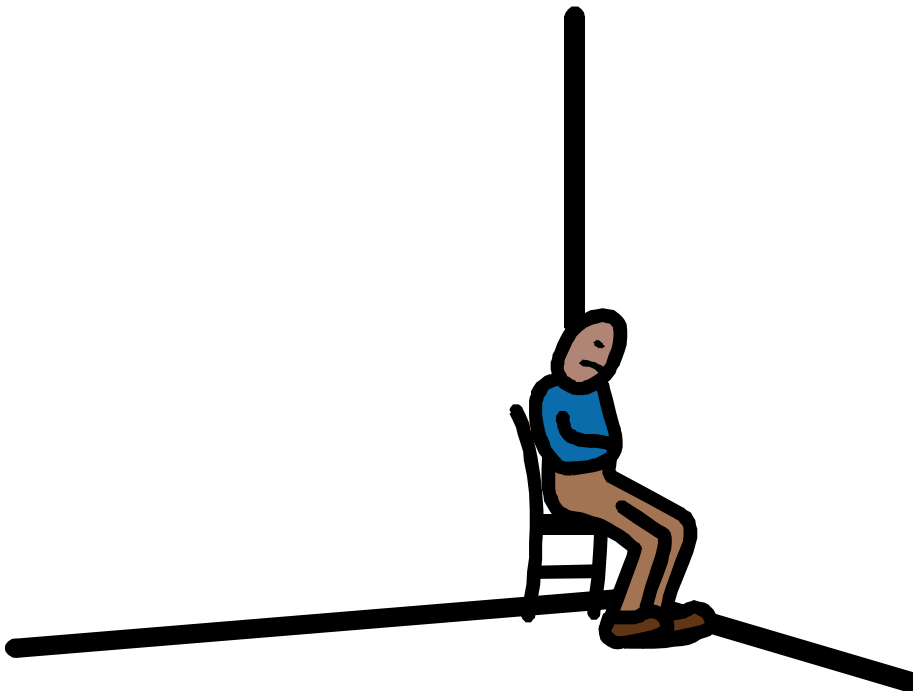




We have no rights

How migrants with mental health issues
in Canada are treated





Who we are

We are from the University of Toronto in Canada.



Our work is to do with the law and human rights.



Human Rights are things that everyone should be able to do like:

- be safe and well
- go to school
- have a family.

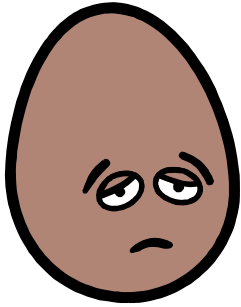
What this report is about

This report is about migrants.



Migrants are people who move to another country to find work or a better life.

Or people who have lived in a country for a long time but the law says they are not from that country.

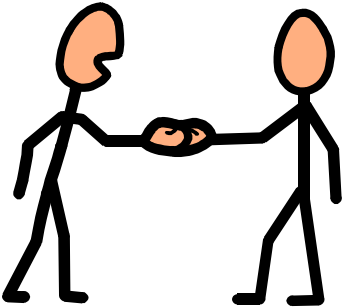


We looked at what happens to migrants in Canada.

We looked at migrants with mental health issues.

Mental health issues are about the way someone thinks and feels.

People with mental health issues may feel upset, worried or scared a lot.



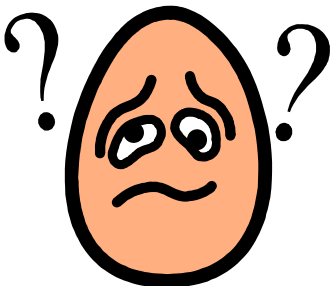
What happens to migrants in Canada

Some migrants who come to Canada are taken away.



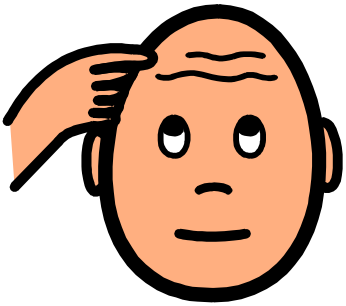
Migrants may be taken away because:

- staff think they may run away
- staff are not sure who they are or where they come from

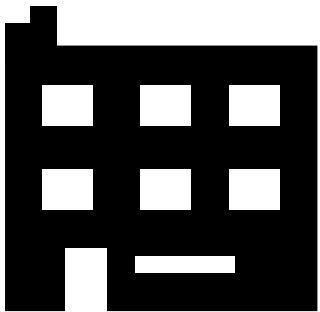




- they did a crime in the past even if it is a small one
- staff think they may do a crime in the future.



They are taken somewhere while staff decide what to do with them.

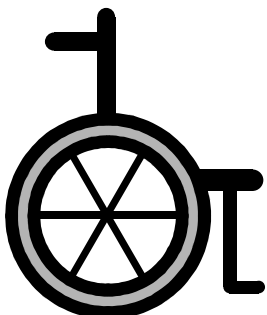


They may go to buildings just for migrants. They are kept there and cannot leave.

