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## The Live-in Caregiver Program: Causes and Consequences

### Abstract

This paper explores the place of Canada's Live-In Caregiver Program at the intersection of gender, labour, and migration laws. I begin by outlining broad legal issues that contribute to the supply of and demand for migrant live-in caregivers. I then go on to look at the program itself and how it divides families, exploits a vulnerable group, and legitimizes gendered norms while doing little to affect international poverty and instability issues. Lastly, I note that the Caregiver Program does not address the underlying problems which gave rise to it and offer suggestions for how it could. Legal rules have contributed to a demand for migrant caregivers, but the current program is neither an automatic nor desirable response to such demand. Perhaps a better solution lies in a more creative program that understands and addresses the tensions created by the underlying legal institutions.