



May 1, 2019

The Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of Border Security and Crime Reduction
House of Commons Ottawa
Ontario, Canada
K1A 0A6

Re: Engagement Summary report – Reducing Violent Crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault-style Firearms

Dear Minister Blair,

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) is pleased to see the above-mentioned comprehensive report as a result of the national dialogue with Canadians.

As expected, there are polarized views on a potential ban and limiting access to hand gun and assault- style weapons. However, it is encouraging to see that there is consensus among the respondents on the need to address socioeconomic conditions leading to gun violence and the suggestion that a multifaceted approach is needed to address this complex issue.

On behalf of the members of NCWC, I want to reiterate that there must be consideration given to enacting and enforcing laws and regulations regarding the possession, sale and control of firearms of all types in this country. In 1991, NCWC and previously, urged the government of Canada to enforce gun control, which includes banning private ownership of semi-automatic weapons.

In only the last few days there have been instances where it is evident that more regulation is needed. The issue of the risk factors underlying gun violence, in particular the impact of gun violence on women, mental health support/screening, as well as how the lives of young people are affected must be significantly addressed.

Our members urge you to continue your examination of this scourge on the lives of Canadians in particular, to heed the words of those who have direct experience with the death and injury caused by guns in our society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sandra Cohen-Rose'.

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

cc: YWCA Canada, Canadian Foundation of Nurses Unions, Canadian Women's Foundation, National Association of Women and the Law, Coalition for Gun Control, Trauma Association of Canada, Canadian, Doctors for Protection from Guns