

FEMINIST SCORECARD

2023



During a time of multiple unprecedented crises, what action has the government taken to advance women's rights and gender equality?



CARE WORK

The government continued to advance its ambitious child care agenda, with its historic public investment and bilateral agreements signed with all provinces and territories. Now we need a comprehensive system to address the full spectrum of care needs, including child care, disability and long-term care, and elder care.



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Major federal commitments and investments promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights and the rights of 2SLGBTQ people were welcome, including the launch of Canada's first-ever Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan. The government must now take action to guarantee abortion access, counter abortion misinformation and ensure comprehensive sex education is available across Canada, as well as to increase its global support and funding for LGBTQ rights.



GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Canada continued to show global leadership on paid and unpaid care work and made new investments focused on COVID-19 and global health. In order to tackle the combined crises of COVID-19, climate change and conflict – all of which exacerbate gender inequality – Canada must continue increasing foreign aid and take action to end vaccine inequality.



CONFLICT AND CRISIS

Canada made significant investments to fight the global hunger crisis and the wars fueling it, but funding levels must increase drastically to meet the rising needs and reach the most vulnerable women and girls. The convergence of multiple global crises and conflicts also underscores the need for a coherent feminist foreign policy for Canada.



MIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

The government created several programs to enable people seeking safety abroad to come to Canada and announced plans for a "regularization" program, which would provide a pathway to permanent residency for anyone in Canada with precarious immigration status. Yet, for too many migrants and refugees, accessing protection in Canada remains crushingly difficult.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Canada's ambitious climate action agenda includes investments in climate adaptation, mitigation and the energy transition. To achieve its climate goals, the government should listen to and support women and marginalized groups disproportionately affected by climate change and prioritize people and the planet above the interests of the fossil fuel industry.



ENDING POVERTY

As the government continues to phase out emergency pandemic support, those at the margins will be hit hardest by rising inflation, the housing crisis and a looming recession. To help prevent marginalized and low-income women from falling deeper into poverty, the government must sharpen its intersectional gender analysis and implement targeted strategies to tackle homelessness, racism and ableism.



REPRESENTATION & LEADERSHIP

The Prime Minister's cabinet goes beyond gender parity and gives women powerful roles to shape the government's actions at home and abroad. Still, more could be done to improve women's intersectional representation in cabinet and to combat rising levels of violence and harassment against woman politicians. Going forward, the government must also continue to support and meaningfully engage the feminist movement.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The government has made unprecedented commitments to address gender-based violence through federal funding, proposed legislative and judicial reforms, and the launch of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. This support must continue and include targeted actions to address shortcomings in the National Action Plan, and tackle systemic issues, service and program gaps, and intersectional vulnerabilities.



TAX

Rising inflation and the cost-of-living crisis hits marginalized women and groups with less access to resources the hardest. Despite promises, the government took little action to tackle extreme wealth inequality, like introducing a wealth tax, taxing excess corporate profits beyond the financial sector, closing tax loopholes and cracking down on tax avoidance.



WOMEN'S WORK & LABOUR RIGHTS

Women in Canada continue to be paid lower wages than men, are overrepresented in the most precarious jobs and are more likely to experience violence and harassment in the workplace. This year, the government took important steps to improve employment wages and benefits, but more federal action is needed to address gender inequality in the labour market and to hold Canadian companies accountable for their operations abroad.



RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN

The federal government has been too slow in addressing the inequalities and discrimination faced by Indigenous women, and progress in implementing the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls continues to move at a glacial pace.