



February 21, 2019

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 extremely concerned that the world's super powers are seeking to end nuclear disarmament treaties. We believe Canada must take a strong stand among nations to ensure that no more nuclear weapons are produced, stockpiled or used as a deterrent to an increasing potential to deadly conflicts that could cause world-wide devastation.

The NCWC is cognizant of these harsh realities through our many years of research, policy development and advocacy beginning in the early 1980s, when we strongly endorsed international treaties, including support for Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's, "strategy of suffocation," in bringing a balanced nuclear and conventional arms limitation through agreements with all states. Later, we were most relieved when the International Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed by U.S. President Ronald Regan and Soviet Union president Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987 marked the beginning of the end of the Cold War. In addition, 1996 NCWC supported the International Court of Justice ruling that all countries have an obligation under international law to conclude negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Now U.S President Trump has announced his intention to terminate that treaty, and Soviet Leader Vladimir Putin has signaled a similar intent, which is a cause for grave concern. It is essential that world leaders, like Canada, do everything possible to ensure that does not happen. Since the NCWC has long advocated for the inclusion of women in creating and implementing peaceful solutions to conflicts, we urge the Government of Canada to draw upon women and other knowledgeable NGO's in your work to salvage the treaties that are under threat.

Please make world peace a government priority. The world does not need nuclear weapons.

Sincerely,

Sandra Cohen-Rose, President  
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The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has been the leading national voice of women for the past 126 years. A plaque has been erected in Allan Gardens in Toronto recognizing the establishment of NCWC as a National Historic Event. NCWC's initiatives have contributed significantly to the establishment of Canada's social welfare system, and the Council continues to work to improve the lives of women, children and society.