



Canadian Voice of  
Women for Peace  
(VOW)  
60 Lowther Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5R 1C7



Women's International  
League for Peace &  
Freedom (WILPF) Canada  
c/o PO Box 11466,  
Vancouver RPO  
River District, BC  
V5S 0J3

July 25, 2024

H.E. Ms. Zsuzsanna Horváth, Ambassador  
Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations  
227 East 52nd Street,  
New York, NY  
United States 10022

**Re: JOINT LETTER:** Appreciation for Hungary's Peace Mission and Request for a Meeting

Dear Ambassador Horváth,

We, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) and the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom-Canada (WILPF-Canada), are writing to you to thank the Government of Hungary for its important work to end the war in Ukraine and bring peace to Europe and introduce our organizations to you. At the end of this letter, we have enclosed short descriptions of history and work. We express our appreciation to President Viktor Orbán and Minister of Foreign Affairs Péter Szijjártó for their leadership of Hungary's "peace mission." We would also like to applaud your efforts to raise awareness about "Women in Diplomacy."

We support President Orbán's meetings with President Zelensky and President Putin to find a way to begin negotiations to end the war. We were also impressed with Foreign Minister Szijjártó's powerful speech at the United Nations Security Council meeting on a "Just World Order" on Tuesday, July 16. Minister Szijjártó decried that "peace", "negotiation" and "diplomacy" are being stigmatized in Europe. Regrettably we see that "peace", "negotiation" and "diplomacy" are also being stigmatized in Canada. We are heartened by Minister Szijjártó's courageous and public commitment to peace. At the Security Council, he said, "We want peace, instead of war."

We want to bring to your attention that in the fall of 2021, VOW and WILPF-Canada began to mobilize to try to de-escalate the conflict between NATO (including Canada) and Russia over Ukraine. We launched a campaign in Canada that included press releases, letters to the government, articles in the newspapers, briefings to Members of Parliament, webinars and rallies from December 2021-February 2022. We called on the Trudeau government to use diplomacy and de-escalate the conflict between Russia and NATO over Ukraine. We also called on the Canadian government not to send weapons to Ukraine, to support Ukraine's neutrality and to not expand NATO to Ukraine.

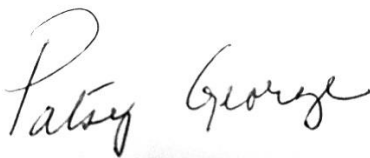
Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, VOW and WILPF-Canada have continued to send letters to the Canadian government and to organize actions for peace. In June 2023, we also sent a representative to the Conference to End the War in Ukraine organized by the International Peace Bureau. We would like to encourage Hungary to maintain its crucial efforts to end the war in Ukraine and build peace in Europe and around the world. We know that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change cannot be achieved when wars are raging and countries are wasting billions of dollars on weapons and militarization. Like Hungary, VOW and WILPF-Canada believe that diplomacy and international law are vital to resolving international conflict. Hungary's "peace mission" has the full support of our organizations.

We would also like to express how impressed we are with the work of the Hungarian Community for Peace (Magyar Békekör Egyesület) in Hungary. We receive helpful updates from Simó Endre of the Hungarian Community for Peace. We know that it is vital to engage with civil society on advancing peace.

Let us also take this opportunity to say to you that we are deeply saddened and shocked by Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza and NATO's provocations against China in the Asia Pacific region. The genocide in Gaza and war in Ukraine risk expanding into a global war and escalating into a nuclear conflagration. We urgently need peace around the world. We will follow closely Hungary's presidency of the European Union this year and hope that it can promote diplomacy, disarmament and global cooperation. We express gratitude to you and your staff for your work in New York to fulfill the values of the UN Charter.

Finally, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you online to discuss these matters further. We would be happy to set up a zoom call with you at your convenience. We can be reached by email [info@vowpeace.org](mailto:info@vowpeace.org) or by phone: 416-603-7915. Alternatively, every year we send a delegation to New York to attend the Commission on the Status of Women conference and, if possible, we could organize an in-person meeting with you at that time. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



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**Co-chair Patsy George**

On behalf of co-chair Ellen Woodsworth and board  
the Women's International League for Peace &  
Freedom (WILPF) Canada



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**Co-chair Lyn Adamson**

On behalf of co-chair Hannah Hadikin and the  
board the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace  
(VOW)

**Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW)** is the largest national feminist peace organization with members and chapters across the country. VOW was established in 1960 and is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization comprised of a network of diverse women. VOW's main office is in Toronto. VOW runs many

campaigns related to women, peace, disarmament and anti-militarism. VOW has consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and every year brings a delegation of Canadian women to the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference. For over 60 years, VOW has tirelessly advocated for a world without war. VOW stands for a feminist peace based on nonviolence, disarmament, diplomacy and common security with gender equality.

**Web site:** <http://vowpeace.org>

**Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Canada** is a membership-led organization committed to a feminist peace, social justice, and gender equality. We are a non-partisan, non-governmental organization members across the country. We are the national section of WILPF International, which is the world's longest standing women peace organization founded in 1915, with 32 Sections and 13 Groups across Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Two of our leaders, Jane Addams and Emily Greene Balch, won the Nobel Peace Prize. WILPF International is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and has a disarmament program called *Reaching Critical Will* in New York. Our *Peace Women* program monitors the United Nations' Women, Peace & Security agenda and we have an international *Environment Working Group*.

**Web site:** [wilpfcanada.ca](http://wilpfcanada.ca)

VOW and WILPF-Canada are also members of the **Global Women for Peace United Against NATO:** <https://womenagainstnato.org/> and the **Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network:** <https://peaceandjusticenetwork.ca/>