



THE CANADIAN
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August 3, 2018

Via email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, (Ontario) K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Support for LGBTI2S Rights Globally

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Bar Association Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Community Section (the CBA Section) to commend your government's work in protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, intersex and two-spirited (LGBTI2S) people around the world, and to urge you to demonstrate Canada's leadership in this field at the upcoming global conference, *Leaving No One Behind: the Equal Rights Coalition Global Conference on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development* (the ERC Global Conference), to be hosted by Canada in Vancouver August 5-7, 2018.

The CBA is a national association of 36,000 members, including lawyers, notaries, academics and students across Canada, with a mandate to seek improvements in the law and the administration of justice. The CBA Section represents LGBTI2S members in the CBA, and provides a forum for the exchange of information, ideas and action on legal issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity.

The CBA has actively worked with the federal government in its efforts to uphold LGBTI2S rights in Canada and globally.¹ Earlier this year the CBA adopted a resolution urging the government to strengthen dialogue to obtain timely information and advice on the protection of LGBTI2S people,

¹ For example, see CBA submissions on [Bill C-66 – Expungement of Historically Unjust Convictions Act](#) (April 2018); [Trans Inmates Policy](#) (June 2017); [Bill C-16 — Canadian Human Rights Act and Criminal Code Amendments \(gender identity or expression\)](#) (May 2017); [Gender Identity and Expression Rights in Corrections](#) (March 2017); [Bill C-279, An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code \(gender identity\)](#) (March 2015); [Gender Identity and Gender Expression in Nunavut Human Rights Act](#) (November 2016); [Sochi Olympics and Russia's Anti-Gay Law](#) (January 2014); [Homosexual Rights in Russia](#) (September 2012); [Gender Identification of Transgender and Transsexual Individuals on Passports](#) (September 2012); [Homosexual Rights in Uganda](#) (March 2012); [Travel Ban on Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Persons](#) (March 2012)

to denounce human rights violations against LGBTI2S people wherever they occur, to encourage thorough and impartial investigations into allegations of human rights abuses against LGBTI2S people globally, and to facilitate asylum in Canada for LGBTI2S individuals fleeing persecution.² We are committed to working with your government to advance these goals.

The ERC Global Conference presents a unique opportunity for Canada to demonstrate strong leadership among a global network of stakeholders and to articulate its commitment to advancing LGBTI2S rights domestically and internationally. We encourage you and your colleagues to take full advantage of this opportunity and look forward to seeing the positive outcomes of the conference.

We would be very pleased to meet with you and your colleagues to discuss how we may best support your efforts, at your convenience.

Yours truly,

(original letter signed by Sarah MacKenzie for Francis Durnford)

Francis Durnford
Chair, CBA Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Community Section

cc: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

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² CBA resolution [18-02-A](#), *Protection of LGBTI2S Human Rights*