

Messaging you can use in a Letter to the Editor – *Building Back Better*

Please select from the following messages to compose a letter to your local newspaper. Do not feel you must include all the points. Just use the ones you wish to highlight and adapt them to make the letter your own, using your own community context and personal experience to tailor your letter. Be sure to check your local newspaper's guidelines for formatting and required contact info before submitting. And please let GRAN know if your letter is published! grandmothersadvocacy@gmail.com

- As Canada emerges from the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic it is time to take stock of the past three months and prepare as best we can for an uncertain future.
- We have learned that we can act collectively in response to a public health crisis to “flatten the curve” of transmission, and that we can learn how to live a physically distanced life in a “new normal”.
- We have also learned how interconnected this global world truly is as the virus skipped quickly from one country to the next, and how the virus extracted its largest toll on the most vulnerable - the poor, people with pre-existing health conditions, those living and working in settings where physical distancing is not possible, and especially frail seniors in long term care.
- We know that the pandemic has had a much greater impact on women everywhere - the essential service workers, care givers of extended families and community leaders responding to needs of the most vulnerable.
- We know that the pandemic requires a global response. No longer can we just look at health care investments within our borders to protect us from the next wave of COVID-19, which is sure to come.
- As global citizens each of us are only as strong as the most vulnerable. Canadians have the opportunity at this surreal point in time to build back a better world.
- This is a world in which countries in the global south can build strong health care systems, address the tragedies of extreme poverty and hunger, and build sustainable economies that make international assistance no longer necessary. This need is especially true in sub-Saharan Africa where the impact of climate change compounded by COVID-19 is taking an enormous toll.
- It is important that the Government of Canada provides international assistance to support locally led solutions, primarily in the form of grants, and leadership in supporting the critical role that women-led organizations are playing in this response effort.

Messaging you can use in a Letter to your MP

Please use the following messages to compose a letter to your MP. It is not necessary to use all points. Select those that you want to emphasize. Consider closing by asking what commitment your MP is willing to make to advocate for these measures in Ottawa. And then let us know how he or she responds. grandmothersadvocacy@gmail.com

- As one of your constituents, I am writing to share my views with you about the importance of a global response to COVID-19.
- The pandemic has taught us --
 - how interconnected this global world truly is as the virus skipped quickly from one country to the next, and that the pandemic requires a global response.
 - That the most vulnerable – the poor and marginalized, whether in Canada or in the global south – are the most profoundly affected.
- The pandemic has shone a spotlight on inequalities in our world. We see the multiple challenges faced by people in the global south, dealing with these inequalities, with the impacts of climate change, already being felt and now with a huge health crisis.
- I support the federal government's commitments to date to contribute to a global response, but we need to see much more.
- To take Canada's leadership to the next level, I am asking you to take this request for more action and more investment back to parliament – to your caucus and your leader. We need the government to:
 - Invest at least 1% of Canada's COVID-19 response in additional international assistance towards the urgent appeal of the ACT Accelerator partners and global humanitarian needs. This support will help the world find the best vaccine, treatment and tests, and pool resources to streamline manufacturing and distribution.
 - Push organizations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to provide debt relief for developing countries so they can use their own resources to fight COVID-19 and be ready to commit more funds to these organizations to make this possible.
 - Require Canadian research institutes and companies who receive public funding for COVID-19 medical research to openly share their data and make their results accessible to all at an affordable price.