Date

Name of MP

Member of Parliament for (name of constituency)

284 Wellington St.

Ottawa, ON

K1A 0A6

**REQUEST: Contact Maryam Monsef, Minister of the Status of Women, asking that non-State torture be named as a specifically form of violence in the Government’s Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence.**

Dear (Name of Member of Parliament),

I am writing on behalf of the (Name) Chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women **(CFUW)**, a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded non-governmental organization (NGO) with over 100 chapters across Canada. CFUW works to promote the status and human rights of women and girls. CFUW adopted a national policy statement on non-state torture (NST) in 2011. As international members of Graduate Women International (GWI), it also adopted a non-state torture policy in 2013.

It is a human right of all peoples to be protected from torture as stated in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Government knows Canadian women and girls are subjected to non-State torture—this is torture committed by private individuals or groups. For instance, the protection of children from sexualized exploitation on the internet involves the Canadian Centre for Child Protection which is under the watch of Public Safety Canada. Research from the Canadian Centre identifies that some children from infants to age eight are tortured and gender makes a difference.[[1]](#endnote-1) Girls were/are predominately victimized (80% versus boys 20%).[[2]](#endnote-2) An RCMP report on sexual exploitation of young women describes acts of torture inflicted by traffickers.[[3]](#endnote-3) A BC police report speaks of sadistic torture inflicted against several women by ‘johns’.[[4]](#endnote-4) The Native Women’s Association of Canada report on sexualized exploitation also details torture victimization by non-State actors—by the buyers.[[5]](#endnote-5) The 1993 national study on gender-based violence funded by the federal Status of Women identified that Canadian women were tortured in the domestic or private sphere.[[6]](#endnote-6) These reports all differentiated non-State torture as a distinct form of gender-based violence, separate from assaults.

In the Government of Canada **Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence**, it states that it “will fill gaps in support for diverse populations”. **Therefore, CFUW (name of Club) requests that you contact Maryam Monsef, Minister of the Status of Women, asking her to name non-State torture as a first step in educating civil society.** The Strategy is to prevent all forms of gender-based violence and naming non-State torture is an effective and supportive response, respecting and promoting the human rights of women and girls (all children) who have been victims of non-State torture. For further information on non-state torture, I refer you to the following website <http://nonstatetorture.org>.

Sincerely,

References

1. Bunzeluk, K. (2009, November). *Child Sexual Abuse Images: Summary Report. An Analysis of Websites by cybertip!ca.* Canadian Centre for Child Protection [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Canadian Centre for Child Protection. (2016). *Child sexual abuse images on the internet: A cybertip.ca analysis Summary of key findings*. Retrieved from <https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP_CSAResearchReport_Summary_2016_en.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre (HTNCC). (2013, October). *Domestic human trafficking for sexual exploitation in Canada*. Ottawa: Royal Canadian Mounted Police. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. LePard, D. (2010). *MissingWomen investigation review*. Vancouver police department. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/bc/news/bc-100820-vancouver-police-pickton-investigation-review.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Native Women’s Association of Canada. (2014, March). *Sexual exploitation and trafficking of Aboriginal women and girls Literature review and key informant interviews*. Toronto: Canadian Women’s Foundation Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada. Retrieved from <http://canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/NWAC%20Sex%20Trafficking%20Literature%20Review_2.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women. (1993). *Changing the landscape: Ending violence ~ Achieving equality*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Supply and Services. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)