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We Need a National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence!

Letter-writing toolkit for a National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence in Canada



the power of women working together

**la puissance au féminin:
ensemble pour réussir**

Why a National Action Plan?

Canada is not yet a safe country for women and girls. In Canada, [1 in 2 women over age 16](#) have experienced at least one form of gender-based violence. The current response to violence against women has failed to significantly reduce its prevalence.

Canada does not yet have a national, comprehensive plan or strategy to address gender-based violence. The absence of a National Action Plan on gender-based violence means that policy responses and prevention measures are fragmented, unfocused, underfunded, and could ultimately impede safety rather than improve it.

Under international law, every country has an obligation to address violence against women - this includes implementing a National Action Plan by 2015. CFUW, [along with countless others](#), believe that a National Action Plan is long overdue.

A well-resourced and coordinated National Action Plan on Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence is crucial to eliminating all forms of gender-based violence. Women's Shelters Canada's 2015 [Blueprint for Canada's National Action Plan on Violence against Women](#) provides the solid framework upon which Canada's plan should be modelled.

The time for action and change is now!

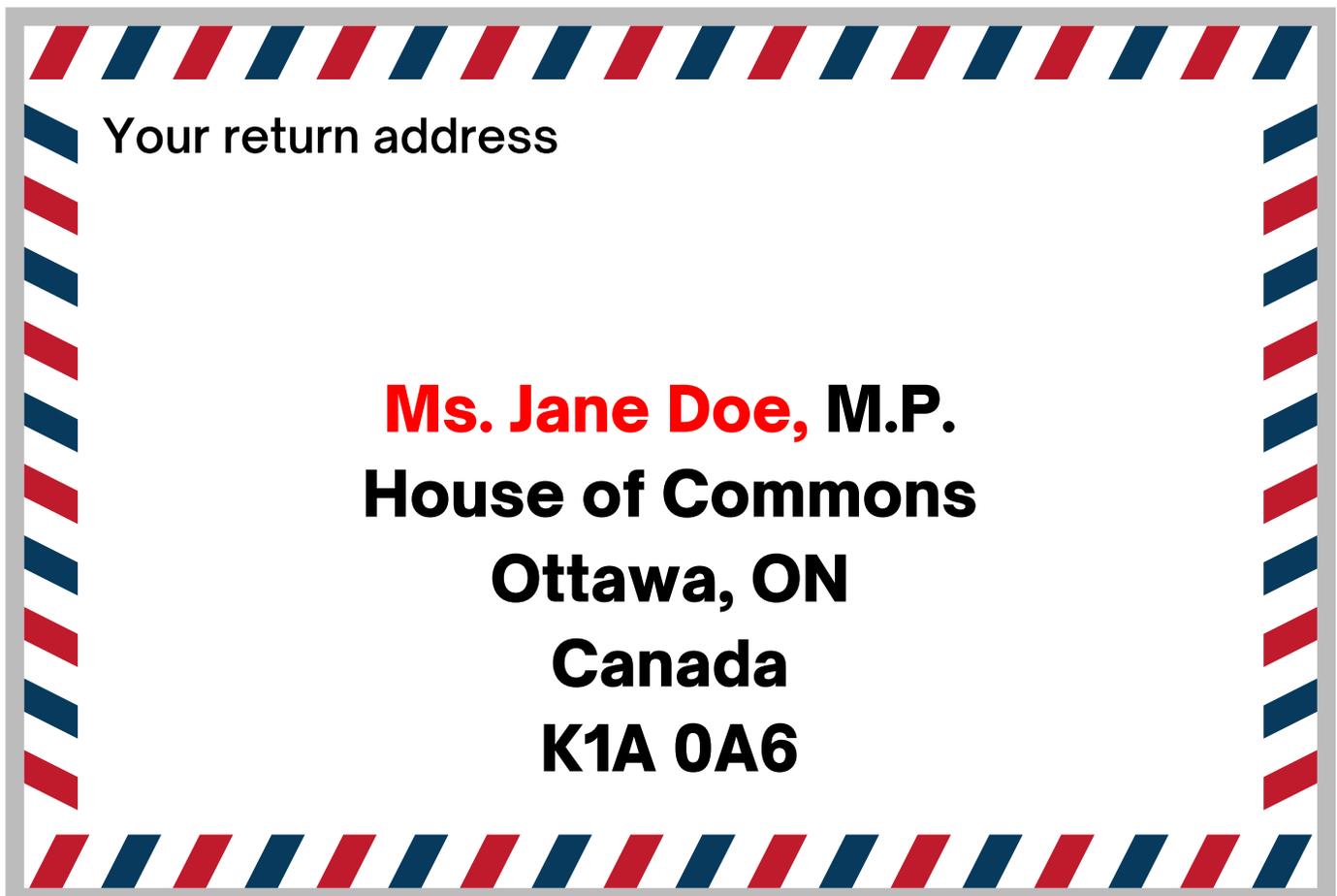
Step 1: Find your MP

Concerted action from all levels of government is necessary in implementing a National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence. Writing a personal letter to a Member of Parliament (MP) is an effective tool for change. We must let our representatives know that we are concerned for the safety of women and girls in Canada!

