

FIDH calls on the Government of Canada to withdraw Bills C-2 and C-12, which represent an unprecedented rollback of migrants' rights

Bill C-2, *Act respecting certain measures relating to the security of the border between Canada and the United States and respecting other related security measures*, also called *Strong border act*, and Bill C-12, *Act to strengthen Canada's immigration system and border*, were introduced in June 2025 and October 2025, respectively. These legislative proposals represent an unprecedented setback for the rights of people with precarious immigration status in Canada. They herald a major setback for the right to asylum and threaten to drive large numbers of migrants to become undocumented.

These bills would make certain types of asylum claims inadmissible, thereby depriving many people of a fair and equitable refugee status determination process. A person would no longer be able to claim asylum if more than one year has passed since their initial entry into Canada. Access to asylum would also be completely blocked for anyone who entered Canada irregularly from the United States.

Bill C-2 and Bill C-12 threaten to deprive thousands of people of the right to have their asylum claims assessed by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, an independent tribunal. Many of them will now only be entitled to a Pre-removal risk assessment (PRRA), an extremely restrictive procedure with an extremely low approval rate, that depends on a civil servant's decision based solely on a paper file, rather than on a hearing held by an independent decision-maker. In short, these bills will make the risk of forced return (*refoulement*) much higher for many people.

RECALLING that FIDH is a federation of 188 member organizations working to defend all civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights;

RECALLING that Canada is bound by several international human rights instruments and must guide its actions by taking into account the right to asylum and the principles of human dignity, as set out in particular in the 1951 *Refugee Convention* and in the 2018 *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*;

RECALLING that all human beings are entitled to all rights and freedoms, from a perspective of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of rights, regardless of their migration status;

CONSIDERING that the current context, marked by climate change, armed conflict, and authoritarian drifts, particularly in the United States, is plunging entire populations into precariousness, increasing forced displacement, and forcing a growing number of people to migrate;

CONSIDERING that Canadian civil society has been actively mobilizing against Bills C-2 and C-12 since June 2025 and against the broader rollback of migrants' human rights;

FIDH expresses its deep concern about Bills C-2 and C-12 and calls on the Government of Canada to withdraw them without delay and instead take action to respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of asylum seekers and all migrants.