

July 5, 2023

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Joly:

On behalf of The Anglican Church of Canada, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and The United Church of Canada, we are writing to express our support for the Government of Canada's efforts to stand with the LGBTQI+ community in Uganda and around the world, and its call on the Government of Uganda to revoke the 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act.

As Christian leaders, we believe that all people are lovingly created in God's image and that God desires justice and well-being for all of creation. Our denominations share a commitment to protecting human dignity and working to end all forms of discrimination and injustice. We acknowledge the harmful impacts of homophobia and transphobia within the church and in the world, which is why we raise this issue, while also seeking to address it within our churches. No person should face violence or persecution because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

We are deeply concerned by the reports of intimidation, blackmail and violence that LGBTQI+ people in Uganda are experiencing in response to the Anti-Homosexuality Act passing. We support Global Affairs Canada's commitment to work with partners that have expertise supporting communities in situations of vulnerability and persecution. We are encouraged by the actions the Government of Canada has taken and call on the Government of Canada to continue supporting the LGBTQI+ community in Uganda and around the world, particularly by:

- Continuing to advocate for the Government of Uganda to revoke the Anti-Homosexuality Act;
- Improving pathways for LGBTQI+ activists and community members to secure refugee status in Canada; and
- Increasing the amount of international assistance and humanitarian aid that Canada allocates to organizations working for LGBTQI+ human rights.

The protection of vulnerable and marginalized people is among the most important work that can be done to support justice and human rights. We are glad for the steps that have been taken already to support members of the LGBTQI+ community and encourage you to strengthen Canada's response in the ways outlined above. Meanwhile, please rest assured of our continued prayers for the important work you do, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls
Archbishop and Primate, The Anglican Church of Canada



Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



The Rev. Mary Fontaine
Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly, The Presbyterian Church in Canada



The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

Cc: Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Hon. Michael Chong, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Conservative Party
Stéphane Bergeron, Foreign Affairs Critic, Bloc Québécois
Heather McPherson, Foreign Affairs Critic, NDP
Jonathan Pedneault, Foreign Affairs Critic, Green Party