

Resolution in Support of Deepan and against Double Punishment

Whereas Canadian immigration law discriminates against immigrants by punishing them twice for the same criminal offence, first with a criminal sentence and then by deporting them;

Whereas the targetting of racialized and immigrant communities in Canada criminalizes a disproportionate number of people of colour;

Whereas the policy of double punishment of immigrants reinforces a negative perception of immigrants, implying a false link between criminality and immigration;

Whereas brother Deepan Budlakoti is a construction worker and a member of our community;

Whereas brother Deepan was born in Canada, his entire family lives here, he has lived here his entire life, he grew up believing he was a citizen and his home is Canada;

Whereas Canada, under its policy of double punishment, is trying to deport brother Deepan to India, where he has never lived, has no connections, and is not a citizen;

Whereas Canada has imposed, indefinitely, a curfew and other conditions on brother Deepan, severely limiting his freedom;

Whereas Canada has stripped brother Deepan of his status, denying him access to healthcare and social services and requiring that he apply for a permit in order to return to work;

Whereas Immigration Canada arbitrarily refused to issue a work permit to brother Deepan until political pressure and a court order forced officials to issue the permit so that he could return to work and earn his living;

Whereas the Canadian Labour Congress and a growing number of organizations and community members have endorsed Deepan's campaign;

Whereas an injury to one is an injury to all, and the labour movement embraces the rights of all workers;

Therefore be it resolved that ((NAME OF LOCAL/UNION/LABOUR COUNCIL/AFFILIATE)) endorses the Statement in Support of Deepan and against Double Punishment and its demands that Deepan be immediately freed from the conditions imposed on him and that his citizenship be restored to him.

Be it further resolved that ((NAME OF LOCAL/UNION/LABOUR COUNCIL/AFFILIATE)) writes to the Minister of Immigration of Canada, asking him to act immediately to restore Deepan's citizenship status.

Be it finally resolved that ((NAME OF LOCAL/UNION/LABOUR COUNCIL/AFFILIATE)) contributes ((AMOUNT)) to brother Deepan's legal defence.