



CANADA

**SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE
ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION OF WOMEN
FOLLOW-UP, JUNE 2019**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the Committee) reviewed Canada's combined eighth and ninth periodic reports in October 2016.¹ In its Concluding Observations,² the Committee requested information from Canada within two years³ on its implementation of particular recommendations relating to the need for greater government coordination and allocation of resources to address discrimination against women, including through the development of a National Action Plan, and the need to immediately address violence against Indigenous women and girls.

On 21 February 2019, Canada submitted its interim report⁴. In this document, Amnesty International responds to that interim report in relation to the recommendations identified for the follow-up procedure.

¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, "Concluding observations on the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Canada", CEDAW (25 November 2016), UN Doc CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/8-9, para 1, undocs.org/CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/8-9 ["CEDAW Concluding Observations, 2016"].

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.* para 58.

⁴ Government of Canada, "Information provided by Canada in follow-up to the concluding observations" (21 February 2019), UN Doc CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/8-9/Add.1, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fCAN%2fCO%2f8-9%2fAdd.1&Lang=en ["Information provided by Canada"].

2. NEED FOR GREATER GOVERNMENT COORDINATION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

2.1 THE DEPARTMENT FOR WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

In 2016, the Committee welcomed the creation of a full-fledged Minister of Status of Women position, but expressed specific concerns at the lack of coordination and management of gender mainstreaming efforts between the federal, provincial, and territorial governments; the absence of a comprehensive national gender equality strategy, policy, and action plan addressing the structural factors that underpin gender inequalities; and the limited access to services provided by Status of Women as a result of the closure of 12 out of the 16 Status of Women Canada regional offices.⁵

In Canada's follow-up to the Committee's observations, Canada noted that, as of December 2018, the Office of the Coordinator for the Status of Women has been formally replaced by a full department named the Department for Women and Gender Equality,⁶ which carries a mandate to:

“advance equality, including social, economic and political equality, with respect to sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. It also has a mandate to promote the use of Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) to improve the inclusiveness of decision making processes.”⁷

The creation of this ministry has been accompanied by increased funding. Budget 2018⁸, for example, announced a significant investment of C\$86 million over five years, starting in 2018-2019, in the federal Gender Based Violence Strategy.⁹ Minister for Women and Gender Equality Maryam Monsef has specified that this funding “will help prevent teen dating violence, support rape crisis and sexual assault centres, and address online child exploitation.”¹⁰

Amnesty International welcomes these positive steps, but notes that significant funding gaps remain, particularly for frontline organizations actively supporting survivors of gender-based violence. For example, two recent national studies—one from Women's Shelters Canada¹¹ and the other by the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women¹²—reported that women escaping violence are being turned away

⁵ CEDAW Concluding Observations, 2016, para 20.

⁶ Information provided by Canada, para 6

⁷ *Ibid.* para 7.

⁸ Equality and Growth: A Strong Middle Class, <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2018/docs/plan/budget-2018-en.pdf>

⁹ Status of Women Canada, “2018–19 Departmental Plan,” Government of Canada (16 April 2018), [cfc-swc.gc.ca/trans/account-resp/pr/dp-pm/1819/dp-pm-en.html](https://www.swc.gc.ca/trans/account-resp/pr/dp-pm/1819/dp-pm-en.html).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ K. Maki, “More Than a Bed: A National Profile of VAW Shelters and Transition Houses,” Women's Shelters Canada (2019), endvaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/More-Than-a-Bed-Final-Report.pdf.

