

# FALL/WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER



Please join us for an inspiring evening of art, food and music to celebrate the strength of refugees and the kindness of those who welcome them in their new communities.

## MUSEUM WITHOUT A HOME

Real objects. Real stories. Symbols of friendship and solidarity.

We will be presenting Museum Without A Home In partnership with Oxfam Canada and OCASI, at the CSI Spadina Lounge on November 6.

Join us for a memorable evening filled with art, food and music to celebrate the strength of refugees and the kindness of those who welcome them to their new communities.

The "Museum without a Home" tour is an exhibit and event, organized by Oxfam Canada, that will travel to five Canadian cities (Kingston, Toronto, Halifax, Winnipeg and Victoria). The goal of the tour is to celebrate the strength of refugees, and the kindness and compassion that they are shown in their new countries.

"It is very important for us to be part of "Museum Without a Home" because it is an opportunity for refugees to tell their stories through the symbolic artifacts. Also, this exhibition will send a positive message regarding all the contributions from refugees who are part of the tapestry of diversity in Canada which is what makes Canada a better country" said Loly Rico, co-director of FCJ Refugee Centre.

Museum Without a Home will take place on November 6 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at CSI Spadina Lounge (192 Spadina Avenue) in Toronto. The free event will include music, food and speakers, including: Lauren Ravon, Oxfam Canada's Director of Policy and Campaigns and NAMES OF PARTNER SPEAKERS

## Demonstrators to rally outside Toronto court in support of legal challenge to flawed Safe Third Country Agreement



NOV  
4

### Showing Up for Refugees: Challenging the STCA in Court

Public · Hosted by Amnesty International Canada and 3 others

✓ Going ▾

➦ Share ▾

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🕒 Monday, November 4, 2019 at 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM  
Next Week · 8–9°C Cloudy

📍 Federal Court of Canada  
180 Queen St. West, Toronto, Ontario M5V 3X3

Show Map

About

Discussion

From November 4th to 8th the Federal Court of Canada will hear a challenge to the designation of the U.S. as a safe third country for refugees. The court will hear that sending refugee claimants back to the US violates Canadian law, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and Canada's binding international human rights obligations.

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), Amnesty International (AI) and The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC), alongside an individual litigant and her children, initiated the legal challenge in July 2017. The hearings are taking place at the Federal Court of Canada in Toronto, at 180 Queen Street West.

"We are asking the court to look at the impact of the Safe Third Country Agreement on

women, men and children who can't find safety in the U.S. and to assess the legality of Canada sending them back to detention and potential deportation to persecution," said Claire Roque, CCR President. "The impacts are particularly severe for women, because of U.S. policies that close the door on women fleeing gender-based violence. The conclusion is clear to us: the U.S. cannot be considered a safe country for refugees."

"The Canadian Council of Churches has long advocated that every human being who is physically present in Canada has a legal right to life, liberty and security of person under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms," said Peter Noteboom, General Secretary of The Canadian Council of Churches. "The U.S.-Canada Safe Third Country Agreement stands in the way of guaranteeing those legal rights."

"The time for Canada to rely on the adequacy of the U.S. protection regime has come to a definitive end," said Justin Mohammed, Human Rights Law and Policy Campaigner at Amnesty International. "In the absence of action on the part of Canada's elected representatives to acknowledge the serious shortcomings of the U.S. refugee protection system, we now turn to the courts to ensure that Canada's domestic and international legal obligations are upheld."

The organizations and individuals leading the legal challenge have submitted extensive evidence that the U.S. system fails in many ways to protect refugees, and that people turned back from Canada under the Safe Third Country Agreement are at risk of being sent in turn by the U.S. to face persecution, torture and even death in their home countries.

Under the Safe Third Country Agreement, implemented in 2004, refugees who present themselves at a Canada-U.S. border post seeking to make a refugee claim in Canada

are, with limited exceptions, denied access to the Canadian refugee system and immediately returned to the United States. Since the Agreement does not apply to people who cross into Canada other than at an official border post, people in need of safety in Canada have been crossing in significant numbers in between ports of entry. Withdrawing from the Agreement would not only ensure that Canada meets its legal obligations, but would also allow people to present themselves in an orderly way at ports of entry, ending irregular crossings.

The rally will be held outside the Court (180 Queen Street West) in support of the legal challenge on Monday, November 4 at 12:30pm.





## Homeless Connect Toronto

It was great to join the Homeless Connect Toronto.

The FCJ Youth Network was providing information about FCJ Refugee Centre services to precarious populations attending the event.

This is one of the largest events that connected over 1000 guests to over 85 agencies across Toronto.

