



**DIGNITY
NETWORK
CANADA**

SUPPORTING LGBTIQ RIGHTS WORLDWIDE

PRE-ELECTION BRIEFING DOCUMENT

SEPTEMBER 2021

DEAR MEMBERS,

As Canada heads into a federal election, it is important for international LGBTIQ human rights to be on the agenda.

DNC has put together some talking points and requests that Canadian civil society can make to any candidates and elected officials they meet.

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Anti-LGBTIQ movements and organizations are expanding throughout the world at an alarming rate. They currently receive three times more funding than global LGBTIQ human rights movements.

Many countries have seen a resurgence of crackdowns and violence against LGBTIQ populations. In the past year alone there have been arrests in Ghana, Uganda, Cameroon and Nigeria. Hungary has banned LGBTIQ content in schools and Ghana has introduced a bill that would criminalize any person identifying as LGBTIQ or as an ally.

COVID-19 has amplified the vulnerability of the LGBTIQ population worldwide and greatly limited the capacity for human rights organizations to exist.

As part of the federal LGBTQ2 Action Planning process, Dignity Network Canada submitted a briefing document on how the Action Plan could address international issues.

This document is meant to provide a guide to DNC members on points to raise with candidates.

DNC PRIORITY ASKS

1 **Appoint a special ambassador for international LGBTIQ issues and human rights.**

- Canada has increased its support for LGBTIQ human rights, but it needs a leader to organize these efforts.
- Both the US and the UK have appointed a special envoy on LGBTIQ human rights in the past months.
- Appointing an ambassador demonstrates Canada's leadership and dedication to LGBTIQ human rights.

2 **Designate 0.4% (roughly \$20M) of Canada's annual international aid to LGBTIQ issues and human rights.**

- With only \$6M in yearly funding for LGBTIQ issues globally, Canada is far behind other leading ERC countries.
- According to the Global Philanthropy Project's Global Resources Report, prior to COVID-19, LGBTIQ rights were receiving an average of only \$0.04 for every \$100 of international assistance from donor governments.



3 Uphold the right to refuge for LGBTIQ survivors of persecution globally.

- More than 70 countries criminalize same-sex intimacy. In those countries, LGBTIQ people are subject to violence, imprisonment, and sometimes death.
- COVID-19 disproportionately affects those most vulnerable, including LGBTIQ Internally Displaced Persons.

4 Share COVID-19 vaccines with marginalized communities around the world, including LGBTIQ communities, by supporting the TRIPS waiver.

- The LGBTIQ human rights movement has lost and continues to lose many of its defenders to COVID-19.
- The TRIPS waiver will increase the manufacturing and production of vaccines by lifting intellectual property restrictions.

OUR APPROACH

If your organization is developing any advocacy or messages for candidates in your area, you can use this sheet to coordinate messaging and amplify the Dignity Network, or to guide your own requests.

We encourage you to raise these points at any opportunity, such as

- When meeting election candidates at the door,
- During town hall meetings with candidates, or
- When preparing election letters.

CONTACT

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ABOUT US

Dignity Network Canada is a group of civil society organizations across Canada involved in supporting the human rights of people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) globally.