

The Honourable Marci Ien
Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth
minister-ministre@swc-cfc.gc.ca

January 24, 2022

Dear Minister Ien,

As a follow-up to our letter sent November 4, 2021, the [Ending Violence Association of Canada \(EVA Canada\)](#) would like to reiterate our interest in working collaboratively with you and your team in our collective efforts to address gender-based violence. We have reviewed with interest the mandate letter provided to you as Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, and we would like to highlight some of the ways that our organization can support you in taking action on the priorities that fall under your mandate.

EVA Canada is a national organization with representation from sexual assault, domestic violence, and gender-based violence organizations from across the country. EVA Canada members have a long history of advocating for changes to strengthen policies, legislation, and systems to better respond to the needs of survivors of gender-based violence.

Your mandate letter's priorities align with our own, in particular with regards to implementing the National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence. We are well-positioned to advise on matters related to gender-based violence, and sexual violence in particular, and we are eager to be involved in the work of the National Action Plan Secretariat. Our network is comprised of advocates and subject-matter experts from the women's movement, some of whom have worked for decades in the field of sexual violence. As a result, EVA Canada takes a special interest in working to develop distinct strategies to address sexual violence, which may otherwise be overlooked in broader discussions about gender-based violence. You may be interested in reviewing the attached resource we recently prepared in collaboration with sexual violence advocates within our network that identifies our priorities in addressing and responding to sexual violence.

Another priority identified in your mandate letter that converges with the work we are focused on is advancing meaningful institutional change. Our organization and its members have experience working in an advisory role with both the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in their efforts to adapt their processes to be more survivor-centered and trauma and violence-informed. Issues we have been consulted on include sexual misconduct within the CAF, advocate case review, and sexual assault investigation training.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and your team to discuss some of the pressing issues facing anti-violence advocates and organizations across the country, as well as our work to end sexual violence, gender-based violence and to foster institutional change. We believe that we are well-positioned to assist you in reaching the goals set out in your mandate letter.

Yours sincerely,



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Enclosures: (1) Sexual Violence: A Public Health Crisis in Need of a Proportional Response; (2) La violence sexuelle: Un enjeu de santé publique qui exige une réponse proportionnée