¹² “Surviving Abuse and Building Resilience—A Study of Canada's Systems of Shelters and Transition Houses Serving Women and Children Affected By Violence,” Report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women, 42nd Parl, 1st

from shelters across Canada that are operating beyond capacity because of a chronic lack of resources and funding. Further, existing facilities across Canada are aging: the average age of facilities was found by Women's Shelters Canada to be 45 years (built in 1973-1974), while 80% of shelters were found to already need repair or renovations with almost half unable to afford them.¹³

Beyond funding, as the Committee noted in 2016, Canada still needs a comprehensive national gender equality strategy, policy, and action plan that addresses the structural factors that underpin gender inequalities, and that covers areas under federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and First Nations jurisdictions. While Canada asserts its commitment to advancing gender equality, it has expressed "its commitment to adopt a comprehensive and permanent approach to gender budgeting and in multiple coordinated initiatives across various federal departments",¹⁴ as opposed to a coordinated, national gender equality plan or strategy involving all jurisdictions.

2.2 STILL NO NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

In 2016, the Committee welcomed Canada's "efforts to improve its institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of discrimination against women and promoting gender equality."¹⁵ As an essential next step, the Committee recommended that Canada develop a comprehensive national gender strategy, policy, and action plan addressing the structural factors that cause persistent inequalities with respect to women and girls, including intersecting forms of discrimination.¹⁶

To this end, the Committee also expressed concern at the "absence of a comprehensive national gender equality strategy, policy and action plan addressing the structural factors that cause persistent gender inequalities",¹⁷ and specifically noted that the then-planned national gender-based violence strategy was inadequate to the task given its limited application, only covering federal agencies.¹⁸ This strategy was launched in June 2017 as "It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence."¹⁹ Amnesty International²⁰ welcomed the strategy but, alongside a broad coalition of women's rights and other civil society organizations, has repeatedly²¹ underscored the strategy's insufficiency because, as the Committee noted, it only covers areas under federal jurisdiction.

Notably, in its response, Canada has not provided any information on efforts to advance a national action plan on gender equality, much less on addressing gender-based violence. Instead, Canada's submission emphasizes discrete federal, provincial, and territorial initiatives, which underscores the piecemeal nature of Canada's approach to addressing gender-based violence and more broadly, gender equality.²²

On 3 June 2019, upon receipt of the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, committed the government of Canada to "develop and implement a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ and two-spirit people." Amnesty International welcomes this announcement and urges its swift implementation. We also urge Canada to commit to a distinct national action plan on violence against women, which would be complementary to this national action plan.²³

Amnesty submits that a comprehensive, whole of government response, coordinated across all jurisdictions, is essential to address gaps and shortcomings in current policies, programs, and services to promote gender equality. As part of this effort, implementation of a National Action Plan to prevent and address gender-based

Sess (May 2019), www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/FEWO/report-15/page-187/hootPostID=b5c7b2750b915af7b13899af29101a44.

¹³ K. Maki, "More Than a Bed: A National Profile of VAW Shelters and Transition Houses," Women's Shelters Canada (2019), p III.

¹⁴ Information provided by Canada, para 11.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* para 5

¹⁶ CEDAW Concluding Observations, 2016, para 21(b).

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 20(b)

¹⁸ *Ibid.* para 24(d).

¹⁹ Status of Women Canada, "Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence," Government of Canada (3 July 2018), cfc-swc.gc.ca/violence/strategy-strategie/index-en.html.

²⁰ Jackie Hansen, "Why Canada needs a National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence," Amnesty International (7 March, 2018), www.amnesty.ca/blog/why-canadaneeds-national-action-plan-gender-based-violence.

²¹ Letter from Amnesty International and 25 organizations to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, "RE: Urgent Need for National Action Plan to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence in Canada" (8 March 2018), www.nawl.ca/en/actions/entry/joint-letter-calling-on-the-prime-minister-toenact-a-national-action-plan.

²² Information provided by Canada.

