

Canadian Campaign to Stop Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict

Who we are

- The Canadian Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict is an initiative of the Women, Peace and Security Network – Canada.
- It is led by a network of women’s rights, social justice and human rights organizations—as well as individuals—who are concerned about the high level of sexual violence in conflict.
- We are leveraging our experience and networks to help make Canada’s impact on ending sexual violence in conflict more powerful and effective.

What we are doing

- The Campaign is advocating for Canada’s leadership and meaningful participation in global efforts to support survivors and end sexual violence in conflict.
- The Campaign is calling on the Government of Canada to step up, and take real and immediate action to end sexual violence in conflict.
- The Campaign is coordinating civil society actions and monitoring the Government of Canada’s commitments to end sexual violence in conflict.

Why Canada should be doing more on sexual violence in conflict

- Violence against women is a major stumbling block to peace. One of the best ways for the Government of Canada to support countries in conflict is to invest in women’s rights. Fundamentally, if you are not addressing sexual violence in conflict, then you are not addressing conflict.
- Sexual violence is unacceptable in Canada, and is unacceptable in the rest of the world. If violence is perpetrated in the world, near or far, and we do nothing, it diminishes us—so we are compelled to act.
- Canada has a proud history as a human rights champion, and must live up to its principles and values by supporting women around the world.
- Achieving women’s equality and ending sexual violence around the world is of “strategic importance” for all Canadians. Many Canadians come from countries in conflict, and live with the scars of sexual violence and other major human rights violations. This is an issue that matters to Canadians.
- Working together, we can end this crisis of sexual violence against women around the world.

What we are asking for

- The Campaign is asking for Canada to pay sustained, robust attention—and make a long-term commitment to—supporting survivors and ending sexual violence in conflict. Leadership requires resources.
- The Campaign is asking Canada to create a global fund to support women’s organizations and women’s human rights defenders working generally on women’s rights and specifically on sexual violence.

- The Campaign is calling on the Government of Canada to fund the full range of sexual and reproductive health services including pregnancies resulting from rape, without discrimination (as recognized in Security Council Resolution 2122).
- The Campaign is calling on the Government of Canada to sign the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).
- The Campaign is asking that the commitments made by the Government of Canada through Canada's National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (NAP) be fully implemented, and that women's organizations in Canada be included as allies in this process. To help accomplish this, the Campaign is asking for the appointment of a high-level champion for ending sexual violence in conflict that can liaise between government departments and civil society, and monitor the implementation of the NAP.