During the event, participants received free services and information to meet the needs of people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.



# FCJ Refugee Centre

*Walking With Uprooted People*

If you are in need of community and social services, **call 211** for help!

## FIND OUT MORE:



[www.hctoronto.org](http://www.hctoronto.org)



[@HConnectTo](https://twitter.com/HConnectTo)



[info@hctoronto.org](mailto:info@hctoronto.org)

#HCT7





## Youth Updates!



It's our pleasure to provide an update about all the incredible things that have been happening with the FCJ Youth Network in the last couple of months. We've been very busy, and have been having an incredible time with so many projects!



After an amazing summer which included trips to Tiny Beach and Sanctuary North, along with involvement in many community events, the painting of a community mural, and the beginning stages of creating our own film, we've had a wonderful start to Fall as well! One of the highlights of the year has been the opportunity to attend the annual Youth Action Gathering in October.

It was hosted by the Canadian Council for Refugees in Moncton, New Brunswick and we had a wonderful time!.



In preparation for this trip, we did a lot of fund-raising including hosting two community dinners, and the creation and selling of personalized Tote Bags!

At the YAG, members of the group had the chance to participate in bilingual workshops learning about leadership skills, community engagement, and advocating for the rights of all newcomer youth living in Canada. As well as attending the Moncton Afro Fest Gala, and attending Hopewell Rocks - a once in a lifetime opportunity!



Finally, some members of the Youth Network and our Youth Coordinator were invited to present our 'Youth to You' Workshop at OCASI's annual Professional Development Conference. It was an



honour to present, and a privilege to have the voices of the Youth delivering information to professionals from all over Ontario.

All in all, it's been a busy but exciting few months! Stay tuned for more updates from the Youth!!

## Anti-Human Trafficking

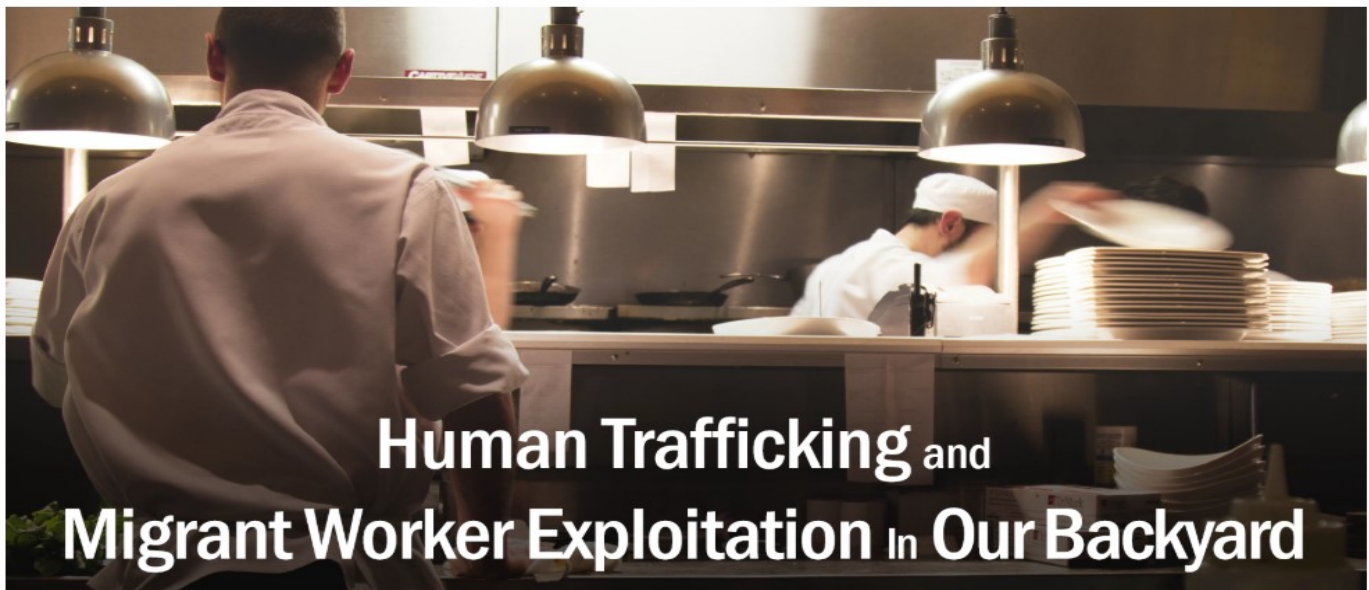
FCJ's Anti-Human Trafficking Program has been busy over the past few months. This past month, FCJ's Co-Director, Loly Rico and Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator, Luis Mata presented at a 2-day conference called "Combatting Labour Trafficking" at the University of Ontario Tech. The Conference was well-attended, and provided an opportunity to share with others, FCJ's work in anti-human trafficking, cases of international trafficking, immigration and ways to support.

