

Linda MacDonald, MEd, BN, RN and Jeanne Sarson, MEd, BScN, RN  
Persons Against Non-State Torture (NST)  
[www.nonstatetorture.org](http://www.nonstatetorture.org) | [contact@nonstatetorture.org](mailto:contact@nonstatetorture.org)  
361 Prince Street, Truro, NS, Canada B2N 1E4  
(902) 895-6659 | Cell (902) 956-2117

September 23, 2017

To: Maryam Monsef, MP, Minister of the Status of Women  
Sent via email: [Maryam.Monsef@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Maryam.Monsef@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Maryam Monsef;

We hope that you have had time this summer to ‘catch’ your breath prior to restarting the work of being in the House.

This letter is to follow-up to our meeting on Friday, 23 June 2017 with you and Brittni Tee, Policy Advisor and to our June 28, 2017 letter to you. We were and are specifically requesting of you as Minister of the Status of Women **to name non-State torture (NST) as a distinct form of gender-based violence (GBV) that fits into Canada’s Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence.** We left your office with the impression that this action of naming NST is possible.

Naming truthfully **ALL** forms of violence women and girls suffer because of their gender and unequal social position as human beings in patriarchal-based societies is an essential intervention. Naming NST will:

1. Eliminate the invisibility of the women and girls so non-State tortured;
2. Promote their human rights equality and human dignity not to be subjected to torture regardless of who the torturer is, and
3. Promote their social inclusion which is about not leaving them behind as human persons.

Given that you and we were present at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2017, we all have the knowledge that ‘leaving no one behind,’ is the central theme of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the figure on the next page we outline three SDGs—16.2; 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3; and 10.3. These specific SDGs apply to human trafficking and NST. For the women we know who Self-identify having suffered the human rights atrocity of NST they generally tell of being trafficked in and out of their homes for sexualized torturing by individuals and to pedophilic NST groups. Women tell us they were taught as children that these violent NST gatherings were called “parties”.

### **Operationalizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

## World Day against Trafficking in Persons

The infographic displays the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a grid. Three specific goals are highlighted with callout boxes:

- SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**  
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
- SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY**  
5.1 End discrimination against all women & girls  
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women & girls in public & private spheres  
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices.
- SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES**  
10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

24/09/2017

Jeanne Sarson & Linda MacDonald © [www.nonstatetorture.org](http://www.nonstatetorture.org)

1

If your Ministerial task is to operationalize Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence it is our understanding the Government is mindful of its United Nations State party commitment to the STGs. This commitment means:

1. SDG 16.2 acknowledges that torture of children occurs along with suffering being trafficked and other forms of exploitation for example.
2. SDG 5.1 – 5.3 acknowledges that all forms of violence which therefore includes torture whether perpetrated against women and girls in public or private spheres must be eliminated. To illustrate that the destruction of a person's relational sense-of-Self is equally destroyed whether inflicted by non-State or State torturers here is a brief opinion piece (written by Jeanne) recently published titled, [Non-state torture: A response to Ibrahim Kira's "A critical outlook at torture ..."](#) (July 30, 2017 in *The Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict & Violence*).
3. SDG 10.3 speaks about initiating policies and taking action to eliminate discrimination and inequalities that occur in societies—including within Canadian society.

**In closing, Maryam, will you be NAMING NST as a form of violence in Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence? This is the only honest intervention possible.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald

Cc: Bill Casey, MP, [Bill.Casey.A2@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bill.Casey.A2@parl.gc.ca)