

“Is Canada Losing its Soul?”

Information Sheet on *Bill C-31: Protecting Canada’s Immigration System Act*

Bill C-31 is currently being debated in Parliament. It proposes the following changes to Canada’s system of refugee protection:

- **Mandatory imprisonment** of certain refugees for **12 months without a hearing**.

(This is illegal in Canada according to the Supreme Court.)

- **Children** of these refugees **will be either imprisoned or separated from their parents** upon arrival in Canada.

(This violates Canada’s international commitments as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.)

- If these refugees receive a positive determination in their case they are further punished by being **prohibited from applying for permanent residence and from bringing their families to Canada for at least five years**.

(This violates the stated objectives of Canada’s Refugee Protection System to support the integration of refugees into Canadian society and facilitate reunification with their families.)

- The Minister of Immigration has single-handed power to decide which countries are safe. Refugees from these countries, even if they are members of a **persecuted minority** in that country, will have **no access to an appeal and will be fast-tracked through the system in as few as 30 days**.

(This violates rights of due process such as equal access to justice and adequate timing to gather evidence for a case.)

- The Government may apply at any time to **strip previously recognized refugees in Canada of their permanent residence status and deport them** if conditions in their country of origin should change for the better.

(This prevents refugees from having the long-term security they need to build a new life in Canada and denies them the fundamental rights of other residents and citizens of Canada.)

If you are concerned about the reforms proposed by Bill C-31, act now to prevent the bill from becoming Canadian law!

Here are some things you can do:

- ✓ **Be Informed. Inform Others. Contact your MP. Contact Stephen Harper and Jason Kenney. Sign a Petition.**
- ✓ **Consult the Canadian Council for Refugees at <http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-reform> for up-to-date information, creative action ideas, and sample letters to your MP.**