

# TO BETTER SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, CANADA WILL...

**...address the unacceptably high rates of sexual and gender-based violence experienced by women and girls.** This will include support for comprehensive approaches that help end these forms of violence so that fewer women and girls are subjected to domestic violence; intimate-partner violence; trafficking and exploitation; child, early and forced

marriage; and female genital mutilation/cutting. Canada's support will raise awareness of rights among women and girls to improve their access to justice and to provide psychosocial support for survivors of violence. Canada will also raise the importance of these issues through diplomatic channels and advocacy efforts.

**...provide better support for local women's organizations and movements that advance women's rights.** These groups lead the way when it comes to pushing for gender equality but often lack the resources needed to provide the help women and girls need. Canada will support these organizations and movements, building their capacity so that they can

better advocate for changes in policies, legislation and services and so that they can more effectively challenge harmful and discriminatory social beliefs and practices. **To support and expand this work, Canada is dedicating \$150 million over five years to support local women's organizations and movements that advance women's rights in developing countries.**

**...help governments in developing countries address the differential needs of women and men through policies and services.** Governments have an important role to play in ensuring that women and girls have equal rights and opportunities to participate in the sustainable development

of their societies. Canada will work with the governments of developing countries to improve their ability to deliver programs that support gender equality at all levels of government and in all sectors. This will be accomplished, for example, through programming and technical assistance.

**...step up its commitment to evidence-based decision making.** For the work of civil society, governments and donors to be most effective, it must rely on evidence and learning. Canada will strengthen the evidence-base by investing in policy

research, better data collection and evaluation for gender equality. This will be done across all of Canada's international assistance efforts, and all of our partners will be expected to do the same.