



Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland visits the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, April 2018.

Objective 2: Prevent, respond to and end impunity for sexual and gender-based violence, and sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and other international personnel, including humanitarian and development staff

Rating: Mostly on track

Preventing conflict-related SGBV, supporting survivors and ensuring accountability remains a top priority for the government. This also holds true for addressing sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by peacekeepers and international assistance personnel who are entrusted to protect the most vulnerable. This trust has been abused in the past and Canada will work doggedly to prevent and respond to such abuses in the future. Throughout the reporting period:

- Canada's chargé d'affaires in Baghdad engaged, along with other like-minded diplomats, with a range of stakeholders such as members of the Council of Representatives (Iraqi parliament) to advocate against amendments to the Personal Status Law.

The law would have allowed for child marriage at the age of nine. Because of these joint efforts, along with those of Iraqi civil society, the amendments were withdrawn.

- In recognition that impunity is a major barrier to addressing and preventing cases of SGBV, Canada deployed SGBV investigators to the UN's Myanmar Fact-Finding Mission, the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria, and the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan. These deployments resulted in the collection of evidence that has produced records that underscore the prevalence and brutality of SGBV crimes.
- Canada also worked to ensure that there is accountability for Daesh violations of international criminal and humanitarian law, including against the Yazidi community, and provided support to increase the institutional capacity of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala.
- Canada contributed to the work of the International Association of Prosecutors, whose Prosecuting Conflict-related Sexual Violence Network improves accountability through, for example, the development of progressive approaches to sexual violence prosecutions.