



October 25, 2018

The Rt. Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) is concerned that 60 ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and A-Sham, known as ISIL and Da'esh) fighters have returned to Canada.

It is surprising the Canada government has not taken greater measures to bring the perpetrators to justice for ethnic cleansing, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The majority of the victims are women and girls (children at large), this equates to gender-based violence.

Women and girls have the right to live free of violence and discrimination, with equal rights and opportunities. Women's equality and empowerment (goal 5) is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and integral to inclusive and sustainable development.

Achievement of the SDGs depends on the attainment of Goal 5, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals targets for 2030, which includes ending discrimination against women and girls, and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual abuse and other types of exploitation. Canada has always been the beacon of justice and hope for those facing prosecution, as when justice failed them, Canada stood up for them.

The United Nations calls on Member States, including Canada, to prosecute terrorists. In the name of justice, therefore the NCWC adds its voice to the United Nations calling on the Canada government to prosecute the ISIS fighters who have returned to Canada.

At the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit at the UN in New York, on 24th September you have made a renewed commitment: "Canada will always stand tall for democracy, the rule of law and human rights at home and abroad. Peace is the work of many generations. (Mandela) took up the cause of peace and it is now up to us to keep carrying the torch forward. The flames of his ideals must live on in each and every one of us."

Sincerely,

Sandra Cohen-Rose, President
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