²³ Prime Minister welcomes final report from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 3 June 2019, <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news>

violence is also necessary to fulfill Canada's international human rights commitments.²⁴ Canada has played a leading role in promoting National Action Plans on gender-based violence and violence against women through resolutions led by Canada at the UN Human Rights Council. However, UN treaty bodies have repeatedly remarked on Canada's failure to live up to this obligation domestically.²⁵ In addition, many governments – including close allies such as Norway, Germany, and Australia – specifically called on Canada to commit to developing a National Action Plan when Canada's human rights record was reviewed by the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review in May 2018.²⁶ Canada did not accept those recommendations, noting instead that “addressing gender-based violence is a shared responsibility between federal, provincial and territorial governments, who work together to find complementarity between their respective strategies. With numerous measures in place that seek to address gender-based violence, Canada is not presently developing a national action plan.”²⁷

Nevertheless, the continued need for a national action plan, particularly to address gender-based violence in Canada, is more than evident. The broad variance in access to shelter services and facilities across Canada provides one example of how current shortcomings in a patchwork of federal, provincial, and territorial programs and funding are failing to provide consistent rights protections. All people in Canada should have the same access to violence prevention programs, and all women in Canada who experience violence should have the same access to programs and services no matter where they live. However, current division of responsibility between levels of government allows services and capacity to vary widely across the country. In fact, both the Status of Women House Committee and Women's Shelters Canada have separately recommended a national action plan on violence against women as a means to address this issue.²⁸

These gaps and inconsistencies in government support for services have particular impacts on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women, girls, and two-spirit persons who face significant obstacles to accessing supports they need to escape and heal from violence. Firstly, shelters in Indigenous communities, particularly in the north, receive substantially lower funding despite reported needs: on-reserve shelters serving Indigenous women, children, and families receive up to 50% less funding than their provincial counterparts,²⁹ and shelters in Inuit communities receive no funding from the federal department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.³⁰ Existing shelters are also stretched well beyond capacity or are inaccessible because of distance or costs of travel: There are roughly 15 shelters and transition houses serving 53 Inuit communities across the Arctic, while the federal department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs reports that it provides funding for only 41 shelters to serve the 634 recognized First Nations communities in Canada.³¹ While First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and girls have greater access to shelters if they live in urban centres, these shelters may not provide services and programs tailored to their specific needs.³²

²⁴ See, e.g., UN Women, “UNiTE to End Violence against Women,” www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/unite; and Canadian Network of Women's Shelters & Transition Houses, *A Blueprint for Canada's National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Girls* (2015), endvaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Blueprint-for-Canadas-NAP-on-VAW.pdf.

²⁵ CERD, *Concluding observations*, CERD/C/CAN/CO/21-23, para 24(a) (“Enact a national action plan on violence against women, inclusive of the federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions, with special provisions to end the high rates of violence against indigenous women and girls”); CEDAW, *Concluding observations*, CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/8-9, para 25(d) (“Expediently adopt a national action plan, in consultation with civil society organizations, especially indigenous women's organizations, to combat gender-based violence”); and Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Canada*, UN Doc CCPR/C/CAN/CO/6 (2015), para 9(b) (Canada should “review its legislation at the federal, provincial and territorial levels, and coordinate police responses across the country, with a view to preventing the occurrence of such murders and disappearances”).

²⁶ UN Human Rights Council, “Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Canada,” A/HRC/39/11, July 11, 2018, documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/210/82/PDF/G1821082.pdf?OpenElement.

²⁷ Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Canada, Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review, UN Doc. A/HRC/39/11/Add.1 (18 September 2018) para 19, documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/278/42/PDF/G1827842.pdf?OpenElement.

²⁸ “Surviving Abuse and Building Resilience—A Study of Canada's Systems of Shelters and Transition Houses Serving Women and Children Affected By Violence,” Report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women, 42nd Parl, 1st Sess (May 2019), Recommendation 5; and K. Maki, “More Than a Bed: A National Profile of VAW Shelters and Transition Houses,” Women's Shelters Canada (2019), Recommendation 4.

²⁹ A. Johnson, “Moving Forward! Planning for Self-determination” Final report prepared for the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (2011), acws.ca/sites/default/documents/AlbertaOnReserveSheltersFinalReport2011NovemberCS.pdf.

