Mr./Ms. [name lastname], M.P.

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

[Month day], 2019

Dear Mr./Ms. [lastname]:

**Upholding the rights of women and girls in emergencies**

More than 32 million women and girls around the world are impacted by conflict, forced to flee violence, or experience natural disasters like earthquakes, drought and typhoons.

Women and girls in emergencies are at increased risk of sexual violence, unintended pregnancy, maternal morbidity and mortality, unsafe abortions, and child and forced marriage.

Prevention and responses to these violations – including the provision of basic sexual and reproductive health services – are feasible, in high-demand, lifesaving and cost effective. Yet, in the rush to provide shelter, water and food in emergencies, women and girls’ unique needs are too often treated as secondary considerations.

Not only does this put women and girls’ lives at risk, it ignores their ability to lead relief and recovery efforts. In an era of more numerous and longer-lasting humanitarian crises, women and girls’ contributions as first responders and community organizers represent a vast and largely untapped resource.

With political will and leadership, we can ensure women and girls’ rights and needs in emergencies are no longer treated as optional.

**As the world prepares to mark the 25th anniversary of the**[**Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**](http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/01/beijing-declaration) **– widely recognized as the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women’s rights – it is time that the international community rally together to uphold women’s rights where they are most under threat: in conflict and emergency settings.**

Toward this end, and as a resident of your riding and concerned global citizen, I request that you use your position in Parliament to encourage the Government of Canada to employ its influence and investments to put women and girls’ priorities and perspectives at the forefront of every emergency response.

I thank you for your attention to this issue, and look forward to your kind response.

Yours sincerely,

[insert your name and lastname]

[insert your address]