Follow this link to find your MP by postal code or city name:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>

See below to address your envelope. No postage necessary!



Your return address

Ms. Jane Doe, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
Canada
K1A 0A6

Step 2: Write your letter

Write your letter following the template below.
Feel free to add your own personal statements!

Dear [Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____] / For a local member who is a Cabinet Minister: **Dear Minister _____,**

My name is [_____] and I am a constituent of the [_____] riding.

I am writing to express my concern for the safety of women and girls in Canada. Gender-based violence is widespread in our society. Every 6 days in Canada, a woman is killed by her intimate partner. 1 in 2 women over age 16 have experienced at least one form of gender-based violence. Emerging data signals that the existing crisis of gender-based violence in Canada has deepened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

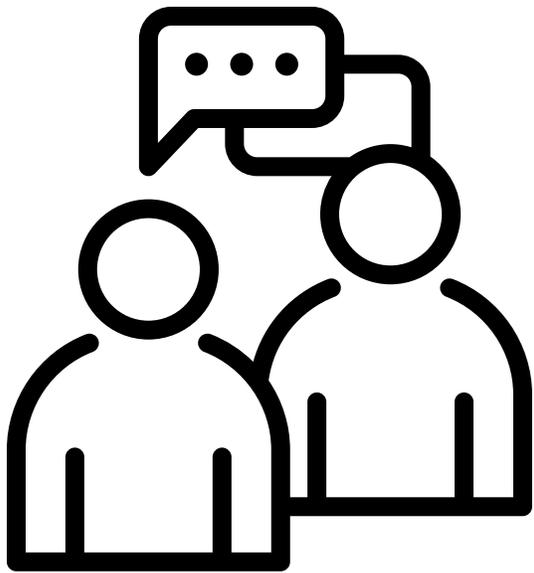
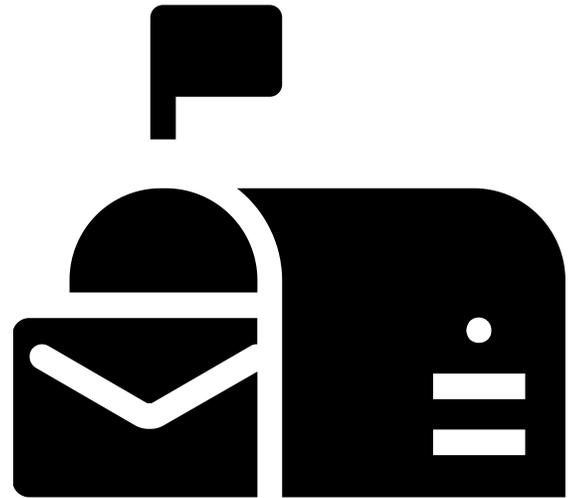
All levels of government have an obligation to address this violence. I am asking that you support the swift implementation of a National Action Plan on Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence. Canada does not yet have a comprehensive strategy to address gender-based violence - the time for action is now!

I look forward to your response on how you will be taking action on gender-based violence in Canada. Thank you for working to protect the members of our community.

Yours sincerely,
[Your name]

Step 3: Send & spread the word!

Drop off your letter to a Canada Post location or mailbox at your earliest convenience!



Tell a friend or family member about how you took action on gender-based violence. Encourage them to do the same!

