



# HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

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Monte Solberg  
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration  
112 Confederation Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Stockwell Day  
Minister of Public Safety  
491 West Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Ministers Monte Solberg and Stockwell Day:

**Re: Deportation of Sponsored Abusive Spouses**

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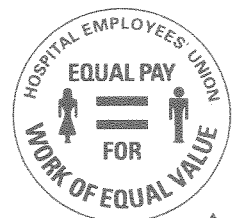
Congratulations on your re-election to the House of Commons and your appointments as Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and Minister of Public Safety.

On behalf of the 42,000 members of the Hospital Employees' Union in British Columbia, we are requesting that you comprehensively review the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, since currently, under the spousal sponsorship agreement policy, women are economically responsible for men who batter them. We also ask that landed immigrants and refugees who are convicted of spousal abuse be immediately deported.

We support the work of **Women Against Abusive Sponsored Spouses** as they advocate for the human rights and safety of women who are suffering under sham marriages, sponsored spousal abuse, and sponsorship default recovery projects. We are particularly concerned about the ongoing case of one of our members, **Sally Santiago**, whose safety as a result of male violence has been compromised, but she retains financial responsibility for her ex-husband **Erwin de la Cruz Mabolo**. Hers is not an isolated incident.

As victims of violence, women may stay in abusive situations knowing if they leave, and their male partner goes on social assistance or incurs credit card debt, that the sponsor is still responsible for any debt incurred.

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Violence against women is a serious crime that is reaching epidemic proportions in our nation. Over 500,000 women were victims of spousal abuse in 2005. Men guilty of this type of abuse should be held to the same standard as any permanent resident or refugee who perpetrates a serious crime - they should be deported from Canada immediately after conviction.

We urge you to modify the current Immigration and Refugee Protection Act to protect women who are victims of spousal abuse.

Yours truly,



Fred Muzin

FM/dm

cc: Provincial Executive  
Sally Santiago – Women Against Abusive Sponsor Spouses  
Bill Siksay, MP, Burnaby – Douglas  
Jack Layton, MP, Toronto - Danforth  
Ujjal Dosanjh, MP, Vancouver South

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