

REFUGEES WELCOME! OPEN THE BORDERS!

(September 5, 2015, MONTREAL) In the context of the recent deaths of Alan Kurdi, 3, his brother Ghalib, 5, and mother Rehanna - refugees trying to flee to safety - we protest today to denounce the Canadian government and their complicit role in the deaths of refugees and migrants. Today's protest is part of cross-Canada mobilizations in more than 20 towns and cities, as well as mobilizations worldwide in support of refugees and migrants.

We protest today in recognition of Indigenous struggles for sovereignty and self-determination. We can't speak meaningfully about apartheid globally, and unjust migration policies, without also speaking about the realities of apartheid here in Canada.

We join our voices with millions around the world who declare REFUGEES WELCOME. We support grassroots solidarity efforts to support refugees. We denounce the inaction of governments who have the resources to act immediately in support of the safety of refugees worldwide. We denounce in particular the Canadian government, who have increased structural barriers to the acceptance of refugees in the past decade.

We are inspired by the courage and bravery of migrants, millions worldwide, who seek better lives, as human beings have done for centuries and centuries. We assert that all human beings have the freedom to move, the freedom to stay, and the freedom to return. On that basis, we call for open borders to all migrants and refugees.

As we join with millions across the globe to scream REFUGEES WELCOME, Solidarity Across Borders, who have called for today's protest, also re-iterates the main demands we have made for the past decade in Montreal:

- STATUS FOR ALL! Status For All means that all residents of Canada will get the documentation they need so they can access

basic services and the same rights as anyone else.

- NO TO DEPORTATIONS! We stand in solidarity with those who struggle to resist their deportations and forced removals. We denounce the violence of deportations that breaks up families and uproots people from their communities.
- NO TO DETENTIONS! We demand the immediate release of all detainees in immigration detention facilities, and organize for the closing of all detention centers.
- NO TO DOUBLE PUNISHMENT! "Double punishment" is the term used to describe the unjust policy used against non-citizens who face deportation after being punished for a criminal conviction. Double punishment is the direct result of racial profiling.

We are also demonstrating to affirm a SOLIDARITY CITY in Montreal. A Solidarity City is the creation of a community that rejects a system that engenders poverty and precarity, not solely for immigrants and refugees, but also for other Montrealers confronting these same realities. We are opposing fear, isolation and division and we strike back with solidarity, organized mutual aid, and direct action.

We believe that everyone has the right to migrate, the right to resist forced displacement, and the right return to their homelands if they so choose.

If you would like to get more involved in migrant and refugee struggles in Montreal, get in touch with us!

SOLIDARITY ACROSS BORDERS