



BIOS

Forced Labour Happens in Canada: call for justice and protection for precarious migrants

Migrant workers

'MARIA' is a national of the Philippines. She came to Canada with her employers on the false pretense that she was accompanying the family for a 2-month vacation. She had been working for the family as a live-in caregiver in the Middle East. Maria entered Canada on a visitor visa arranged by her employers. A week after her arrival in Canada, Maria's employers informed her that they were not on vacation, but had moved to Canada permanently. Maria's passport was confiscated and she proceeded to work as a live-in caregiver for the family in Vancouver. This was one of her several labour trafficking experiences. She remains with precarious immigration status.

RICO ANGUSTIA is a migrant worker from Philippines, who came to Canada in 2012 to work in the food processing industry. Rico and other workers were recruited by a Canadian temporary employment agency with the promise of get better salary and pathways to Canadian permanent residence. Rico Angustia has been deceived and experienced labor exploitation in Canada. Currently he works and survives without immigration status.

Resource persons

SHELLEY GILBERT is the Coordinator of Social Work Services of Legal Assistance of Windsor, where she has worked since 1993. She is the Chair of the Windsor Essex Anti-Human Trafficking Action Group (WEFIGHT), which provides support and advocacy for domestic and international human trafficking survivors. She trains NGOs, law enforcement agencies on how to strengthen services for survivors. She is a sought-after speaker on models of collaboration, policy gaps and best practices. Shelley is also the Co-Chair of the CCR Anti-Trafficking Committee.

NATALIE DROLET joined Migrant Workers Centre as Executive Director – Staff Lawyer in November 2014. Before joining MWC, she worked at a community legal clinic in Ottawa, and for an NGO in Phnom Penh, Cambodia where she managed a legal clinic and advocated to advance the rights of domestic workers. Natalie is also on the CCR Anti-Trafficking Committee and was one of the advisors on the CCR legal training methodology on trafficking, which included the creation of the guide on Human Trafficking & the Law.

SUE WILSON is the Director of the Office for Systemic Justice at the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada. She is a past chair of the CCR Anti-Trafficking Committee. Sue's work has focused on economic and social justice in areas ranging from human trafficking, to affordable housing, to poverty reduction.

LEAH WOOLNER coordinates the anti-trafficking program at Movement Against Rape and Incest (MCVI), a feminist organisation dedicated to supporting survivors of sexual assault, particularly women with precarious immigration status who have experienced gender-based violence.

LUIS ALBERTO MATA is a Colombian refugee, trained in human rights and in immigration & refugee issues. Luis works at the FCJ Refugee Centre as an Anti-Human Program Coordinator. Luis is member of the CCR Anti-Human Trafficking and CCR Migrant Workers Committee. He coordinates the Toronto Counter Human Trafficking Network and the FCJ Migrant Workers Mobile Program.

ELVIRA TRUGLIA is the CCR Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. She is responsible for developing and supporting a national anti-trafficking network, made up of human rights and social justice advocates and front-line workers. Her role includes managing awareness-raising campaigns, policy analysis and advocacy, capacity building, as well as engaging and convening policy makers, legal practitioners, NGOs, funders, academics, the community sector and other allies. She is the staff lead on the CCR Anti-Trafficking Committee and collaborates with/mobilizes partner organizations, volunteers, and allies.