

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/narratives-of-harm-and-the-case-for-detention-abolition/>

This video is a detailed discussion by a researcher on Canadian immigration enforcement policies, particularly focusing on the implications of immigration detention. The researcher collaborates with Harini Sivalingam and explores two main threads: the impact of coercive enforcement measures on migrants and minority rights in contexts of citizenship disputes, specifically relating to the Tamil population from Sri Lanka during its civil war.

The researcher underlines that Canada has obligations under domestic and international human rights law, outlining how current practices harm migrants, particularly Tamil refugees who fled violence in Sri Lanka. Despite a high acceptance rate for Sri Lankan refugees in Canada, the government responded by criminalizing these arrivals, implementing mandatory detention policies for those arriving by boat. This video led to reports of detained individuals experiencing conditions worse than those in their home country, raising ethical concerns about indefinite detention practices without a clear timeframe.

The researcher criticizes Canada's lack of statutory limits on detention length, treating it as a severe human rights violation. Many detainees are not dangerous, and alternatives to detention, which could avoid such human rights abuses, exist. Additionally, once released, non-citizens still face coercive measures that infringe on their daily lives.

This video culminates in a call for the abolition of immigration detention, arguing that it is a violation of liberty and proposing that the resources currently spent on detention could be better utilized for social welfare. The discussion aligns itself with broader abolitionist movements, highlighting the interconnectedness of immigration enforcement and systems of racial oppression, echoing the principles articulated by scholars like Ruth Wilson Gilmore.