**Petition to the House of Commons**
**Aiding and abetting refugees**

Whereas:

1. Section 117 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* makes it a crime to "aid and abet" refugees trying to enter Canada. There is no exception for people acting on humanitarian motives.
2. Janet Hinshaw-Thomas became the first humanitarian worker charged under this provision in September 2007, making her liable to life imprisonment. Although the charges were later dropped, there is no guarantee other humanitarian workers will not be charged.
3. Those who serve refugees should be honoured for upholding Canada's humanitarian ideals, not threatened with criminal charges.

We call upon the House of Commons to amend Section 117 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* so that those helping refugees on humanitarian motives are not liable to prosecution.

| **Name** | **Address**<br>Address, City, Province, Postal Code | **Signature** |
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