



Five Calls to Action

1. Non-Police Intervention

Chinatowns across Canada have been overpoliced for decades with the overserveillance of racialized communities, those facing poverty and homelessness, drug users, sex workers and those without status.

Bylaw is often present in Ottawa's Chinatown, bringing fear to the community along the persistent issuing of tickets to cars of those patroning the area. "Hate crimes" are also seldom investigated, and reporting is often a traumatizing experience for individuals. Policing neither focuses on prevention nor the core issue of systemic racism. OPS has also conducted raids of [Asian massage parlours in Ottawa](#) and held questionable detention of migrant sex workers for CBSA identification.

In solidarity with Black and Indigenous communities who face increased harm, violence and death at the hands of Ottawa Police, along with the rampant reports of disorderly conduct and sexual assault within the OPS, organizers call on re-directing funds for additional policing in Chinatown following the Atlanta events to Asian-run organizations working within their own communities, and for the larger call to defund, disarm and dismantle the police.

2. Language Access Now

Interactions at City facilities [such as recreation centres](#) often turn traumatic and violent upon lack of multilingual language access with frontline staff. In escalating levels of violence and racism towards immigrant and racialized communities, we see direct correlations in these responses that have the societal power to escalate from frustration and anger, to shouting, violence, attacks and death.

Multilingual language access in priority areas is a simple ask to mitigate these concerns. Organizers call on the City of Ottawa to hire staff and allocate resources for department-wide multilingual language access, focusing on oral and print translation

3. Stop Gentrifying Chinatown

The addition of condos, renovictions and businesses in the area such as upscale bicycle stores, coffee shops and art galleries directly contribute to the gentrification and elimination of Chinatowns and pushes out those such as low-income residents, racialized folks, drug users, sex workers and those without status.

Nationally, Chinatowns are also at risk of disappearing and losing living history, compounded for businesses impacted by racism towards Asian communities and the effects of the pandemic.

4. Justice for Migrant Sex Workers

Migrant sex workers face risks because of the laws that criminalize their work. The Criminal Code has given the police immense power to survey, investigate, arrest and detain migrant sex workers. The law allows this under the guise of protecting women from sex trafficking but sex trafficking is not the same as sex work and should not be conflated with trafficking.

Further, women who have temporary or precarious immigration status are at risk of detention, identification to CBSA and proceedings that can lead to deportation. Sex work is not recognized as work that can be done with a work permit and being criminalized in the course of doing sex work can render someone inadmissible and therefore deportable.

The way the law is crafted allows people to look at migrant sex workers not only as fetishized disposable objects, but as immoral, illegal and foreign.

We support organizations like [Butterfly](#), an Asian and Migrant Sex Worker Organization that calls to:

- Halt practices of raids or inspections of sex work places of employment and massage parlours
- Fully decriminalize sex work by removing all criminal laws specific to sex work and related activities;
- Eliminate immigration prohibitions on migrants to engage in sex work and related industries;
- Rights not Rescue - Stop using criminal rescue models and No Cops at Workplaces
- Sex work is not trafficking

5. #StatusForAll Migrant Workers

The pandemic has made clear that our way of life and society cannot function without migrant #EssentialWorkers. Migrant workers are our caregivers (with children, elderly and disabled), work on our farms, in meat packing plants, as janitorial staff, in health care facilities, and in grocery stores.

However, we don't treat them like other migrant workers in professional occupations. They come here without their families and with little or no hope of obtaining permanent residence. As a result, they are subject to abuse by some employers including working long hours, the withholding of pay, and being asked to do tasks outside of their job description, with little to no protective equipment. We support organizations like [Migrante Ottawa](#), [Migrant Workers Alliance for Change](#) and [Migrant Workers Rights Network](#) in calling for permanent status for all.