



## Meeting with Your Member of Parliament to Talk about Global Hunger

[Note: This document is for GRAN members' use only and not meant to be given to your MP.]

### Planning & Requesting a Meeting

Our [Advocacy Tool Box](#) on the GRAN website includes a Power Point presentation entitled, "Visiting Your MP" that provides a step-by-step guide to requesting, preparing, and conducting a meeting with your MP. We also have a [recording](#) of a Learning Event with MP Anita Vandenberg which is worth reviewing for tips on meeting with your parliamentarian.

\*Please note that meetings by phone or by Zoom can be just as effective as those in person.

### Before the Meeting

Before the meeting, visit the website [Our Commons](#) and search for your MP, so you can find out about any special government roles he or she plays, or their areas of interest. It is always good to start off the meeting with a positive statement about something the MP (or their party) has done recently. A day or two prior to the meeting, email the MP and provide the names of the GRANs who will be attending. Among GRAN attendees, it is important to decide ahead of time about roles – lead, support and note-taker.

### At the Meeting

Thank the MP at the outset for taking time to meet with you and introduce yourself, as well as the other GRAN members in attendance. Ensure the MP knows that you are a constituent (if that is the case).

After introductions, introduce the GRAN organization. You can draw from our mission statement, with something like:

***GRAN is a national grassroots network of older women working together to advocate for the human rights of older women, children, youth, and gender-diverse persons in the Global South. Our special concern is for older women in sub-Saharan Africa, who are the most affected by the multiple intersecting crises of climate change, poverty, and food insecurity.***

The points below provide messages about the global hunger crisis, followed by talking points tailored to each party. You don't need to speak to all of these points, rather pick the key points you want to make and keep your presentation brief. You'll want to ask your MP for their

thoughts on what you've said and provide an opportunity for them to offer their views, raise questions, or offer advice. You can then move on to the specific request (or "ask") we have for the MP.

Don't overstay your welcome. Try to keep the meeting to 30 minutes or less. At the end of the meeting thank the MP again and be ready to take a photo with them. Make sure you leave behind the info sheet, [The Global Hunger Crisis: Paths to Food Justice](#).

### **After the Meeting**

Follow up by sending a thank-you note to the MP and reiterate the request you made of them. Also, please send a brief report of the meeting to GRAN -- [info@grandmothersadvocacy.org](mailto:info@grandmothersadvocacy.org) – giving your impressions of the meeting and your MP's response.

### **General Points about Hunger and The Need for Investment**

- We are facing a deepening global food and nutrition crisis.
- This crisis is driven by conflict, climate change, and economic disruptions.
- According to the World Food Programme, in 2023 more than 333 million people around the world were facing high levels of acute food insecurity, and as many as 783 million are facing chronic hunger.
- There are deep inequalities in the global food system – with a very large gender gap – many more women and girls than men and boys are experiencing high levels of hunger.
- Canada needs to renew its promise to increase ODA (Official Development Assistance) year over year to 2030 to respond to short-term impacts of the hunger and climate crises and to build the resilience of food systems for the longer term.
- Quality of funding is also important. We need:
  - Flexible and longer-term funding which supports locally identified priorities;
  - Support for small-scale farmers and sustainable farming practices, including nature-based solutions that restore soil health and biodiversity;
  - To put a priority on Africa, as the area of greatest need; and
  - To target gender equality in agricultural food systems.

### **Specific for Liberal MPs**

- This government's Feminist International Assistance Policy provides an excellent path forward to social and gender justice.
- Minister Hussen is doing a great job building support for international assistance (see his recent video [here](#)).
- Government is making some innovative investments in the intersecting crises of food security and climate, but more is needed.
- Without these investments, there is a real risk that the Feminist International Assistance Policy will fail in its implementation due to a lack of funding.
- Canada's reputation on the international stage is at risk, as others see a lack of investment, priority, and attention being provided to this key area of foreign policy.

### **Specific for NDP MPs**

- The NDP has a unique opportunity to push the government to make investments in international assistance.
- The Feminist International Assistance Policy holds great promise for achieving social and gender justice, but it must be properly funded.
- The NDP is doing great work drawing attention to the cost-of-living crisis and hunger in Canada. We would really like to see the NDP use its leverage to also draw attention to hunger and food insecurity in the Global South.

### **Specific for Conservative MPs**

- The previous Conservative government made important investments in international assistance during its time in office.
- The Muskoka Initiative, for example, offered significant funding for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.
- As the world recovers from the pandemic, confronts the challenge of wars, grapples with the impacts of inflation, and addresses budgetary pressures, we cannot afford to take a step back.
- Foreign aid is not a handout. It is an investment in the type of world we all want to see.

### **Specific for Bloc Québécois MPs**

- The BQ has strong positions on social and gender justice and continues to push for ambitious climate action.
- We need this kind of thinking when it comes to international assistance.
- The current government is stepping back with a 15% cut in the 2023 Federal Budget in international assistance.
- As the world emerges from the pandemic and confronts the challenges of conflict, climate, and food insecurity, we need to push the federal government to respond to the intersecting food and climate crises.

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### **Your “Ask”:**

1. We are asking that you raise the issue of global hunger and the importance of quality investments in food security with your caucus.
2. Please also consider writing a note to Minister Freeland (with a cc to Minister Hussen) in advance of the Federal Budget, expressing your support for international assistance, quality investments, and putting priority on the global hunger crisis.