

The Case of Niman Kolo

E-09, N-09

LONG TITLE	A Policy Respecting CUSA's Stance on The Case of Niman Kolo	DATE OF ENACTMENT	07 November 2022
		LAST AMENDED	
REFERENCE No.	E-09, N-09	NEXT REVIEW	30 May 2027
CATEGORY	Equity	COMPETENT CHAMBER	Council

Context

Niman Kolo, an aerospace engineering student at Carleton University, migrated to Canada from Nigeria. Her father's job put her and her entire family's safety at risk. They have been seeking refugee status in Canada, but their application has been denied twice on because the Canadian government claims they had " the possibility of relocating internally within Nigeria, in a different city."

The Issue

The family was scheduled to be deported back to Nigeria on October 13th. Aisha Kolo, Niman's mother, filed a humanitarian and compassionate application, but it's illegal to remain in Canada while waiting for a decision.

Aisha, Niman, and her sister Kinkin were forced to go back to a country they clearly are not safe in. With these tensions and uncertainty due to the rejection of their refugee status, Niman was forced to drop out of university. Niman has said that there is no opportunity in Nigeria to study engineering, especially aerospace engineering- one of the Carleton's most prestigious and unique programs.

Purpose

The clear lack of support for one of our students, not just by the government but also the university, indicates the vacuum CUSA needs to fill to advocate for students in dire circumstances.

We hope this will begin a refocusing of the Association's long-term focus to providing more effective advocacy and engagement with its student population. Our Association has much to improve in being a strong, justice-minded voice for students.

CUSA should shine as an example for our students by standing up for their fundamental human rights. We should also exemplify effective advocacy so other student unions are emboldened to join us in addressing student issues from a grassroots level.

Calls for action

CUSA stands in solidarity with Niman and Kinkin Kolo, and we criticize the lack of adequate response by the government for the denial of the refugee status application despite the clear humanitarian and compassionate grounds for their family's situation.

CUSA, in collaboration with CU WISE, CSES, and WUSC, advocates with the university to extend their unconditional support for the serious issue at hand, by connecting mentioned student and ancillary groups with required resources, inclusive of contacts at Parliament Hill.

CUSA, in collaboration with CU WISE, CSES, and WUSC, organizes a formal meeting with professors at Carleton to shed light on the lack of action and revealed failures of formal institutions in furthering the systematic lack of access to education to BIPOC students in Canada with the negligence and apathy extended to Niman Kolo.

CUSA, in collaboration with CUWISE, CSES, and WUSC, organizes a meeting with Anita Vandenbeld, Member of Parliament for Ottawa West-Nepean, to express disappointment with the lack of support extended to one of our students and further get involved in the next steps to help Niman and her family.