

The Honourable Mark Furey
Minister of Justice
1690 Hollis St.
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JUSTMIN@novascotia.ca

July 9, 2020

Dear Minister Furey:

I am writing to you on behalf of the [Ending Violence Association of Canada](#) (EVA Canada) in solidarity with feminist and anti-violence organizations and advocates across the country calling for an independent, public inquiry into the mass shooting that took place in Nova Scotia on Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19, 2020. As a national organization that works closely with survivors of gender-based violence and anti-violence organizations across the country, EVA Canada and its member organizations were [deeply troubled](#) by this deliberate act of male violence that in addition to the loss of 22 lives has left in its wake unimaginable suffering for the families of the victims and the communities in which they live.

EVA Canada joins with [those who demand](#) recognition of the mass shooting as an act of femicide and misogynist violence. In addition, we echo widespread demands from [families of the victims](#), [anti-violence organizations](#) and [advocates](#), [Senators](#), and [academics](#) and [legal scholars](#) with expertise in femicide and gender-based violence, for an independent, public inquiry into the RCMP's response to the mass shooting and the events leading up to it.

While [reports](#) that plans for a public inquiry are underway appeared to be a step in the right direction, we underline concerns expressed to you in a [joint letter](#) submitted on July 7, 2020 by 26 organizations working to eliminate or reduce gender-based violence, including EVA Canada, that the inquiry will utilize a [restorative approach](#). In its development of the inquiry framework and approach, EVA Canada urges government to heed the recommendations put forth in this joint letter for an inquiry that is open, independent, and fully transparent. This process must be one that will facilitate an examination not only of the [policies, procedures, and decisions informing the actions of the RCMP in both the days leading up to this event](#) and the event itself but also how broader societal and contextual factors, including misogyny, shaped both the violence and the response to this violence.

While no investigation is capable of replacing the losses suffered as a result of this tragic event, carrying out a feminist, public inquiry is a vital opportunity for understanding and action in the spirit of preventing future tragedies. A public inquiry that examines the systemic and contextual factors that support misogyny, femicide, and gender-based violence, as well as one that critically examines police responses to these forms of violence, is an essential step in identifying and enacting strategies capable of truly contributing to the eradication of misogynist violence and femicide not only in Nova Scotia but across Canada.

Sincerely,



Erin Whitmore
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NL Sexual Assault Crisis
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