



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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August 13, 2025

The Rt. Hon Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON KIA 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

National council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada met in 105th annual national convention in Toronto, Ontario on August 11th through 13th, 2025. On behalf of the 446 attendees, representing 55,000 members across Canada, I am writing to express dismay and concern for the plight of women and children who are living in appalling conditions in Gaza.

The UN Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict states, "Women and children belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, or who live in occupied territories, shall not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights...."

Further, "The impacts of armed conflict on children are multi-pronged and have long-term consequences beyond the duration of the armed conflict. When children are exposed to armed conflict, denied humanitarian access, displaced from their homes and families and unable to attain education, the ramifications impact the individual child and, at the same time, impact the development of communities and economic growth while perpetuating cycles of insecurity and violence" (Canadian Museum for Human Rights).

Children make up nearly half of all citizens in Gaza. Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor found 91% of Gazan children suffer from conflict-related trauma and 80% of these vulnerable children face emotional distress. Without a safe home, nutrition and education, their future and the future of Gaza is bleak.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada urges the federal government to press for sustained humanitarian aid and as well as an immediate end to the conflict between Israel and Hamas so that the women and children living in Gaza may begin to safely seek shelter, food and medical aid and rebuild their communities in peace.

May God bless you,

Shari Guinta
National President