



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

The Museum's Statement on the Safe Third Country Agreement

July 7, 2023

Last month, the Supreme Court of Canada decided to uphold the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) despite strong objections from numerous refugee rights experts and advocacy groups.

In 2020, [our Museum encouraged the suspension of the Agreement](#). Under the STCA, refugee claimants arriving by land at official border crossings in the U.S. or in Canada are required to seek protection in the first country in which they arrive. Consequently, many people who travel through the U.S. to seek asylum in Canada have been turned back to the U.S. where they have been subjected to detention, deportation, and other human rights violations. The March 2023 closure of the Roxham Road Crossing further exacerbates the perilous situations faced by people seeking asylum at our land borders.

Today, our Museum echoes [the powerful letter to the Prime Minister of Canada from our friends at the Canadian Council for Refugees](#): "Our country takes great pride in a tradition of providing refuge to those fleeing persecution and violence. By dismantling the barriers imposed by the STCA and allowing individuals to make refugee claims at regular ports of entry, you can uphold our identity as a compassionate and welcoming nation that recognizes the inherent worth and potential of all individuals."

During the Holocaust, Canada implemented discriminatory, antisemitic, and closed-door policies for Jewish refugees. The history of the Holocaust demonstrates the dangerous consequences of closing doors to individuals who are forced to flee their homes when their lives are in danger. Today, it is incumbent on Canada to exercise leadership and compassion in countering prejudice and racism while protecting the rights and wellbeing of refugees.

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