

'Band-Aid' Solutions To Deal With Illegal Migrants

The Conservative Party has issued the following statement:

Last spring, Trudeau posted his infamous "#WelcomeToCanada" tweet.

People immediately started flowing across our border illegally.

And now those who do follow the law are paying the price:

Instead of closing the loophole that allows illegal border crossers to essentially jump the immigration queue, the Liberals are prioritizing work permits for them over those that entered the country the right way by following the proper rules.

Trudeau has spent hundreds of millions of your tax dollars on band-aid solutions, instead of addressing the problem.

And what do we have to show for it? We have tent cities and

makeshift refugee camps along our border.

Homeless shelters are full.

Social services across several provinces and cities are stretched to their breaking point.

Canadians expect our immigration system to be compassionate and fair. But what Trudeau has allowed to happen here is not compassionate.

And it's certainly not fair.

For the good of Canada, we need to replace Justin Trudeau next year.

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OTTAWA: The federal government is planning to build temporary housing for up to 520 people at a Quebec border crossing that has seen an influx of asylum seekers.

The move comes as tens of thousands of Hondurans lost temporary protected immigra-

tion status in the United States. There are concerns some of them they may look northward for refuge.

Public Works and the Canada Border Services Agency say in a notice that the housing units are for Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle — the municipality where the majority of RCMP interceptions of irregular migrants in Quebec take place.

The Opposition says the Liberal government is effectively setting up a refugee camp at the Canada-U.S. border.

About 2,500 asylum seekers crossed into Canada from the U.S. in April, Mike MacDonald, a senior Immigration Department official, told the House of Commons immigration committee last Thursday.

MacDonald said the figure was just an estimate and that the

exact number for April would be known "in the fullness of time."

Conservative immigration critic Michelle Rempel said it wasn't good enough that federal officials came to testify without having an exact number.

"That's not fair," she said. "This is of immediate concern."

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MONTREAL: The party leading in Quebec opinion polls less than five months away from the provincial election reportedly wants Ottawa to expel newcomers who fail to properly integrate.

A Montreal-based magazine has published what it says is the recently adopted immigration policy of the Coalition Avenir Quebec.

Under the plan, immigrants to Quebec would receive a temporary three-year permit and be

tested on certain criteria such as knowledge of the French language in order to receive authorization to apply for Canadian residency.

Newcomers who repeatedly fail the tests would not receive the authorization and would be flagged at the federal level as living in Quebec without status.

The Coalition did not deny the authenticity of the document today when questioned about it by reporters.

Coalition member Nathalie Roy says her party's proposition is to ensure that those who want to permanently reside in Quebec speak French, adhere to Quebec values and want to work.

Premier Philippe Couillard described the Coalition's proposal as impracticable and said it considers immigrants as problems that need solving.

Trump's War Against H-1B Workers And Their Spouses

Most Employed In Crucial STEM Occupations; Move Will Hit US Labour Market

By Pallavi Banerjee

Last year, U.S. President Donald Trump issued an executive order putting into force "Buy American and Hire American" as a policy. The order proposed to impose stricter scrutiny on the H-1B visa program.

The H-1B program, around since the 1990s, has allowed temporary workers in "specialty occupations," mostly in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, to work in the United States.

Trump's executive order also proposed to revoke a ruling by former President Barack Obama that granted employment authorization documents (EAD) to the spouses of H-1B workers who hold H-4 visas, popularly known as dependent visas.

In a letter dated April 4, 2018, to the head of the U.S. Senate's judiciary committee, the director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) confirmed that the implementation of Trump's executive order will specifically target the H-1B program and EADs for H-4 visa holders.

The implications are stark. Trump's move disproportionately affects people of colour and women, given that more than half of the H-1B and H-4 visas go to South Asian and Chinese families.

My own research over the past eight years has shown that visa policies have lasting imprints on the lives of H-1B and H-4 visa holders in the workplace, civil society and in families. The worst hit are highly qualified women — the primary recipients of the spousal-dependent visas.

While the USCIS letter has left thousands of families in uncertainty and panic, the implementation of Trump's executive order also has the potential to harm American competitiveness in the global economy.

