

What you can do

10. Join movements against Bill C-31 or organize a protest in your city.

9. Write, email or call your Member of Parliament to tell him or her why you oppose Bill C-31. Find contact information at: <http://bit.ly/qE5yCU>

8. Write, email or call Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to tell him why you are opposed to Bill C-31.

7. Talk to your family, friends, colleagues and others you know about the bill and what it will do.

6. Copy this booklet and share it with others.

5. Ask well-known individuals in your community to speak out about their concerns over Bill C-31.

4. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper to voice your opposition to Bill C-31.

3. If you came to Canada as a refugee or a refugee claimant or if you know of someone with this experience who is now a citizen, **share** or ask him or her to share his or her story and reasons why we need to protect refugees from Bill C-31

2. Share information about Bill C-31 in your social media networks. 'Like' **stopbillc31** on Facebook.

1. Continue your efforts to reverse this bill. Make it an issue during the next federal election.

For more information:
ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-reform

Or find out more from these organizations:



AiDDA



Protect refugees



What is the *Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act*?

Bill C-31 is a new law from the Harper government that proposes to dramatically change the way that Canada welcomes refugees. Bill C-31 will affect individuals and families who flee their home country and come to Canada to ask for protection. Canada has a system in place to hear the stories of these individuals (called refugee claimants) and to decide if they meet the international and Canadian definitions of needing refugee protection: Are they refugees? Should Canada offer them a new, permanent home?

Bill C-31 will change the way that Canada decides who is a refugee. The bill proposes to treat refugee claimants differently depending on the country they came from or the method they used to come to Canada.

As a result, several sections of Bill C-31 violate Canadian law (the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*) and international law (the *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*).



Why is it important?

Bill C-31 will:

- **Allow the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to designate certain countries as 'safe', despite the dangers for some people**

Refugee claimants from countries that the Minister considers 'safe' will face an even faster process (30 days instead of 45). While a country may be safe for many of its citizens, for it may not be for all. For example, if Canada considers Mexico a 'safe' country, a refugee claimant fleeing organized crime in Mexico may not have enough time to prepare the required evidence for officials in Canada. No exceptions. Yet, at the same time, Canada discourages tourism to certain regions of Mexico it considers unsafe for Canadians. Is that fair?

- **Deny refugees a fair chance to testify to decisionmakers**

Bill C-31 isn't flexible. It will allow a maximum of 60 days for refugee claimants to prepare their testimonies for Canadian officials. People who have suffered torture and other forms of violence and discrimination may need more time and flexibility.

- **Keep some refugee claimants in jail for many months**

Refugee claimants who are 'designated irregular arrivals' will automatically be put in detention. They will have to gather documents and prepare evidence for Canadian officials while they are there. Parents will have the choice to place their children in foster care or to keep them with them in detention.

- **Separate refugee families for long periods**

'Designated irregular arrivals' will not be allowed to travel overseas or to apply to have their family join them in Canada for 5 years, even if Canada offers them protection as a refugee.

Bill C-31 is a complex law and the Harper government hasn't asked Canadians if this is how we want to welcome refugees to Canada.