³⁰ “Canada: Close the funding gap to ensure safety and support for Indigenous women and girls escaping violence,” Amnesty International (14 February 2018), www.amnesty.ca/get-involved/take-action-now/canada-close-funding-gap-ensure-safety-and-support-indigenous-women-and-

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*

2.3 LACK OF FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, AND TERRITORIAL (FPT) COORDINATION

In 2016, the Committee called on the federal government to provide “leadership to the provincial and territorial governments” and ensure the “coherent and consistent implementation of the Convention throughout its territory.”³³ The Committee also expressed concern that the federal Government may not sufficiently use available accountability mechanisms to ensure that provincial and territorial governments establish legal and policy measures that are fully compliant with the Convention.³⁴

In responding to the Committee’s recommendation to strengthen the implementation of gender equality policies at the provincial and territorial levels, Canada provided little insight as to steps taken to provide sustained guidance. Instead, Canada emphasized “the nature of Canadian federalism and the respective responsibilities of each provincial and territorial government,” according to which “FPT governments continue to plan, organize and manage their respective gender equality policies and programs.”³⁵

The state writ-large is responsible for its human rights obligations, regardless of how domestic law may allocate responsibility for provision of services between and among different levels of government.³⁶ This principle of state accountability means that all levels of government—provincial, territorial, federal, municipal, and First Nation—are bound by Canada’s human rights obligations.³⁷ In the context of combatting violence against women, states are specifically required to have “executive policies or plans of action to eliminate violence against women,”³⁸ which should take the form of a national action plan.³⁹

In December 2017, for the first time in 29 years, federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for human rights met. The primary focus of the long overdue meeting was to consider ways to strengthen the implementation of Canada’s international human rights obligations within and across those two levels of government. Ministers made commitments to create a new senior level mechanism for overseeing implementation and to develop a new stakeholder engagement strategy and an intergovernmental protocol for coordinated implementation. They also committed to hold future ministerial level meetings to ensure follow through with respect to this agenda.⁴⁰ Eighteen months later, no further ministerial meeting has been held or scheduled, and steps to develop the senior level mechanism, stakeholder engagement strategy, and implementation protocol are still only in early stages. Amnesty International, other civil society groups, and Indigenous peoples’ organizations that participated in the ministerial meeting stressed that new measures to address the longstanding weaknesses in Canada’s approach to effective implementation of international human rights obligations must be guided by the following principles:

- Recognition of and respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples, guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Adoption of an intersectional feminist approach to upholding human rights;
- Application of a racial equity impact lens and a disability-based inclusion lens to Canada’s international human rights implementation framework;

³³ CEDAW, *Concluding observations*, CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/8-9, paras 10-11; and see also CEDAW, *Concluding observations on the seventh periodic reports of Canada*, UN Doc CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/7 (2008) para 12, undocs.org/CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/7.

³⁴ CEDAW Concluding Observations, 2016, para 10.

³⁵ Information provided by Canada, para 3.

³⁶ Human Rights Council, *Role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights – Final report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee*, UN Doc A/HRC/30/49 (2015) paras 17-18, documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/174/88/PDF/G1517488.pdf?OpenElement. See also, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1155 UNTS 331, 8 ILM 679, art 27 (entered into force 27 January 1980).

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ UN General Assembly, *In-depth study on all forms of violence against women: report of the Secretary General*, UN Doc A/61/122/Add.1 (2006), para 284, undocs.org/A/61/122/Add.1.

³⁹ In January 2007, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that called on all States to eliminate all forms of violence against women “by means of a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, adequately supported and facilitated by strong institutional mechanisms and financing, through national action plans.” UN General Assembly, *Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: resolution adopted by the General Assembly*, UN Doc A/RES/61/143 (2007) para 8, undocs.org/A/RES/61/143. See also, UN General Assembly, *Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: resolution adopted by the General Assembly*, UN Doc A/RES/63/155 (2009), undocs.org/A/RES/63/155.

