

October 27, 2023

To: **The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.**, justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: The War and Humanitarian Crisis in Israel and Gaza**

We are writing today representing the membership of CFUW-FCFDU, 6,600 individuals from across Canada in 94 independent clubs. We are deeply disturbed by the dire situation unfolding in Israel and Gaza and alarmed by the suffering and violence inflicted on innocent civilians, especially the elderly, women and children, and the mounting humanitarian catastrophe.

For over 104 years, CFUW-FCFDU has been advocating for human rights, in fact CFUW founders were motivated in large part by the desire to promote and foster international peace. We believe that achieving a peaceful world depends upon the equality and respect of all, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion or politics. While we are not experts in the complex historical nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we are humanitarians and must stand up against hate and violence in all its forms, wherever it exists. Like many others around the globe, we fear that without de-escalation of the current situation, many more generations will be locked into irreconcilable conflict and an unending cycle of violence.

We ask that the Government of Canada use its influence for the following objectives:

1. Immediate and safe return of all hostages taken from Israel
2. Immediate ceasefire so that adequate humanitarian aid can be delivered to Gaza
3. Active involvement of women stakeholders in all aspects of conflict resolution, peacebuilding and reconstruction

Thank you for the actions you are taking to protect the human rights of all civilians in the region.

Yours sincerely,



Joy Hurst  
President, CFUW



Barbara DuMoulin  
Vice President International Relations, CFUW

CC: Jaime Beagan, Executive Director, CFUW