



October 2022

Honourable Melanie Joly  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dear Minister Joly

**Re: Death of Mahsa Amini**

On behalf of the members of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), I urge you in the strongest possible terms to use all the measures open to you to stand up to the tyrannical regime that allowed and contributed to the practices that resulted in this egregious act. These oppressive laws have resulted in the complete and utter domination of women, causing many to dub it a war on women.

Ms. Amini did not deserve to die simply because she refused to wear the hijab; this type of misogyny must be challenged where and when it happens. Women must have rights over their own bodies, including what they choose to wear. Their clothing should be a personal choice and never be viewed or allowed as a way for men to subjugate women. There is no dress code for equality.

While her death resulted in international condemnation, this is not an isolated incident. There are far too many countries where women's rights are denied, and they cower in fear of violence and violation, simply because of their gender.

Canada can be, and must be, a catalyst for change.

The National Council of Women of Canada stands with our sisters here at home and on the global stage in promoting equality and freedom of choice. Equality is a fundamental value that must be honoured and nurtured if growth opportunities are to be realized.

In this, our 130<sup>th</sup> year of advocacy for women, we urge you to join us in decrying this horrific act while pressing for the advancement of women's rights here at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

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 Monica Cullum, NCWC Justice Convenor.

**C:** Hon. Marci Ien, Minister Women and Gender Equality  
Hon. Marco Mendicino, Minister Public Safety  
Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister Housing, Diversity and Inclusion  
Pierre Poilievre, Leader Conservative Party of Canada  
Jagmeet Singh, Leader New Democratic Party  
Canadian Council of Muslim Women