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

Yours sincerely,

(Signature)

*(Your Name)*

*(Title)*

cc: Your Member of Parliament (if your organization is a local)

Attach to your letter this document: <https://refugeefamilyreunification.ca/sites/default/files/rfr-advocacy-campaign-document.pdf>