



British Columbia's
Office of the Human Rights
Commissioner

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADVISORY: Media are invited to join Human Rights Commissioner for discussion on migrant workers' rights with Amnesty International Canada's (English Speaking) Secretary General – May 15

Vancouver B.C. – B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner is hosting the second livestream in the [Beyond the Headlines](#) series, which will highlight migrant workers' rights. On Thursday, May 15 at 10:30 a.m. PDT, Commissioner Kasari Govender will sit down with Ketty Nivyabandi, Secretary General for Amnesty International Canada's English-Speaking section, to speak about how structural factors can create vulnerabilities and lead to the exploitation of migrant workers.

Media and public are invited to watch the discussion via Zoom or livestreamed on the Commissioner's website. Those who register and join the Zoom webinar will be able to ask questions during the event that may be answered live.

As described in the Commissioner's landmark Rights in Focus report, released in 2024, migrant workers, and specifically temporary foreign workers, are at risk of exploitation due to their immigration status being tied to their employment. Migrant workers are also at a greater risk during large-scale climate emergencies and, as we have seen in the province, have reported being excluded from responses during these emergencies. Following closely from International Workers' Day (May Day), this Beyond the Headlines discussion will provide a space to better understand the rights of migrant workers and how we track progress on this issue in British Columbia.

- WHO: Kasari Govender, B.C.'s independent Human Rights Commissioner
Ketty Nivyabandi, Secretary General, Amnesty International Canada's English-Speaking section
- WHAT: Beyond the Headlines: A conversation on migrant workers' rights with Ketty Nivyabandi
- WHEN: Thursday, May 15, 2025,
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PDT
- WHERE: Via a Zoom webinar and streaming live via bchumanrights.ca/beyond-the-headlines
- REGISTER: To register for the Zoom webinar, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/Migrant-Workers-Rights>

Note: Please note that the Commissioner and Secretary General will only be accepting audience questions from registered webinar participants via the Zoom platform during the Q and A. When registering, please advise us of any accessibility needs or translation requirements you may have. We will work to accommodate you.

Beyond the Headlines resources

- [Beyond the Headlines](#) is a series of conversations with leaders and change makers about key issues facing people in British Columbia. To learn about the Beyond the Headlines series, visit here: bchumanrights.ca/beyond-the-headlines
- To watch the first Beyond the Headlines episode: [Housing and Human Rights](#) with Federal Housing Advocate, Marie-Josée Houle, visit our website: <https://bchumanrights.ca/beyond-the-headlines/#video>
- The [Rights in Focus](#) report describes 10 key systems impacting human rights in British Columbia. To learn more about the report, visit here: baseline.bchumanrights.ca/in-focus

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Media contact

To request an interview with Commissioner Kasari Govender, please contact Lindsey Bertrand, Manager, Communications, at media@bchumanrights.ca or 604-306-7369.

Media kit

[Visit our media kit](#) for images of Commissioner Kasari Govender, pronunciation guidance, bios and more.

About BCOHRC

BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner exists to address the root causes of inequality, discrimination and injustice in B.C. by shifting laws, policies, practices and cultures. We do this work through education, research, advocacy, inquiry and monitoring. Learn more at: bchumanrights.ca

About the Commissioner

Kasari Govender began her work as B.C.'s first independent human rights commissioner in September 2019. As an independent officer of the Legislature, Commissioner Govender is uniquely positioned to ensure human rights in B.C. are protected, respected and advanced on a systemic level. In her first five-year term, her work through BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner included a public inquiry into experiences of hate in the pandemic, a report on systemic discrimination in policing, community embedded research about a range of human rights issues experienced by British Columbians, public awareness campaigns about ableism and racism and guidance to government that, among other things, informed the creation of both the *Anti-Racism Data Act* and the *Anti-Racism Act*. Commissioner Govender was reappointed for a second term beginning in September 2024.

About Ketty Nivyabandi

Ketty serves as Secretary General for Amnesty International Canada's English-Speaking section. She oversees the domestic and international human rights mandate of the organisation and acts as



its lead representative. A global human rights activist and advocate, Ketty holds in-depth expertise and lived experience in forced displacement, human rights defenders at risk, civic space in conflict and political transitions, and the global intersections of gender, race, and human rights. Prior to seeking asylum in Canada in 2015, she braved police violence as the lead organizer of women's peaceful protests for democratic change in her country, Burundi. In her previous roles, Ketty has led research, advocacy, and communications strategies with women peace activists in several conflict and post conflict countries, including Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, Myanmar, Uganda, and Guatemala. Her work is rooted in peoplepower, public accountability, and a feminist, decolonial approach to human rights. Ketty studied International Relations, is a former journalist, and published poet. She lives in Ottawa with her two teenage daughters.

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