

Advocacy Letter Project

Group # 4

Natasha Ortega

Amanda Castro

Brandon Palacios

Daniela Cairo

Kristine Paraggua

Yusuf Ozen

COIL Experience

Dr. Luspa & Professor Kaur

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Advocacy Letter

April 3, 2022

The Honorable President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

The Honorable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
Langevin Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau:

Today's poverty and economic imbalances push human rights issues in the United States and Canada. Certain human rights are out of reach for many citizens living in poverty. This includes the lack of access to safe work essentials, housing, education, health services, clean water, and basic sanitation (Osberg, 2000). In addition, they may be unable to participate in political dynamism or exonerate their rights in court due to their poverty. They may also suffer unequal treatment or bias due to their standing as poor individuals. Ultimately, they may encounter unfair debt limitations and unequal treatment due to state and local governments' increasing support for offender-funded criminal justice systems (Osberg, 2000). It is wrong to continue these issues and poverty in the United States and Canada. Therefore, our position seeks to explore the corners between rights violations and poverty in the United States and Canada and advocate for reforms that will end them.

As you are both aware, The United States and Canada's history of poverty are similar, with both having high poverty rates even though being some of the wealthiest countries. The rates of poverty in both countries are still high. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2020), the official poverty rate in 2020 was 11.4%, up 1.0% point from 2019, the first increase in poverty after five consecutive annual reductions. In addition, 37.2 million people were living in poverty in 2020, about 3.3 million more than in 2019. Also, the median family income was \$67,521 in 2020, a reduction of 2.9% from the 2019 median of \$69,560. According to The Government of Canada (2022), the overall poverty rate in Canada was calculated at 6.4% in 2020, down from 10.3% in 2019 and 14.5% in 2015. In addition, as of 2020, about 2.4 million Canadians lived below the poverty line (Canada, 2022). Finally, the median after-tax earnings of a family with children increased by 4.7% to \$110,700 from 2019 to 2020.

As leaders of states and provinces of the United States and Canada, we urge both countries to work together to develop an action plan that will allow people living in poverty lines to get their basics needs. The action plan calls for both governments to:

- Expand shelter programs to help survive a mixture of economic crises by fulfilling needs and providing stability for all people.
- Create good-paying job positions in key enterprises with influential worker protections to reduce the load on working families.
- Support affordable, high-quality childcare and early childhood education.
- Raise the minimum wage to improve living standards for millions of Americans and Canadians living on poverty lines.

President and Prime Minister, Canadians, and Americans across both countries are looking for both of you to take action to protect and provide them solutions to help satisfy the basic needs of each of them and their families. These steps would dramatically reduce hunger, improve quality of life, and decrease the number of people living in poverty lines. Therefore, we look forward to working with both of you on this and other proposals to improve the lives of millions of people.

Sincerely,

COIL Experience Group 4

Florida International University & Seneca College

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