

January 2017

Dear allies,

We are writing to invite you to express solidarity and help stop the deportation of migrant activist Gina Bahiwal. Ms. Bahiwal has been issued a deportation order for January 15th, 2017 at 9:30pm. We are requesting financial support to cover Gina's legal fees, which Justicia estimates will cost approximately \$6,000.

Gina came to Canada from the Philippines in 2008 under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and has worked in vegetable-packing, housekeeping, and fast food. During her time in Canada, Gina has been a bedrock for justice in communities throughout Canada. This has included advocating tirelessly for the rights of migrant workers like her, particularly among migrant women. She has volunteered her time providing mutual aid and services to other workers, and has engaged in pivotal work exposing the exploitative practices of recruiters. Gina has appeared in the documentary *The End of Immigration*, helped organize the Justice for Migrant Workers (J4MW) Pilgrimage to Freedom in 2011, gave a deputation on migrant rights to the HUMA Standing Committee, and spoke at a press conference on Parliament Hill for the launch of the 2016 J4MW Harvesting Freedom campaign.

Migrant-led activism like Gina's makes a profound difference in the long-term struggle for social justice and the labour movement. As a recent example, on December 13<sup>th</sup> the federal government announced an immediate end to the unjust "four in, four out" rule. Migrant workers and allies had fought hard against this racist immigration policy, which effectively prevented labour organizing, and that simultaneously encouraged workers to establish roots in Canada while preventing them from accessing permanent residency. The termination of the 4/4 rule shows the power of migrant workers' activism.

Gina is one of the most prominent migrant workers activists in Canada. She is married to a Canadian citizen and has filed a Humanitarian and Compassionate application. We are hoping that we can stop the deportation and provide the support she needs to fight this deportation.

**Please donate via a secure PayPal transaction and let us know that your donation is for Gina's legal defence: <https://harvestingfreedom.org/donations/>**

**You can also mail a cheque to**  
Justicia for Migrant Workers %  
Workers Action Centre  
720 Spadina Ave Suite 223  
Toronto Ontario  
M5S 2T9

Thanks so much in advance for your solidarity and support.

Justice for Migrant Workers