The history of skilled worker migration to U.S.

Historically, until 1965, immigrants of colour had restricted entry to the United States. Racialized laws were passed to preserve whiteness as the identity of the American nation.

The landmark 1965 Immigration Act removed national origin quotas. It allowed specific numbers of immigrants from around the world to enter the U.S. each year for family reunification and employment.

Employment-based immigration received a boost in the 1990 due to the tech industry boom and the Immigration Act of 1990. The act introduced the distinctive category of the non-immigrant H-1B visa for temporary workers with specialized skills, and the H-4 visa for dependent spouses and children of these workers.

H-1B visas also provide pathways for legal permanent residency, popularly called the Green Card, though the number of visas offered each year remains capped.

American borders have become friendlier for legal immigrants of colour. But the circumstances after migration are less than ideal. Temporary workers on H-1B, due to the precarity of their legal status, experience exploitation at work.

Most Indian H-1B workers have to wait much longer for a Green Card compared to similar applicants from other countries due to USCIS processing backlogs, exacerbated by a higher number of Indian applicants for employment-based permanent residency.

Added to this, until 2015, spouses of H-1B workers were denied the right to



Babson College graduate school alumnus Abhinav Sureka, of Mumbai, India, right, in his work space at the college in Wellesley, Mass. Some U.S. colleges are starting programs to help their alumni get visas through what critics say is a legal loophole. Foreign grads who want to stay and start a business typically apply for one of the 85,000 H-1B visas that the U.S. gives out each year. But college employees are exempt from the cap, so schools like UMass, Babson and CUNY have launched programs to hire alumni and foreign entrepreneurs. (AP File Photo/Charles Krupa)

work legally or hold any independent identity. This created households that looked like 1950s-era nuclear families. It forced one spouse, usually the woman, to stay home, creating deeply gendered households.

The dependent visa law is reminiscent of the 18th and 19th century coverture doctrine that provided husbands unfettered state-sanctioned power over their wives. The implications of the dependent H-4 visa law are grim for the families and individuals who hold this visa.

25 years of dependence
From 1990 to 2015, those coming to the U.S. on H-4 dependent visas were denied the right to work and forced to be economically dependent on their H-1B spouses.

The Green Card application backlog made matters worse. Many H-4 spouses waited 15 to 20 years for their Green Cards, which then allowed them to work legally. The wives on H-4 visas I interviewed for my research were all highly qualified, often more so than their husbands.

The inability to work legally left many of the women chronically depressed. They experienced loss of dignity and self-esteem. Some even contemplated suicide. In situations of domestic violence, these women found themselves with no support. Some women described these visas as "prison visas" or "vegetable visas" as they navigated their dependence.

However, the most befuddling to them was one question: Why was the U.S. failing to recognize the waste of human capital the H-4 visa holders collectively possessed?

Promise and hope of the Obama era
In 2015, Obama responded to research and a spurt of online activism around the issue of legal dependence. He signed an executive order that made it possible for H-4 visa holders to obtain EADs after they'd been approved for permanent residency.

His order left some H-4 visa holders

return to work. Some with specialized degrees found work quickly. Others found it difficult to find work, as is common for women with a long employment hiatus. However, what was important was that they now had the opportunity to look for work legally.

Trump's reversal of hope

Trump's protectionist policy has been met with protests and appeals both by H-4 EAD advocacy groups and the global tech industry. However, Trump's stance remains inconsistent — on one hand he's supporting merit-based immigration, on the other he's clamping down on the H-1B program.

This has left H-1B workers and their spouses in a lurch. Many H-1B families living in the U.S. for years are now planning to return to their native countries or to move to countries like Canada with less draconian immigration laws. Very soon, the U.S. labour markets will struggle to find eligible workers.

Taking away the right to work from immigrants strips them off their human dignity. It tells them they are less than human just because they were not born in America.

Immigrants of colour are becoming fearful of living in and migrating to the United States. This will ultimately hurt the American economy and the United States as a nation — a country that was built on the backs of immigrants.

Pallavi Banerjee is Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Calgary. This article was originally published on *The Conversation*, an independent and non-profit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

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