



THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
**GENDER+SEXUAL
DIVERSITY**



LE CENTRE CANADIEN DE LA
**DIVERSITÉ DES GENRES
+ DE LA SEXUALITÉ**

C304-440 rue Albert St, Ottawa, ON K1R 5B5 (territoire Algonquin Territory)
La journée rose (13 avril, 2016) | The Day of Pink (April 13, 2016)
info@ccgsd-ccdgs.org/ Tel: 613-858-3427

July 30, 2018

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

CC: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development; Randy Boissonnault, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 Issues; Karen Vecchio, Shadow Minister for Families, Children and Social Development; Randall Garrison, Critic for LGBTQ2+ Issues ; and Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada

RE: Canada's Support for LGBTI Rights Globally and the Equal Rights Coalition Conference

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual on the eve of ***Leaving No One Behind: the Equal Rights Coalition Global Conference on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development***, which will bring states, development cooperation agencies, civil society organizations, multilateral agencies, private donors, and other relevant stakeholders to Vancouver from August 5-7, 2018.

We would like to commend the Government of Canada for its leadership and commitment to ensuring the rights of LGBTI people around the world are respected, protected, and upheld. We are proud that Canada has, for the past year, been the Co-Chair of the Equal Rights Coalition and look forward to further leadership in advancing the equality and dignity of LGBTI people both in Canada and around the world.

In the midst of shrinking space for civil society to peacefully advocate for human rights in many countries, and threats and attacks on LGBTI rights around the world, this commitment is needed to demonstrate how championing human rights and safeguarding human dignity can be successfully implemented as a core pillar of foreign policy. We are also proud that Quebec has taken a leadership role recently in this area, as evidenced by the Government of Quebec's recent commitment of funding for LGBTI human rights in the Francophonie. Given this growing Canadian engagement, we believe that the federal government should lead with dedicated funding and the time to act is now, when eyes at home and abroad are upon us.

The *Leaving No One Behind* conference is a key opportunity for Canada to be on the world stage. We urge Canada to seize the opportunity of this conference to demonstrate its leadership on LGBTI rights issues globally. We urge Canada to:

- THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY (& GLOBALLY) by recognizing that LGBTQ2+ people still continue to face great adversity to full participation in society and equal access to services (health, education, employment...). We ask that the federal government implement the actionable changes from our PINK Agenda document (<http://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/agenda>), and provide greater legislative support, funding and



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resources to queer & trans organization in Canada thereby supporting LGBTQ2+ Canadians, newcomers and refugees.

- LEAD by clearly articulating Canada's commitments domestically and internationally to support LGBTI rights and how these fit within Canada's feminist approach to foreign policy.
- COMMIT to funding LGBTI rights human rights defenders, organizations, and social movements both in Canada and around the world at the same level as other key donor states, through a two-track mechanism with dedicated funding as well as funds within Feminist International Assistance Policy funding structures. (Example: In June 2018, the United Kingdom announced a new \$10 million international program to support LGBTI human rights globally.)
- WELCOME LGBTI persons fleeing persecution by working with civil society and governments to develop a proactive response to the global refugee crisis, including increasing UNHCR's capacity to respond to this crisis.
- SUPPORT human rights defenders by updating the Voices at Risk guidelines to outline the support available to LGBTI rights defenders.
- CHAMPION the work of the Equal Rights Coalition by expanding and extending Canada's engagement and financial commitments beyond its co-chairship, which ends in 2019.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to a successful and meaningful conference in Vancouver in August.

Sincerely,

Calla Barnett
(pronouns: she, her)

Board President

Le Centre canadien de la diversité des genres & de la sexualité |

The Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity

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La journée rose (10 avril, 2019) | **The Day of Pink** (April 10, 2019)