

Letter Writing Suggestions

Resolution 2019.01 Canada to Honour its Commitment to
the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*

Link to resolution: cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019.01-Canada-to-Honour-its-Commitment-to-the-United-Nations-Convention-on-the-Rights-of-the-Child..pdf

What is known:

- The United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) states that the child before birth needs legal protection.
- The federal government ratified the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* on December 13, 1991, legally binding itself to this United Nations document.
- The federal government had an opportunity to disagree with the legal protection of the unborn in this agreement, and did not.
- It has been 29 years since the federal government legally bound itself to the UNCRC and yet there is still no national law that protects children before birth which is in direct violation of the country's legal obligation to the United Nations.

Members can demand legal protection of children before birth by:

- Praying for the unborn.
- Writing to the prime minister and minister of justice with copies to their member of parliament urging the legal protection to children before birth as stated in the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* which Canada has signed and ratified.
- Finding ways to celebrate the annual International Day of the Unborn Child on March 25th which was initiated in 1999 by St. John Paul II
- Referring to these websites for more information:
 - Message from His Holiness Pope Francis on protecting the unborn child: w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2019/may/documents/papa-francesco_20190525_yes-to-life.html
 - Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops statement on the protection of the unborn child: ccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/statements-a-letters/4873-the-state-has-a-legitimate-interest-in-protecting-the-unborn-statement-on-the-30th-anniversary-of-the-morgentaler-decision
- **Speaking up loudly and often to everyone they know.** Let people know that the federal government needs to honour the commitment it made when it signed and ratified the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* which states, “The child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.”

His Holiness Pope Francis' message from the “Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* on The Call to Holiness in Today's World”:

Our defence of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development.

Pope Francis' complete message may be read at:

w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html.

**During the time that the House of Commons is not sitting,
send letters by both e-mail and Canada Post.**

Send a letter to the prime minister postage free.

The Rt. Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Consider using the prime minister's website to send an electronic message at:
pm.gc.ca/en/connect/contact.

Send a letter to the minister of justice postage free.

The Hon. David Lametti
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
E-mail: David.Lametti@parl.gc.ca

Carbon copy the local member of parliament postage free.

Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Find the local member of parliament at ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search.

Please find a suggested message on the following page. If rewording the message, members should clearly indicate they are writing as constituents and members of The Catholic Women's League of *their parish council* (not as a representative of the League, unless they are the president of the council).

Date

The Rt. Hon. _____	or	The Hon. _____	or	Mr./Ms. _____
Prime Minister of Canada		Minister of _____		Member of Parliament
House of Commons		House of Commons		House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6		Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6		Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, or Dear Mr./Mrs. _____,

In 1991, the Canadian government ratified the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC), legally binding itself to the treaty. The UNCRC is very clear in stating that the rights and legal protection of children are paramount in both born and pre-born children.

The preamble from the UNCRC states, “Bearing in mind that, as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, ‘the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.’”

Canada needs to adhere to the commitments made when ratifying the UNCRC by passing legislation to protect the pre-born child. The *Criminal Code* provides no legal protection for pre-born children making Canada the only country in the world where the entire nation has no restrictions on abortion. This is an extreme violation of the rights of children as recognized by the United Nations and Canada, as demonstrated by the ratification of the UNCRC. As my voice in government I urge you to speak up for this treaty because I believe (*insert your own wording*).

What action will you take on this issue? I look forward to your considered reply.

Kind regards,

Signature

Name

Address (The postal code is important as it indicates you are one of your member of parliament’s constituents).

E-mail

Carbon copy (CC) other members of parliament, ministers, and organizations who have received the same letter. The recipient will know that others are aware of this issue.