This Conference also instigated the creation of an upcoming working group in the Durham region to tackle human trafficking for labour exploitation. To continue our work in raising public awareness of human trafficking, opportunities to collaborate and prevention, FCJ's Anti-Human Trafficking Program is one of the key organizers of an upcoming forum called "Human Trafficking and Migrant Worker Exploitation in Our Backyard" in Kitchener-Waterloo on Nov. 22 2019.

This forum is a crucial opportunity to discuss the many migrant workers who come to Canada and whom are subject to labour trafficking and exploitation, due to systemic shortfalls of Canadian immigration and labour laws. The lack of viable pathways to permanent residency, and tied work permits, are among the many policies creating conditions for exploitation.

### Human Trafficking and Migrant Worker Exploitation in our Backyard

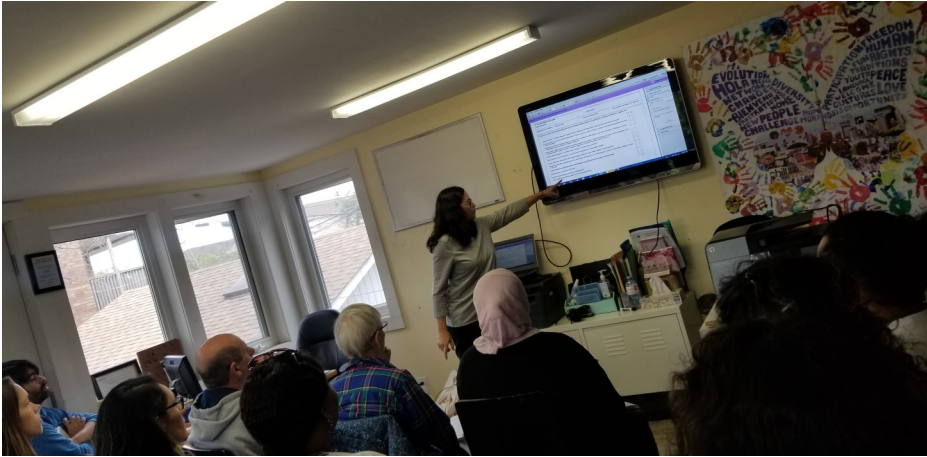
#### Kitchener-Waterloo Area Forum



Friday, 22 November, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm  
Ray Hope Community Centre, 659 King Street East Kitchener  
REGISTRATION: <http://www.cnee.ca/kwforum/>



## Welcoming volunteers, placement and pro-bono students

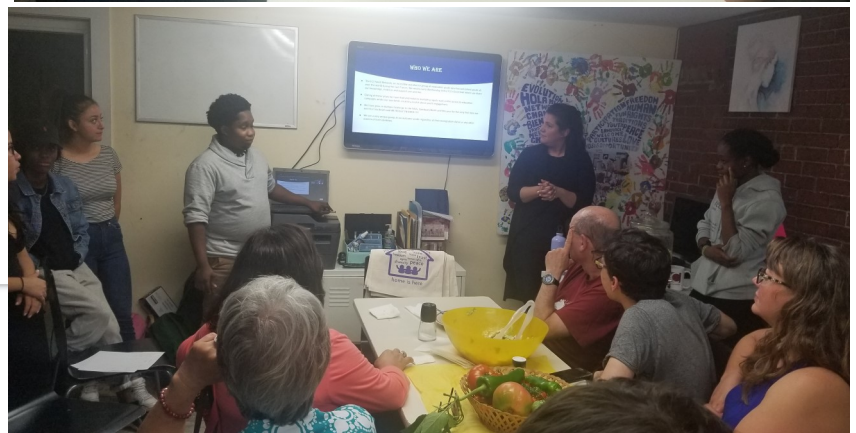


FCJ Refugee Centre wants to welcome the new group of volunteers and placement students that become part of FCJ Refugee Centre family. From September to October we had several trainings as part of the orientation for new members.

## Thank you for all your contributions

Thanks to your support we were able to make it at the Youth Action Gathering, YAG.

The YAG was hosted by the Canadian Council for Refugees in Moncton, New Brunswick and we had a wonderful time! In preparation for this trip, we did a lot of fundraising including hosting two community dinners, and the creation and selling of personalized Tote Bags!



# CONTACT US



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**208 Oakwood Ave. Toronto ON M6E 2V4  
416- 469 9754**

**info@fcjrefugeecentre.org  
www.fcjrefugeecentre.org**