

CRAG

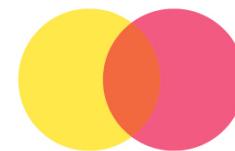
Constitutional Rights Advocacy Group

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Narda (Faculty)

A PLACE FOR ALL Monday, April 29, 2013



Social Action Project: Legislations that Hurt

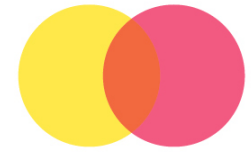


- Our project aims to raise public awareness about the impacts of Bill C-43 -- the Faster Removal of Foreign Criminals Act.
- The “one strike and you’re out” rule applies to any immigrant found guilty of a minor offense, and replaces compassion with arbitrary and punitive punishment, going against the principle that small-time offenders deserve a second chance.
- If passed, Bill C 43 will have immediate and serious implication on the lives of refugees, immigrants, and all Canadians. One such outcome will invariably be further division amongst Canadian society based along the politics of race, ethnicity and citizenship.

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Why is your project important and what did you accomplish?

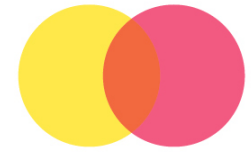


- We implemented a variety of advocacy strategies to affect change at various levels, including increasing public and community awareness of the issue and influencing law and policy decision makers.
- We collected almost 250 signatures telling the government to vote NO on Bill C-43.
 - We set up an on-line petition form and collected 86 signatures.
 - We set up tables at York and at community events and collected 158 signatures

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Why is your project important and what did you accomplish?



- Every time our online petition was signed it was sent to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism along with a dozen Senators.
- We wrote Senator Victor Oh an advocacy letter, reviewing Bill C-43, noting the damage it will inflict on the citizens of Canada and strongly suggested Senator Oh oppose the passing of Bill C-53 within the Senate.
- We were able to bring Osgoode Hall's CLASP on board to endorse this project while providing information on Bill C-43 to their clients many of whom reside within the Jane and Finch community.

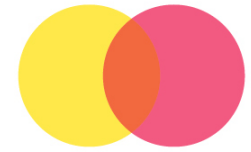
What issue(s) from the Toronto Vital Signs did your project address?

- Gap between rich and poor
- Leadership, Civic Engagement and Belonging



A PLACE FOR ALL

What did your pod learn about social justice and change?



- There is power in taking collective action towards social justice.
- We must stay politically informed; and while educating ourselves, we have the social responsibility to share our knowledge within our communities, through consciousness raising.
- Social justice and social change can take on different forms and do not happen overnight for the most part.
- If we as citizens do not become actively resistant to social inequality and injustice, the possibility of change remains a distant dream that rests upon too many questions of what if.
- We should never underestimate the power of youth

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STOP BILL C-43

“ONE STRIKE AND YOU ARE OUT” RULE

- If Bill C-43 comes into effect the Canadian government will have the power to deport any immigrant families/individuals if they are found to have committed a criminal offense regardless of how petty the crime is.
- Creates difference among individuals born in Canada and those who have immigrated
 - Gives the Minister of Immigration and Public Safety new power to refuse individuals entry into Canada
 - This bill is unfair, unjust and deprives people of fair consideration



COME AND SIGN OUR PETITION

http://www.change.org/organizations/constitutional_rights_advocacy_group

CRAG (Constitutional Rights Advocacy Group)

Thank You!

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