



February 17, 2022

**Attention: Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs**

Dear Senators Jaffer and Boisvenu

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs received a letter from the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) that highlighted our support for Bill S-210: An Act to restrict young persons' online access to sexually explicit material.

Council members from across the country attended the meeting that was held on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Others have since informed themselves of the proceedings by reviewing the recording.

The NCWC acknowledges and appreciates the active participation of Senators and the role that uniquely positions them to help facilitate this issue moving forward as opposed to having action to protect children from online harms (including exposure to pornography) sidelined, thereby allowing for the continued risk and harms to children continuing until such time as the rights of the child and our obligations are finally upheld in law and practice.

We look forward to learning of further meetings wherein the witnesses invited can provide members of the committee with positions that reflect and support the Bill and Canada's obligations as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially the 2021 Comment 25 that specifically calls for measures to be implemented to protect children and youth online. Kindly advise us when these meeting are scheduled.

We thank you for your efforts and those of your colleagues on the committee.

Respectfully,

Patricia Leson, President  
National Council of Women of Canada

***The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Canada is the traditional territory of Indigenous and Metis People. We are grateful to join with others in peace and hope, advocating for an improved quality of life for women, children, families, and society.***

**Note:** The original draft of this letter was prepared by Penny Rankin, NCWC Convenor for Children and Youth.

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C: Chairs of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

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