



Charitable Registration
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January 27, 2015

VIA EMAIL

Mayor Gregor Robertson
Vancouver City Hall
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y1V4
gregor.robertson@vancouver.ca

Councillor Geoff Meggs
3rd Floor, City Hall
453 West 12th Ave
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
clrmeggs@vancouver.ca

Dear Mayor Robertson and Councillor Meggs:

Re: Sanctuary City Policy

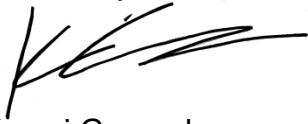
I understand that the Mayor's Working Group on Immigration has recommended that the City of Vancouver continue to explore the Sanctuary City concept, and that the Working Group received the Mayor's blessing to continue this exploration prior to the municipal election in the fall. I am writing to share with you West Coast LEAF's recent Position Paper on Sanctuary City Policy, and to urge you to adopt this policy immediately.

Cities should be inclusive, welcoming places where people's basic needs are met. Yet, women without status and with precarious immigration status are often forced to choose between remaining in an abusive relationship and living without access to critical social services and police protection on the one hand, and deportation or detention on the other. Women in our city who are accessing services to deal with the impacts of violence must not have to choose between their safety and their liberty.

West Coast LEAF is calling on the City of Vancouver to become a sanctuary city in which everyone can access municipal services and police protection regardless of their immigration status, without fear of detention and deportation. This will require the implementation of "don't ask, don't tell" policies for municipal services and staff, including police and transit authorities. We have included more detailed recommendations at the end of the attached position paper.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should wish to discuss this matter further. I would appreciate you sharing this Position Paper with the Working Group as well. I look forward to hearing back from you about what progress the City is making post-election in moving this policy towards fruition.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Govender', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kasari Govender
Executive Director