

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Government of Canada must ensure a proper understanding of the complexities of the diverse countries of the Muslim world and develop a constructive long-term approach toward them. In particular, the Committee is convinced that there cannot be genuine democratic progress without a serious process of increasing equality for women - economic, social, and political equality - in law and in practice.

As part of this constructive approach, the Government should:

- ensure full consultation with a broad range of groups, including Muslim groups, in the ongoing development of its foreign policy;
- place greater emphasis on generation and communication of knowledge at home and abroad; support secular education abroad which upholds human rights and individual freedoms; and, noting the example of McGill University's successful program in Indonesia, in cooperation with the provinces as necessary, encourage other Canadian educational institutions to establish similar programs in Muslim countries;
- continue to support intercultural and interfaith dialogue;
- in cooperation with the provinces as necessary, expand student and other exchange programs;
- emphasize values such as pluralism and multiculturalism, and encourage the adoption of universal human rights values and freedoms such as freedom of speech, religion, association, enterprise and ownership of property;
- continue to support civil society and democratization throughout the Muslim world and elsewhere;
- continue to strongly condemn all human rights abuses;
- place even greater emphasis on the need for gender equality and women's rights;
- speak out strongly in defence of minority rights, including minority religious communities, and encourage their full participation in the national affairs of their countries;
- aggressive strategy for the protection of Canadians detained abroad;
- strongly consider supporting the idea of establishing a Canadian news service televised by satellite; and