⁴⁰ “Federal, provincial and territorial ministers from across the country gather to discuss human rights,” (12 december 2017), www.newswire.ca/news-releases/federal-provincial-and-territorial-ministers-from-across-the-country-gather-to-discuss-human-rights-663728343.html.

- Commitment to substantive equality to address systemic discrimination and marginalization;
- Commitment to address intersecting forms of sexism, racism, ableism, and other forms of discrimination;
- Acknowledgement that the fulfillment of economic, social, and cultural rights is a threshold requirement for the enjoyment of civil and political rights, particularly for those groups that are most disadvantaged, and that all human rights are universal and interdependent.⁴¹

2.4 NEED TO IMMEDIATELY ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS:

In 2016, the Committee emphasized Canada's continued need to "fully implement, without delay, all recommendations issued by the Committee in its report on its inquiry (see CEDAW/C/OP.8/CAN/1, paras. 216-220)", including by developing a coordinated plan for overseeing the implementation of the 37 outstanding recommendations made by the Committee in its report.⁴² The Committee emphasized that this work should be done "in cooperation, as appropriate, with the commission conducting the national inquiry, as well as with indigenous women and their organizations, women's human rights organizations and the provincial and territorial governments."⁴³

As the Committee noted, Canada's response to the systemic patterns of violence against Indigenous women and girls has long been inadequate. In 2016, while Amnesty International welcomed the launch of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Amnesty International cautioned that government should immediately act to implement previously identified solutions.⁴⁴ Unfortunately, such action was not taken. Similarly, while the National Inquiry's interim report was issued in November 2017, the federal government did not provide an official response to the report until June 2018.⁴⁵ Even then, key recommendations – such as the creation of a police task force to review unresolved missing persons and homicides where there are concerns over the adequacy of the initial investigation⁴⁶ – were not addressed. This delay in taking long overdue action has increased frustrations and placed added strain on survivors and family members. Amnesty International is greatly concerned that the release of the final report on 3 June 2019, so close to a federal election, may be met with further delays to much needed action.

However, we were encouraged by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's commitment, made on 3 June 2019 as he received the National Inquiry's final report:

We will work with Indigenous partners to determine next steps, and we will include the perspectives and full participation of Indigenous women and girls. We will also include the voices of LGBTQ and two-spirit people with lived experience, as well as the family members of victims, and survivors of violence. We will also continue to work with provinces, territories, and municipalities to encourage cooperation across all orders of government in responding to the report. Reducing the rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls, and Indigenous LGBTQ and two-spirit people, is a priority for the Government of Canada. Our government will turn the Inquiry's Calls for Justice into real, meaningful, Indigenous-led action.⁴⁷

Canada's persistent failure to take up and address recommendations made by families and loved ones of the missing and murdered, frontline service providers, regional and national Indigenous peoples' organizations,

⁴¹ *Moving Forward: A vision for strengthened international human rights implementation in Canada*, 11 December 2017, <https://ccrweb.ca/en/joint-statement-ftp-human-rights-meeting-2017>.

⁴² CEDAW Concluding Observations, 2016, para 27(a).

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ Alex Neve, "Amnesty International responds to launch of National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls" Amnesty International (3 August 2016), www.amnesty.ca/news/amnesty-international-responds-launch-national-inquiry-missing-and-murdered-indigenouwomen.

⁴⁵ Gloria Galloway, "Head of inquiry into missing, murdered Indigenous women says scope will narrow after extension limited to six months" The Globe and Mail (5 June 2018), www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-ottawa-allows-extension-for-inquiry-into-missing-murdered-indigenous/.

⁴⁶ "Interim report of MMIWG National Inquiry underlines urgent need for immediate government action" Amnesty International (1 November 2017), www.amnesty.ca/news/interim-report-mmiwg-national-inquiry-underlines-urgent-need-immediate-government-action.

