



CANADIAN
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COUNCIL

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Resolution in Support of Sanctuary

Whereas the CUC through its Board in 2005

- Endorsed the right of CUC member congregations to offer Sanctuary to individuals and families in recognizable danger of persecution,
- adopted guidelines for granting sanctuary for the benefit of congregations as part of this policy and
- called on government authorities in Canada to respect such sanctuary and to work with the congregations involved in order to resolve such situations promptly, safely and justly,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council 2008 Annual Meeting

- Affirms and endorses the policy on sanctuary adopted by the CUC Board of Trustees in 2005;
- Notes with concern the prolonged stay in sanctuary of Shree Kumar Rai, a Nepalese refugee who has now spent almost 12 years in Canada, having fled persecution in his native Nepal; and who has been in sanctuary at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa since February 2007;
- Supports and endorses Mr. Rai's application to be granted permanent status in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds or under the federal skilled worker program as a sushi chef or through a temporary resident permit that will lead to permanent status;
- Calls on the federal government and its agencies to give favourable consideration to all cases of refugees in sanctuary, particularly those cases where refugees have been unable to overcome unfavourable decisions by government agencies because of the lack of a workable process for appeals.

**Passed by delegates at the Annual General Meeting, 2008
Canadian Unitarian Council**