

**grandmothers**  
Advocacy Network



Mouvement de soutien des  
**grands-mères**

Advocating for the human rights of older women  
Défense des droits de la personne des femmes âgées

April 2, 2023

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

Grandmothers and others across Canada who are part of the Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN) are deeply disappointed by your broken promise to increase international assistance every year to 2030. Dismayed, in fact, that in last week's Budget you actually decreased Canada's international assistance.

We had taken you at your word that you would increase investments in development assistance year by year, a commitment you made publicly on a number of occasions and that is clearly stated in Minister Sajjan's mandate letter of December 2021. This is not the time to retreat from your commitment to international development assistance. At a time when the world is facing many intersecting global crises, we expected more. We believe that this Budget will undermine our ability to implement the Feminist International Assistance Policy and harm Canada's standing in the world.

We often hear from parliamentarians that people don't care about international aid, but we are here to say we do care. As Canadian mothers and grandmothers, of course we care deeply about our own families and communities. But as citizens of the world, this caring extends to grandmothers, families, and communities in the Global South. As volunteers, we devote a good deal of our time and much effort, advocating for the protection of their human rights and well-being.

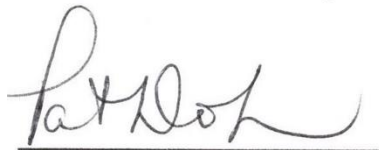
We are especially troubled right now with the extent of severe hunger in countries of the Global South, and in particular the countries in the Horn of Africa. We know that this global hunger crisis is directly related to poverty and inequality, to climate change, and to armed conflicts.

But you already know all of this and are very likely also aware that the World Food Programme has warned that we face an impending "hunger catastrophe" if action is not urgently taken. Millions are at risk. Where is Canada in responding to these crises, and in developing a better future for the world's most vulnerable people?

GRAN is absolutely committed to advocating for the human rights of older women in the Global South and we want to work in a positive way with our government to make this a reality. Please let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN)



Pat Dolan (Co-chair)



Linda Kulkarni (Co-chair)

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Cc: Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of International Development Harjit Sajjan