⁴⁷ Prime minister welcomes final report from the national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, 3 June 2019, <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2019/06/03/prime-minister-welcomes-final-report-national-inquiry-missing-and-murdered>

international human rights bodies, and previous inquiries⁴⁸ through a coordinated and comprehensive human rights-based approach, has betrayed survivors of violence as well as their families and communities. Some actions have been taken, but they have been too few, and have been piecemeal at best. The Committee observed in 2015 that, “although the Committee notes the recent increased efforts by the State party to address these problems, it regrets that such efforts remain fragmented and is of the view that the magnitude of the required changes cannot be achieved by piecemeal reforms of existing programmes and services.”⁴⁹ The Committee concluded that the government’s failure to institute the magnitude of required action constituted a “grave violation” of Indigenous women’s human rights.⁵⁰ Amnesty International considers this assessment to still be accurate at this time.

On 3 June 2019, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report.⁵¹ The National Inquiry’s final report calls on the government of Canada to “immediately implement and fully comply with” “[a]ll the recommendations of the 2015 UN CEDAW Inquiry Report and cooperation with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on all follow-up procedures,” as well as “[a]ll recommendations made by international human rights bodies, including treaty monitoring bodies, on causes and recommendations to address violence against all, but specifically Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA individuals.”⁵²

It echoes recommendations made by the Committee in its report, as well as recommendations made by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights investigation, and other treaty body investigations and reviews. Amnesty International has joined a coalition of Indigenous organizations and civil society organizations in calling for the federal government – as well as all provincial and territorial governments – to initiate comprehensive, whole-of-government responses, coordinated across all jurisdictions and in collaboration with Indigenous women’s organizations, grassroots advocates, and family members, to end this human rights crisis.⁵³ This response should form a distinct and substantial part of a national action plan to prevent and address gender-based violence.

In its response to the Committee’s recommendations, Canada has promised that it “will work with provincial and territorial governments to determine the most effective ways to take action on the Commission’s final recommendations through an FPT working group.”⁵⁴ We trust that the government of Canada will also demonstrate a commitment to implementation that includes full and proper engagement with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women, girls, and two-spirit people in this process.

⁴⁸ See, e.g., CEDAW, Report of the inquiry concerning Canada of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, UN Doc CEDAW/C/OP.8/CAN/1 (2015), undocs.org/CEDAW/C/OP.8/CAN/1; IACHR, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in British Columbia, Canada, Inter-Am C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/ II, Doc. 30/14 (2014), www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/indigenous-women-bc-canada-en.pdf; Wally T. Oppal, Forsaken: the Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, 19 November 2012, Vol. I, www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Forsaken-ES-web-RGB.pdf.

⁴⁹ CEDAW, Report of the inquiry, UN Doc CEDAW/C/OP.8/CAN/1, supra note 33, at para 172.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.* at para 214.

⁵¹ *Reclaiming power and place: the final report of the national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, final report of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls*, 3 June 2019, <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>

⁵² Calls to justice 1.2. National inquiry.

⁵³ Open letter from Amnesty International and over 30 organizations to Minister Carolyn Bennett, “RE: Urgent need for comprehensive response to National Inquiry report” (3 May 2019), www.amnesty.ca/news/open-letter-minister-bennett-urgent-need-comprehensive-response-national-inquiry-report.

⁵⁴ Information provided by Canada, para 21.

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CANADA

SUBMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION OF WOMEN, FOLLOW-UP

The United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the Committee) reviewed Canada's combined eighth and ninth periodic reports in October 2016.¹ In its Concluding Observations, the Committee requested information from Canada within two years on its implementation of particular recommendations relating to the need for greater government coordination and allocation of resources to address discrimination against women, including through the development of a National Action Plan, and the need to immediately address violence against Indigenous women and girls.

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