

STEPS TO JUSTICE

IMMIGRATION LAW

An OJEN workshop demonstrating a CLEO
public legal information resource.



CLEO

Community Legal Education Ontario
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario



True or false?

1. Immigrants and refugees are basically the same thing.



True or false?

2. Wow, all the Canadian political parties are awful! Good thing I'm a permanent resident – that means I can vote for the burrito party in the next federal election!



True or false?

3. It's freeeeeeezeing! I want to spend the winter with relatives in Trinidad. But if I spend the whole winter outside of Canada, I'm going to lose my permanent resident status.



True or false?

4. I'm SO lucky to have a Canadian spouse. Now I can travel with them without losing my status because that would count towards my mandatory 2 years in Canada!



True or false?

5. I have my test to become a Canadian citizen next week, so I'm studying everything about Tim Horton's, hockey and beavers – that should cover all their questions, right?



Immigration Law in Ontario: *What is covered?*

- Being detained
- Canadian citizenship
- Humanitarian and compassionate grounds
- Getting help with immigration law
- Keeping you permanent resident status



Real Life Legal Problems

Demonstration Scenario

I always believed that once I get the permanent resident status, I will have the same rights as any other Canadian. But someone told me that since I am a permanent resident, I can be forced to leave Canada no matter how long I've lived here. Is it better if I apply for citizenship?



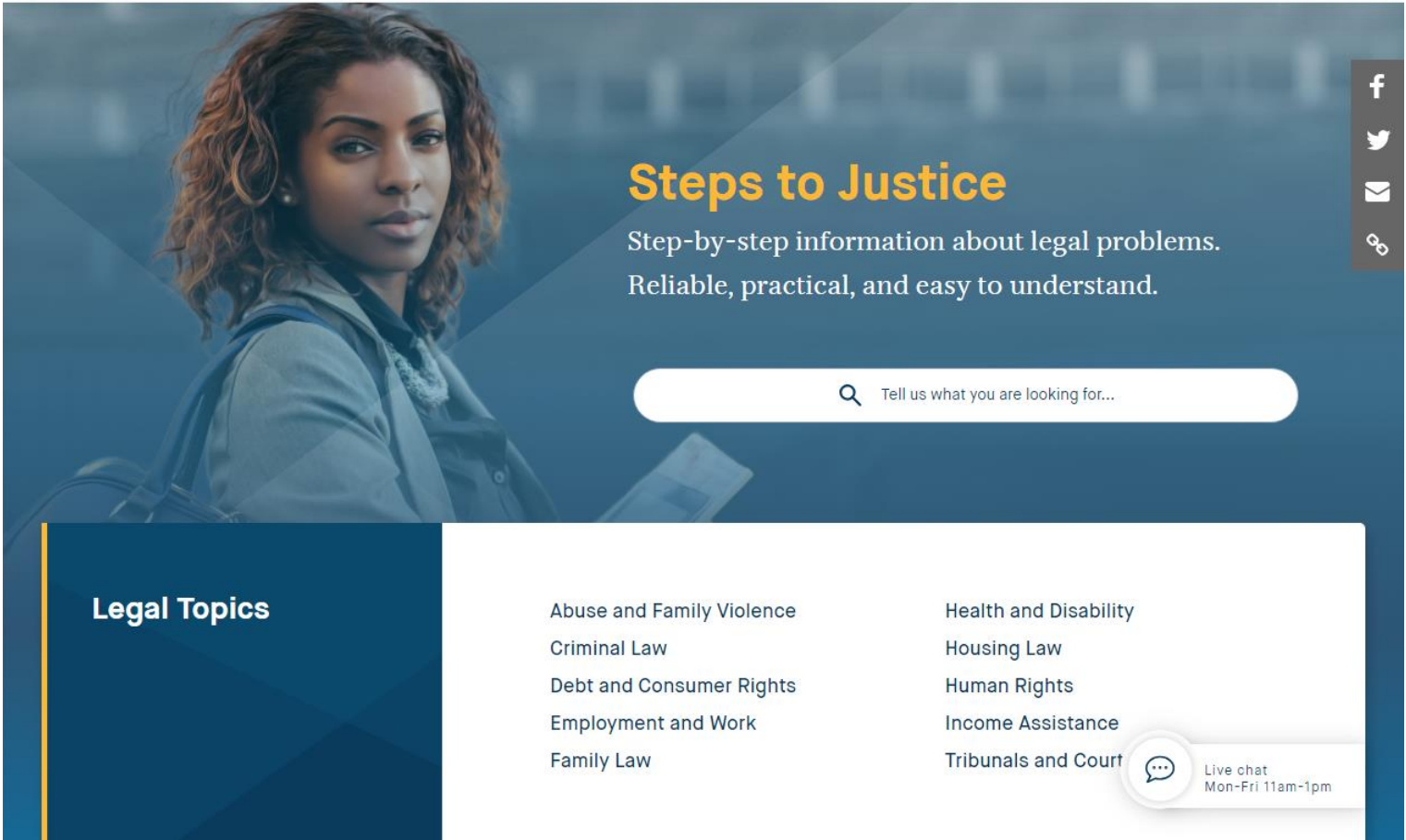
Steps to Justice





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Some questions:

- What are some of the different rights that permanent residents have compared to Canadian citizens?
- What are some reasons why the government could force a permanent resident to leave the country?
- What are the only two reasons for removing someone's Canadian citizenship?
- What are the risks that come with applying for Canadian citizenship?
- Can you be a citizen in another country and still apply for Canadian citizenship?



**Using the
Steps to Justice
Website**



Group Work

1. Navigate to the Steps to Justice website:
<http://stepstojustice.ca>
2. Read your scenario with your group.
3. Try to identify the main legal issues.
4. Imagine that you are the person in the scenario. Use the Steps to Justice website to answer the questions on your handout.
5. As you browse, try to find out more about how the law would affect the person in your scenario. What does it say? What are their options?
6. Record your answers on the handout.

If you get stuck, ask for help!



Large Group Scenario

FOCUS AREAS:

- 1) Humanitarian and compassionate applications
- 2) Examples of hardship
- 3) Best interests of the child

I am the mother of two kids. We came to Canada a couple of weeks ago to visit the country but I want to stay here because it's unsafe for me to go back. I have been involved in a lot of anti-government political activities, and my family has received anonymous threats about them.

There is no help from the government. In fact, I am really worried that if I go back to they will put me in prison because I was advocating for democracy. Freedom of expression is not really allowed, especially if I'm criticizing the leader and his corrupt government.

I am worried for my safety and the well-being of my kids. What can I do to stay in Canada? I heard about something called a humanitarian and compassionate application – what is that? Could it help me?

