

March 14, 2025
Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C.
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

As Canadian organizations that work on issues of international cooperation, global health, and human rights, we are deeply concerned by recent actions of the U.S. Trump Administration including the 90-day freeze on U.S. State Department funding and the termination of programs across the globe. We call upon the Government of Canada to do everything in its power to mitigate the harms of the Trump Administration's action and to stand for human rights and health.

The withdrawal of U.S. funding has caused chaos. Research trials have been shut down, life-saving medications have been locked up, and young women have been denied access to testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. Organizations have been forced to shut their doors, resulting in an immediate loss of capacity to respond to the spread of deadly infectious diseases like tuberculosis. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of people have lost their jobs.

Decades of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals is on the line. Without a restoration of U.S. funds and leadership from Canada and other countries, there will be dire consequences for millions of people. New HIV transmissions will skyrocket, an unfathomable number of children will die from malnutrition and missed vaccinations, communities will not have access to clean water and sanitation, and children who cannot afford school fees will be denied an education.

Global North governments cannot remain silent on the funding freeze, program terminations, and attacks on "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" and "gender ideology." The Trump Administration's callous disregard for human life and for human rights must be met with condemnation from the United States' allies and peers, such as other members of the G7. As the host of this year's G7 meetings and as the United States' neighbour and largest trading partner, Canada has an opportunity and a responsibility to call out the harms of the Trump Administration's actions and work in global cooperation to mitigate them.

We urge the Government of Canada to:

1. Call for the U.S. State Department to reverse the terminations of critical health and development programs, and rally other G7 leaders to call for the same.
2. Increase Canada's funding for global health, international cooperation, and human rights.

3. Commit to continuing to prioritize human rights in Canada's international cooperation work, including the rights of LGBTIQ communities, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender equality.
4. Increase budget and reporting flexibility for Canadian international cooperation projects given how U.S. funding pauses and cuts impact the ability of organizations to use Canadian funding as initially planned.
5. Work with governments, the private sector and other partners, including affected communities and civil society, to resolve this global public health catastrophe.

Canada has long been a champion of human rights. Canadians can be proud of the support we have provided for decades that has helped realize improved health, education and human rights for millions of people around the world. This progress will be lost if we do not act now.

Sincerely,

Acted Canada
AidWatch Canada
Alberta Council for Global Cooperation
Amnesty International Canada, English Speaking
Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI)
Atlantic Council for International Cooperation
Avocats sans frontières Canada
Black Business & Professional Network Inc NB
British Columbia Council for International Cooperation
Canadian Labour Congress
Canada Sierra Leone Friendship Society Incorporated (CSLFS INC.)
Chaire de recherche sur la diversité sexuelle et la pluralité des genres, Université du Québec à Montréal
Coady Institute
Egale Canada
Equality Fund
Equitas - International Center for Human Rights Education
Farm Radio International
Fierté Montréal
Freshwater-Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corporation
Global Citizen
Global Sentinels Movement
GPI Atlantic
Grandmothers Advocacy Network
HIV Legal Network/Réseau juridique VIH
HOPE International Development Agency
Inter Pares
Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee (Fundy, St. Lawrence, Dawning Waters and Bermuda-Nova Scotia regions of the United Church of Canada)
Kenoli Foundation
Lucky Iron Life
Manitoba Council for International Cooperation

Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network (BTS)
Mikinduri Children of Hope
Ontario Council for International Cooperation
Polonia Inclusive
Pride at Work Canada / Fierté au travail Canada
Pride Toronto
Pure Gold Foundation
Queer Momentum
Rainbow Faith and Freedom
Rainbow Railroad
Rainbow Refugee Society
Resilient Societies
Results Canada
Stephen Lewis Foundation
Stop TB Canada
The Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases
The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security
The United Church of Canada
Veterinarians without Borders
VIDEA
World Accord

CC: The Hon. Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development