

Email

From: **The Honourable Maryam Monsef / L'honorable Maryam Monsef (FEGC/WAGE)**

<[The.Honourable.Maryam.Monsef@cfc-swc.gc.ca](mailto:The.Honourable.Maryam.Monsef@cfc-swc.gc.ca)>

Date: Fri, Jan 29, 2021 at 2:15 PM

Subject: Reply from the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development

To: [presncwc@gmail.com](mailto:presncwc@gmail.com) <[presncwc@gmail.com](mailto:presncwc@gmail.com)>

Dear Patricia:

Thank you for your correspondence dated December 7, 2020. I appreciate you reaching out to us to share your concerns about the shrinking of the space for civil society to engage in the work of the United Nations and express interest in being active participants of the UNCSW 65. As someone who before politics was actively involved in the sector, this is an issue that is of importance to me.

Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) is committed to supporting the active engagement of civil society in the UNCSW. As you may know, last year's UNCSW 64 was significantly scaled back due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in cancelled travel to New York City for Canada's delegation, including the civil society delegates. Given that these delegates did not have the opportunity to participate in the UNCSW 64, WAGE has asked them to be part of this year's Canadian delegation. Therefore, no nomination process was launched this year for civil society organizations to join the Canadian delegation. This year's decision does not set a precedence and we will resume our normal practice of having an annual open nomination process in the future.

Please note that your organisation will have an opportunity to participate in consultations leading to UNCSW 65 and provide feedback. WAGE intends to share all the pertinent documents with the Canadian civil society organizations interested in attending UNCSW 65 for review and input in February-March 2021. Your organisation is on the WAGE UNCSW65 distribution list and you will receive updates and requests for consultations through the UNCSW mailbox.

This is a challenging time for our country. The situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. We will continue to deliver for the Canadians who are counting on us, both to respond to the current situation and to achieve our long-term goal of gender equality.

Thank you once again for contacting us. We value your continued commitment to improving the quality of life for women, children, and families in Canada and throughout the world and look forward to working with you in the future.

Respectfully,

The Honourable Maryam Monsef, P.C., M.P.  
Minister for Women and Gender Equality  
and Rural Economic Development