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Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau;

We thank your Executive Correspondence Officer, S. McAdam, for responding on July 13, 2017, to our letter of June 7, 2017. The July 13th response by McAdam stated that our concerns regarding non-State torture (NST) “falls more directly under the purview of the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.” We disagree otherwise we would not forward correspondence to you.

Reasons why we persist writing to you involves respect for your mandate as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs *and Youth*:¹

1. Mr. Trudeau, as a Self-identified feminist we assume that gender human right equality is a fundamental belief you hold. This raises two questions:
 - a. **What human right instrument informs your human right references in your speeches, including to youth?** For example, is it the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which is the most translated text in the world, presently in over 500 languages and dialects.²
 - b. **What specific human rights do you refer to when you speak about human rights equality to youth?** For instance, how do you explain the contradiction and the human rights discrimination that exists in Canada considering that in the UDHR article 5 says that no one be subjected to torture but this only applies to Canadians tortured by State actors. This contradicts article 2 that says “everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms, set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind”?
2. We frequently teach human rights to young school aged children, but also to junior and high school students plus to university health science students—the

¹ Bacalso, C. (2015, November 24). Prime Minister of Youth: Canada’s head of state is also the country’s new youth minister. *YouthPolicy.or*. Available from: <http://www.youthpolicy.org/blog/youth-policy-young-people/prime-minister-youth-minister/>

² OHCHR. (2016, November 2). New record: translations of universal declaration of human rights pass 500. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20816>

latter groups are youth. We utilize the UDHR. When we reach article 5—that no one shall be subjected to torture—the discriminatory human rights contradiction arises. We must explain that in Canada this human right only belongs to Canadians tortured by State actors. **Youth** quickly identify this as a human right injustice. Children younger than youth have questions about non-State torture victimizations. We have been asked by 13 and 14 years olds about cases in the media that involved sexualized non-State torture. Discussions also involve ‘torture pornography’ and non-State torture inflicted against girls exploited—trafficked and prostituted.

3. We both have children as you do. When we were ‘introduced’ in 1993 to the reality that non-State torture occurs in the private sphere our children ranged from preschoolers to university youth. **Our questions to our-Selves then and now remain; in our opinion these ought to be questions for you as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Youth:**
 - a. If we did not and do not take responsibility to advocate for the truthful naming and criminalization of NST who will? **Will you?**
 - b. **Is it acceptable** that the Canadian socio-legal, political, protection and supportive functioning for the women who were as children, **as youth**, as adults, told they are lying when they tried to disclose NST victimizations, or labeled “crazy”, abandoned, or left to commit suicide as their only way out?
 - c. Ought it be ignored that women we support who suffered NST as children, as **youth**, did not know they were human beings? This is what non-State torturers do—they work at destroying a person’s sense of being human. Should we not persist to advocate for their human right equality—for their human and legal right not to be subjected to torture as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares in articles 1,2,3,5, and 7? **Should you not ensure their and all persons their human and legal rights equality?**

The above reasons explain why we disagree that our concerns regarding non-State torture, “falls more directly under the purview of the Honourable Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould. We persist writing to you as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs **and Youth** knowing that Canada’s national and global human rights future must be handed on to all Canada’s youth equally—this must include the universal human right not to be subjected to torture regardless of who the torturer(s) is/are.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald