



19 May 2017

The Honourable Ahmed D. Hussen
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1

Dear Minister,

Concerned about the implications for refugees of recent developments in the United States of America, Amnesty International Canada and the Canadian Council for Refugees have prepared a detailed analysis of barriers to protection for refugees in that country, which we submit for your attention.

It is our conclusion that the continued application of the Safe Third Country Agreement poses a significant threat to refugees in North America, by returning asylum-seekers to US authorities despite well-documented failings in the US refugee protection system. In so doing, Canadian practice currently violates both international and domestic norms.

We therefore urge your government to immediately suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement and, during the period of suspension, to seriously consider rescinding the agreement altogether.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss our submission with you, and in any case request a response by 9 June 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Neve
Secretary General
Amnesty International Canada

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President
Canadian Council for Refugees

cc: Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

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