



## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Wednesday, December 6, 2023

(81)

[English]

The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology met this day at 4:34 p.m., in room B45, Senate of Canada Building, the chair, the Honourable Ratna Omidvar, presiding.

*Members of the committee present:* The Honourable Senators Bernard, Cordy, Dagenais, Dasko, Jaffer, McPhedran, Mégie, Moodie, Omidvar, Osler, Petitclerc and Seidman (12).

*Participating in the meeting:* Laura Blackmore, Analyst, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Thursday, June 1, 2023, the committee continued its study of Bill S-235, An Act to amend the Citizenship Act and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

**WITNESSES:**

*South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario:*

Shalini Konanur, Executive Director and Lawyer.

*Black Legal Action Centre:*

Danette Edwards, Interim General Counsel.

*Legal Aid Ontario:*

Andrew Brouwer, Senior Counsel, Refugee Law Office.

*Peel Children's Aid Society:*

Mary Beth Moellenkamp, Chief Executive Officer;

Danielle Ungara, Manager, Child Welfare Immigration Centre of Excellence;

Fatima Mukai, Immigration Specialist, Child Welfare Immigration Centre of Excellence;

Liz Okai, Manager, Child Welfare Immigration Centre of Excellence.

*UNICEF Canada:*

Terence Hamilton, Policy Specialist *(by videoconference)*.

*As an individual:*

Fatuma Alyaan.

Shalini Konanur, Danette Edwards, Andrew Brouwer and Fatuma Alyaan each made a statement and answered questions.

At 5:28 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 5:33 p.m., the committee resumed.

Mary Beth Moellenkamp, Danielle Ungara, Fatima Mukai, Liz Okai and Terence Hamilton each made a statement and answered questions.

At 6:20 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

*ATTEST:*

Emily Barrette

*Clerk of the Committee*