

2014-02-02

An Open Letter To: Chris Alexander (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration), Steven Blaney (Minister of Public Safety), Diane De Courcy (Québec Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities), the Canadian Border Services Agency and believers in social justice everywhere:

We, the members of the Carleton University Human Rights Society, are writing to express our outrage and dismay at the situation facing Montréal resident Ivonne Hernandez. On January 28, the Canadian Border Services Agency decided that she would be deported on February 7<sup>th</sup>. They have refused to allow her to remain in Canada for a review of the decision to grant custody of her child to his father. The date of this review is March 6<sup>th</sup>. Should Ivonne be deported, she would be separated from her son, perhaps for life.

We are writing to demand that Ivonne Hernandez be allowed to stay in Canada. Ivonne should never have been detained. Ivonne should have permanent status in Canada. Ivonne should have protection from conjugal violence. And, most importantly, Ivonne, a loving and caring mother, should not be separated from her son.

Do you believe that it is in Canada's best interests to separate a mother from her baby? We expect that you agree with us – it is not. We ask you to help build a society that promotes justice, equality, and compassion. We ask that you rectify the deplorable situation confronting Ivonne Hernandez.

We are appalled that this travesty has occurred. Please ensure that it does not get worse.

In solidarity,

Carleton University Human Rights Society