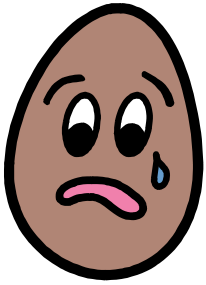


Or they may have to stay in a jail with people who do crimes.

Some migrants stay in jail for many years.



Some migrants have mental health issues or need a lot of support. For example, they may have a disability.



It is very hard for them to be in jail.

It can make their mental health issues much worse.



Jails are for people who do crimes.

But many migrants have not done crimes.

Some migrants go to jails for people who do serious crimes.

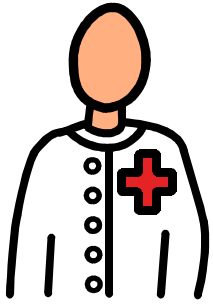


We spoke to some migrants in jail.

They are very upset and worried because:

- they do not know how long they will be there
- they are not treated fairly
- they do not get help to get better.



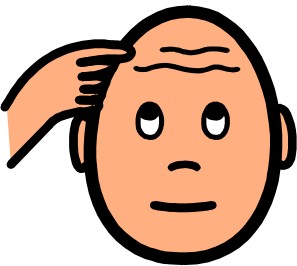


The government says migrants can get health care in jail.

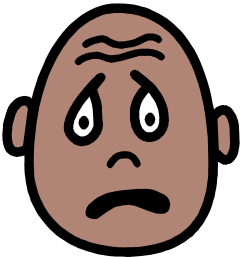
But mental health care for people in jail is not good.



The law does not say why someone should move to jail.



This means someone may be moved to jail for the wrong reasons.



Migrants cannot do anything about it if they are unhappy with the decision.



There are no checks to see how migrants are treated in jail.



There are checks to see how long people should stay in jail.

But these checks do not work well.

This means people can stay in jail for a long time. This can make them more sick.



It is wrong to keep migrants with mental health issues in jail like this.

It is breaking the laws about human rights.



The migrants are not treated fairly.



They do not get their rights or the support they need.

What we want to happen next

These are things for the government in Canada and people who make laws to do.

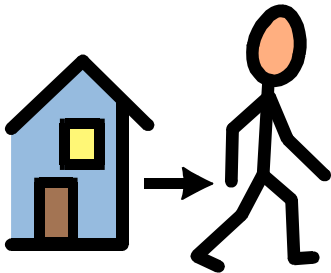


1. Set up a new group who will:
 - check what happens to migrants
 - look at complaints from migrants.



2. Change laws and rules so that:

- migrants are treated in the right way. Not like people who do crimes



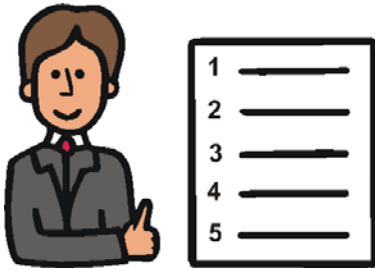
- after 90 days migrants can leave jail unless there is a good reason not to

A court can check what happens to migrants who stay longer than this



- migrants do not go to jail when they could stay in the community.

What we want to happen next



Change laws and rules so that:

- there are good rules about when to move migrants to jail



- migrants can do something about decisions they are not happy with



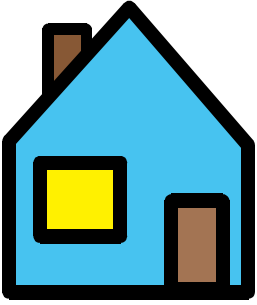
- migrants are not kept in jail just because of their mental health issues

- staff have to prove why someone should stay in jail longer



- there are checks to see how migrants are treated in jail.

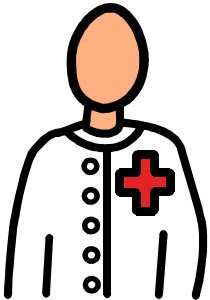
What we want to happen next



3. Keep migrants in better places.
For example, not in jails for people who do crimes.



4. Look at other ways to work with migrants.
For example look at how migrants could live in the community with the right support.

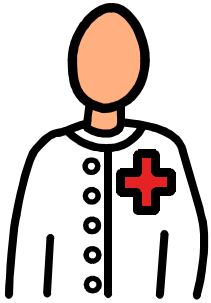


5. Make sure migrants get good health care and other support they need, even if they are in jail.

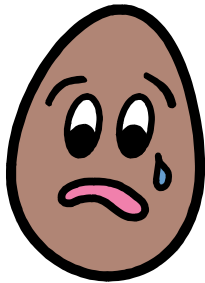


6. Give staff training about things like:
 - human rights
 - other things they can do instead of keeping migrants in jail.

What we want to happen next



7. Make sure migrants get mental health checks to see what care they need.



8. Look at what to do about migrants who have serious mental health issues.



9. Make sure migrants who leave jail get the help they need.



10. Other countries should tell Canada to stop treating migrants like this.