

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED
GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

We, the undersigned citizens of Canada, draw the attention of the House to the following:

THAT, WHEREAS half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16,

WHEREAS in a 2009 Canadian national survey, women reported 460,000 incidents of sexual assault in just one year, yet only about 10% of all sexual assaults are reported to police,

WHEREAS each year, over 40,000 arrests result from domestic violence - that's about 12% of all violent crime in Canada - and since only 22% of all incidents are reported to the police, the real number is much higher,

WHEREAS as of 2010, there were 582 known cases of missing or murdered Aboriginal women in Canada, both Amnesty International and the United Nations have called upon the Canadian government to take action on this issue, without success, and according to the Native Women's Association of Canada, "if this figure were applied proportionately to the rest of the female population there would be over 18,000 missing Canadian women and girls",

WHEREAS the cost of violence against women in Canada for health care, criminal justice, social services, and lost wages and productivity has been calculated at \$4.8 billion per year,

WHEREAS gender inequality is visible in many areas of our society, including politics, religion, media, cultural norms, and our workplaces, and processes of socialization perpetuate these destructive practices, creating rationale for humiliation, intimidation, control, abuse, and even murder, and

WHEREAS violence against women is rooted in the belief that women deserve less social power and it is therefore acceptable to exert power over them, a mindset that also drives many other forms of violence, such as racism, homophobia, classism, ageism, and religious persecution,

THEREFORE, YOUR PETITIONERS call on the House of Commons to recognize that violence against women remains a critical problem in Canada, and disproportionately impacts indigenous women, as reflected in the crisis of missing and murdered Aboriginal women; that striving for pay equity and equal participation for women in leadership roles must be political priorities for all Members of Parliament; and that shifting cultural attitudes towards women and gender minorities in our society requires structural changes to our processes of education and socialization.

Signature	Full Address with City and Province	Email
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GUIDELINES

1. Petitions must not be altered or have any text added.
2. Petitions can be either double-sided, or have a blank back page.
3. A petition should contain signatures of residents of Canada only.
4. There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition.
5. Each petitioner must sign, not print, their name directly on the petition.
6. If a petitioner cannot sign because of illness or a disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness. Aside from this exception, you can only sign for yourself.
7. A petition must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted, taped, photocopied or otherwise transferred to it.
8. No photocopies, scans, e-mails etc. as petitions are only admissible in hardcopy.

Please return all original signed petitions, postage free, to:

Elizabeth May, M.P.
518 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Please email elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca or call 613-996-1119 if you have any questions.