

Supporting Young People Without Immigration Status

Childhood Arrivals Support & Advocacy Program

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Pop Quiz!

1. What school board do you teach in?
2. Where do you want to move in the world?
3. What pops up in your head when you hear the phrase "precarious immigration status"



Justice For Children and Youth

Justice For Children and Youth or JFCY is a non-profit specialty legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario that works to protect the rights of children and young people facing conflicts with the legal system, education, social service or mental health systems.



- CASA serves young people who were brought to Canada as children and yet are living in Ontario without immigration status.
- CASA provides:
 - Legal representation
 - Trusted intermediary supports
 - Outreach and public legal education
- Our service delivery is free, confidential, and recognizes the complexity of the barriers for young people without status (and their families)

Our focus today:

1. How can we create more inclusive, accessible, and supportive schools for young people with precarious or no immigration status?
 - a. How can educators support these young people in their classrooms?
 - b. How can educators incorporate this topic in their lesson plans in an engaging and curriculum-linked way?

What is precarious immigration status?

- Precarious immigration status refers to individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents, specifically anyone who does not have full legal status in a country.
- There are many different state-defined legal status categories.
- There are many different ways someone can have precarious or no immigration status.
- Status is not static.

Who are young people with precarious immigration status?

- Arrived in Canada at a young age and living most of their lives with precarious or no immigration status
- Don't always fit into the category of "newcomers"
- Can be present in any and all classrooms
- Not everyone is aware of their status or lack of status

Impact of Immigration Precarity

- Precarious status can negatively impact:
 - Access to healthcare
 - Access to legal employment
 - Access to education
 - Mental health
 - Identity
- How do these barriers manifest in school settings?
- What impact do they have on education outcomes?

How can educators support
these young people in their
classrooms?

Scenario 1

A young person named Jacob wishes he could be part of the soccer team at school, but as a young person without immigration status, he is worried about his status.

Scenario 2

Janu is receiving excellent grades in Grade 12. They are being encouraged by their teachers to pursue scholarship and apply to prestigious universities. Janu avoids these conversations because of their immigration status.

OPTIONAL: Scenario 3

Alice is a Grade 9 student who has grown up knowing about their lack of immigration status. In Grade 9 Geography, the class is discussing migration to Canada. Another student says “All illegal immigrants should get sent back to their own country. You should only come into Canada the proper way.” Alice stays silent but is feeling nervous and ashamed because of her lack of status in Canada.

Supporting young people with precarious immigration status

1. Safety

2. Accessibility

3. Inclusion

4. Support

How can educators incorporate this topic in their lesson plans in an engaging and curriculum-linked way?

CASA Workshops

- Free high-school workshops:

Curriculum-linked

Require no preparation by educators

In-person/virtual/hybrid

Interactive & participatory

Provide support vulnerable youth

CASA Workshops

Migration & the Law

Critical examination of laws pertaining to immigration. Students will analyze immigration laws in Canada through legal principles and a human rights lens.
GOOD FIT FOR: Gr. 11 Law, Gr. 12 Law

Migration & Allyship

Exploration of the history, impact, and trends of migration in Canada as well as migrant experiences and how immigration precarity is socially constructed.
GOOD FIT FOR: Gr. 9 Geography, Gr. 11 Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice

Age-Based Milestones

Learn about age-based laws, rights, and responsibilities that impact young people's lives.
GOOD FIT FOR: Gr. 10 Civics and Citizenship

Navigating Adulthood

Develop personal agency and plan for the future through learning how to acquire government IDs and navigate systems.
GOOD FIT FOR: Gr. 10 Career Studies

CASA Mailing List

- COMING SOON:
Curriculum resources
and lesson plans about
young people without
status

SCAN TO SIGN UP FOR
OUR MAILING LIST:



Other CASA Projects

- CASA OISE Research Project
- Equitable Education Access (EEA) Project
- CASA Art Project

Legal Resources:

- **Legal Aid Ontario** - <https://www.legalaid.on.ca/legal-clinics/>
 - Find your nearest legal clinic
- **Law Society Referral Service (LSRS)** - <https://lsrs.lso.ca/lsrs/welcome>
 - Free 30 minute consultation to help determine your rights and options
 - Crisis Line: 416-947-5255 / Toll Free: 1-855-947-5255
- **Pro Bono Ontario** - <https://www.probonoontario.org/>
 - Offers Free Legal Advice by Phone
 - 1-855-255-7256

Q&A

Thank you!

Contact Info:

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<https://www.instagram.com/jfcyontario/>

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OUR MAILING LIST:**

